Comparing Orthodontist, Prosthodontist, Dental and Non-Dental Student Views on the Impact of Buccal Corridor on Smile Attractiveness of Women with Different Face Shapes

Erfaneh Afshari, Elmira Niksolat, Sanam Sadeghi rad, Ali Moshajari, Ehsan Kazem Nezhad

Objectives Today, creating a balanced and attractive smile is the main goal of treatment in modern orthodontics. The buccal corridor is one of the controversial aspects of the smile attractiveness. The aim of this study was to compare the impact of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness of women with Mesoprosopic, Leptoprosopic, and Euryprosopic face types, from the perspective of orthodontists, prosthodontists, Dental and non-dental students.

Methods In this comparative cross-sectional study, Photos were taken from 3 women with different face types and by making some changes in these photos, 5 buccal corridors (2%, 10%, 15%, 22% and 28%) were created for each one. Eventually, in order to survey, each 15 pictures were provided to individuals in the study group. Statistical analysis was performed by SPSS21 software, using Kruskal Wallis and Mann Whitney tests. p-value<0.05 was considered significant.

Results Orthodontist and non-dental students considered that nearly wide smile for leptoprosopic face shape and wide smile with the minimum buccal corridor for variety of mesoprosopocic and euryprosopocic face shapes have the most attractiveness (p<0.05). Prosthodontists considered wide and narrow smiles as the least attractive regarding all types of faces (p>0.05).

Conclusion Face shapes did not have a significant impact on the selection of the most attractive smile by prosthodontists, while orthodontists and non-dental students shared a similar view on the selection of the most attractive smile regarding the face shape.

Keywords Buccal corridor, Face pattern, Smile attractiveness

Introduction

Today, creating a balanced and attractive smile, is the main goal of treatment in modern orthodontics.1 Prosthodontists also due to placing dentures for edentulous patients are not except from this rule.2 Several criteria have been defined for attractive smile, among them are: Visibility of maxillary anterior teeth, the relationship between edge of maxillary anterior teeth with internal curvature of the upper lip, number of visible teeth in a smile, the relationship between the anterior teeth of two jaws, coordination between age and smile, coordination between personality and smile3, visibility of the gum4, midline conformity of the face and teeth5, the size of the buccal corridor6, and the angle between the occlusal plane and horizontal plane.7,8 However, various studies have proven that, mechanical muscles are effective in creating attractive smile.9 Today, one of the controversial aspects of smile attractiveness is the size of the buccal corridor. It is thought that maxillary tightness; pulling teeth of upper jaw, rotation of maxillary molars, or even the position of anterior and posterior maxillary have effects on it. Studies on investigating the effect of buccal corridor width on smile attractiveness, have similar and in some cases contradictory results.10 Some researchers claim that small amount of buccal corridor makes the smile more attractive.11,12 Moore et al.13 suggested that wider smiles without showing the buccal corridor are more attractive compare to smiles with buccal corridor. At the same time, several other studies have suggested that reducing the amount of buccal corridor has a negative characteristic in smiling14-17, or even the buccal corridor does not have an effect on smile.18 The importance of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness has been clearly reported on the study by Frush et al.19 The obtained data revealed that the presence of buccal corridor adds a natural state to teeth, while its absence creates an artificial appearance in patients.19 Moore et al. reported that wide smile without presence of buccal corridor is more attractive than a smile with buccal corridor.13 Johnson and Smith evaluated the effect of removing the premolar teeth on the visibility of negative space (buccal corridor) and did not find any association between tooth extraction and negative space.20 Recently, a study has suggested that, large corridor buccal space can be included in the list of problems, but very small buccal corridor can be left untreated.21 Due to the lack of extensive research on the amount of buccal corridor in people with different face types, there is an information void, on the other hand, importance of beauty and people understanding, especially women about it have increased significantly in the present time. Therefore, we decided to compare the orthodontist, prosthodontist and non-dental student views
on the impact of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness in women with different face types. Therefore we could take better and more accurate steps towards achieving the beauty goals of various treatments.

