Author's response

The sub-groups examined in this study are already known. They are based on the standard headform groups and, within those, groups that have either retrusion or protrusion; thus, they are self-evident. This study's objective is to account for the multiple and variable anatomic conditions contributing to the limitless spectrum of individual variations and overlap within the particular taxonomy used. This has been done, and the results are evident. The idea needs to be understood, however, that it is not "well-defined" sub-groupings but rather individuals tending to cluster because of shared mixes of anatomic features that are a continuum from Class III through Class I through Class II.

Procedural details, statistical considerations, an expanded literature review and a more thorough description of the rationale have all been presented in previously published reports and are referenced in the text.

The reviewer's desire for more information on treatment strategies hits the study's bottom line. The information presented here is so new it has not yet been applied clinically. This, of course, needs to be done, as highlighted in the text. The need for a sequel study on age progression was also pointed out and encouraged, as is the special need for expanded studies taking into account worldwide population variations.