Materials and Methods

In this comparative cross-sectional study, 45 participants of the study subjects consisting of 15 orthodontists, 8 prosthodontists, 170 non-dental students, and 58 dental students in Guilan province were examined regarding their views on the impact of buccal corridor on the smile attractiveness of women with different face types. Non-dental students were selected from the public and nongovernmental schools of Anzali, using stratified random sampling based on the number of native students of this city in each school (de = 0.075 and p-value = 0.4888). The mean age ranged 15 to 45 yrs. Photos were provided to 170 students of majors (excluding dental majors), all of orthodontist, prosthodontist, and dental students of Guilan province, (with the number of 8, 15, and 58, respectively). First, 3 women with variety of different face types of mesoprosopic, leptoprosopic, and euryprosopic, who had undergone orthodontic therapy were selected based on facial index. Facial index is the ratio between nasion – gnathion to the width between cheeks multiplied by 100.

\[ \text{facial index} = \frac{\text{nasion-mental length}}{\text{zygomatic width}} \times 100 \]

Nasion is the anterior-point of meeting point of nasal and frontal bones, and gnathion is the center of lower point on the mandibular symphysis (lower end of the jaw).

Leptoprosopic face type is a face with facial index, bigger than 90-94.9%, mesoprosopic face type is a face with facial index between 85% to 89.9%, and euryprosopic face type is a face with facial index between 80% to 84.9%. The distance between nasion-gnathion using digital caliper and width between cheeks using arc caliper were measured and recorded. Then, informed consent was obtained, photos of front view were taken while voluntarily or socially smiling by Canon camera (D610, Tokyo, Japan), at a same distance and same condition. Same changes were applied including correction of existing asymmetries, correction of minor heterogeneous which might have been effective in the face attractiveness, adjusting the color of photos for better quality of printing, and eventually creating the desired amount of buccal corridor. The buccal corridor was calculated by the ratio of the distance between corners of inner lip and the width of maxillary interproximal to the distance between corners of inner lip multiplied by 100 (Fig. 1).

Then, for each face shape, 5 different modes with different buccal corridor were created. The 5 modes are:

- Buccal corridor 2% (wide smile)
- Buccal corridor 10% (nearly a wide smile)
- Buccal corridor 15% (mediocre smile)
- Buccal corridor 22% (nearly a narrow smile)

Results

The rate of the subjects in the orthodontists, prosthodontists, and non-dental students and dental students was 20%, 37.5%, 73.6% and 77.6%, respectively. The mean and standard deviation of age in orthodontists was 41.7 ± 7.9 years, in prosthodontists 40.5 ± 8.9 years, in non-dental students 22.8 ± 5.3 years and in dental students 24.4 ± 2.6 years. In terms of work experience, the mean and standard deviation of orthodontists was 11.4 ± 8.4 years and of prosthodontists 9.7 ± 7.6. Table 1 shows the VAS...
Comparing different views on the impact of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness

Erfaneh Afsari, et al.

The both sexes have been used for evaluating the impact of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness in 4 groups.

In the present study, the VAS line was used to evaluate smile esthetic of each photo. In fact, the VAS line was used-

Comparison of the VAS score of smile attractiveness in 4 groups.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orthodontists</th>
<th>Prosthodontists</th>
<th>Non-dental students (Group 3)</th>
<th>Dental students (Group 4)</th>
<th>P-value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leptoprosopic face (mean±SD)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>71.5±18.6</td>
<td>42.4±22</td>
<td>49.8±25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>75.5±16</td>
<td>67.5±21</td>
<td>58.2±4</td>
<td>57.2±3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>74.9±18</td>
<td>81.9±20</td>
<td>62.9±24</td>
<td>58.9±22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>50.9±18</td>
<td>63±22</td>
<td>44±23</td>
<td>48.9±23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>33.7±21</td>
<td>44.4±23</td>
<td>28.3±21</td>
<td>42±25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesoprosopic face (mean±SD)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>67.7±28</td>
<td>43.6±33</td>
<td>40±28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>66.2±33</td>
<td>57.5±22</td>
<td>45.7±28</td>
<td>45.9±24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>57.1±19</td>
<td>58±20</td>
<td>45.8±26</td>
<td>16.2±24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>47.6±19</td>
<td>67.5±24</td>
<td>43.8±24</td>
<td>44±24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>33.2±22</td>
<td>51.8±23</td>
<td>32±25</td>
<td>42±26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euryprosopic face (mean±SD)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>73.5±26</td>
<td>45±26</td>
<td>40.6±26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>72.9±13</td>
<td>69.9±23</td>
<td>49±24</td>
<td>43±27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>64.7±16</td>
<td>69.9±17</td>
<td>51±25</td>
<td>42±26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>50±20</td>
<td>55±18</td>
<td>43±23</td>
<td>39±25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>35±20</td>
<td>45±28</td>
<td>28±20</td>
<td>34±24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Kruskal Wallis test

In table 1, the statistical indices of the four groups were compared regarding different buccal corridors in a variety of face forms. According to the data in this table, apart from the mesoprosopic face type with buccal corridor of 15% and 22%, euryprosopic face form with buccal corridor of 28% and leptoprosopic face shape with buccal corridor of 22%, there was significant difference in VAS score of smile attractiveness in all photos of the 4 groups (orthodontists, prosthodontists, dental and non-dental students).

Comparison of the VAS score of smile attractiveness, by face form in dual groups, showed the views of orthodontists and prosthodontists about the mesoprosopic face type with buccal corridor of 22% (P = 0.03) and in the case of euryprosopic face shape with buccal corridor of 2% (P = 0.021) had significant difference. Regarding the mesoprosopic face type with buccal corridor of 22%, higher VAS score of smile attractiveness was assigned by prosthodontists than by orthodontists. However, in the case of euryprosopic face type with buccal corridor 2%, higher VAS score of smile attractiveness was assigned by orthodontists than by prosthodontists. The data of comparison between other groups are given in table 2.

Table 2- Comparative study of VAS score in double groups.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Leptoprosopic face (mean±SD)</th>
<th>Mesoprosopic face (mean±SD)</th>
<th>Euryprosopic face (mean±SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 and 2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 and 3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 and 4</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2 and 3</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2 and 4</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3 and 4</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mann Whitney Test

Discussion

Smile attractiveness depends on many factors and today the amount of buccal corridor is one of the controversial aspects of it. The aim of the present study was to investigate the impact of buccal corridor on the smile attractiveness of women with different face types. In most studies in this field, only frame photos of smile and mouth have been used for evaluation, in this case they might not be able to assess face patterns and other facial parts. While, in this study, full-face photos of people with different face shapes have been used for evaluating the impact of buccal corridor on their smile attractiveness.

Matheus1 and Sabrina23 used the full-face photos. In many studies, it is considered that the gender of the studied photos does not have effect on the results. Hideki only used woman’s smile in his studies, while the results were generally expressed.6 However, in the studies of Oshagh and Ryan, the photos of both sexes have been used,5,10,20 in agreement with our study with gender segregation of the photos.

In our study, Adobe Photoshop software was used to make the desired changes in the photos. Oshagh, Hideki and Sabrina, also used this software in their studies.6,10,23 In the present study, the VAS line was used to evaluate smile esthetic of each photo. In fact, the VAS line was used...
as a common tool for pain intensity measurement that has
good reliability. So far, many authors have used this tool to
judge the attractiveness. Its use in scoring for beauty and
attractiveness provides simple, fast, and reproducible results.

Our obtained data indicated that the views of
prosthodontists were the same and in all types of face forms
with mediocre smile were attractive to them, regarding the
effect of buccal corridor on the smile aesthetic. The views of
orthodontists and non-dental students were similar but
different from the previous one, confirming that the width
of the dental arch should be proportional to the width of the
face, therefore mediocre smile (nearly a wide smile) in the
leptocephalic face form, and wide smile in the mesoprosopic and euryprosopic face forms had maximum attractiveness. In other words, in their views, a narrower
dental arch for narrower faces (leptocephalic), and a wider
dental arch for wider faces were more attractive. This
conclusion contradicts the results of the study performed by
Sabrina, because in his study the views of orthodontists
were the same in the both face forms. However, Ryan
showed that the face form had effect on their investigated
factor (the dental midline deviation), which was more
acceptable in euryprosopic face form.

Also, the differences observed in the views of our study
groups (orthodontists, prosthodontists, dental and non-
dental students) can confirm the effect of the profession of
judges on their point of view. The effect of this issue was
observed in the study of Abu-Alhaija, and the views of
ordinary people, orthodontists, and general physicians
differed in the different sizes of buccal corridor. Oshagh et al.,
showed that dental students understood the difference
different between different sizes of buccal corridor better than art
students and ordinary people.

Regarding the effect of referees’ gender on the assessment
of buccal corridor's attractiveness, the results of our study
showed that the gender of referees has no effect on the
mean scores given to smiles with different buccal corridors in
various face forms. Abu-Alhaija also did not report
gender difference in the assessment of buccal corridor, while
Sabrina showed that female referees have more critical
view on buccal corridor than male judges.

In the study of Alhammadi et al., male dental students, have
a better perception of facial and dental esthetics than females.

In the study of Abu-Alhaija et al., among narrow, mediocre
and wide buccal corridor, the lowest score was assigned to
wide buccal corridor. Findings of the present study
confirmed the data of the above mentioned study, in a way,
that in each of the three study groups, the lowest attractiveness score was given to the largest buccal corridor. However, Oshagh et al., showed that besides buccal corridor of 28%,
the least attractiveness was observed in buccal corridor of
2%, according to the views of all groups (art students,
dental students, and ordinary people). In their study,
mediocre buccal corridor had the maximum attractiveness.
This conclusion was similar to the results of our study in the
prosthodontics group, which they preferred mediocre buccal
corridor in all face forms.

Springer et al., reported that ordinary people assigned the
most desirable score to buccal corridor 13% (6 to 26.5%).
In the study of Abu-Alhaija et al., the highest score was
assigned to narrow buccal corridor. Oshagh et al., reported
that buccal corridors of 15% and 22% in female photos and
buccal corridor of 10% and 15% in male photos had the
most attractiveness. In our study, orthodontists and non-
dental students also had views similar to the results of the
above studies, apart from that, they assigned the most score
to the mesoprosopic and euryprosopic face forms with
buccal corridor of 2%, and the most attractiveness to
leptocephalic face form with mediocre buccal corridor.

Nimbalkar et al. noticed, the width of the buccal corridor
space influences smiles attractiveness in different facial
types. A medium buccal corridor (15%) was the esthetic
characteristic preferred by all groups of evaluators in short,
normal, and long face types.

Conclusion
It is concluded that:
1. The maximum amount of buccal corridor had the least
attraction from the viewpoint of all four groups.
2. The face form also had effect on the viewpoints of
orthodontists and non-dental students regarding the
smile esthetic, but in the views of prosthodontics and
dental students there was no effect.

Conflict of Interests
None Declared

References
Barbosa GC, Coqueiro Rda S. Perceptions of brachyfacial,
mesofacial and dolichofacial individuals with regard to the buccal
2. Alhasyimi AA, Sunarintya S, Soesatyo MHNE. Pengaruh
implantasi subkutan logam kobalt kromium sebagai bahan
alternatif mini screw orthodontics terhadap reaksi jaringan kelinci
albino. Majalah Kedokteran Gigi Indonesia. 2015 Aug;1(1):94-
101.
3. Abu Alhaija ES, Al-Shamisi NO, Al-Khateeb S. Perceptions of
Jordanian laypersons and dental professionals to altered smile
4. Işıkşal E, Hazar S, Akyalçın S. Smile esthetics: perception and
comparison of treated and untreated smiles. Am J Orthod
5. Williams RP, Rinchuse DJ, Zullo TG. Perceptions of midline
deviations among different facial types. Am J Orthod Dentofacial

Original Article
Comparing different views on the impact of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness
Erfaneh Afsari, et al.

Journal Dental School; Vol 36, No.2, Spring 2018; 42-46
Comparing different views on the impact of buccal corridor on smile attractiveness

ErfanBeh Afsari, et al.


How to cite: