

Profile of the orthodontist practicing in the state of São Paulo - Part 2

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Editor's abstract

In Orthodontics, as in other dental specialties, an unceasing search for new materials and resources can be noticed with the purpose of increasing the efficiency of orthodontic mechanics, the biological safety and the patient comfort, besides facilitating clinical performance. The choice of the material that will be used is an important issue during the accomplishment of the orthodontic treatment. Based on this premise it is necessary to know the profile of the orthodontist practicing in the state of São Paulo (Brazil) as regards to the materials usually applied: brackets, orthodontic wires, ligatures and mini-implants. To accomplish this research, the authors requested to the Regional Council of Dentistry of São Paulo, the addresses list of all specialists in Orthodontics and Facial Orthopedics registered until May 2007, constituting a total of 2,414 professionals.

This survey was elaborated with 20 objective questions, and in 8 of them it was possible to check more than one alternative. Also, in 10 questions the professional had the possibility to add a written answer. To return the questionnaires the dentists used the postal service. Using the Microsoft[®] Excel software and its graphic assistant, in the Microsoft[®] Windows XP operational system, the resulting data were registered in spreadsheets. The answers to the survey were analyzed

through graphics and tables according to absolute frequencies (n) and relative frequencies (%). To evaluate the association between the qualitative variants, the chi-square test was used. The statistical analyses was elaborated using the SPSS[®] software version 13.0. There were 593 (24.65%) reply letters properly completed. The effectiveness of the orthodontic material was the main reason claimed when dentists make this choice. Most professionals showed preference for metallic (98%), ceramic (32%) and polycarbonate brackets (7,8%). The slot size most mentioned was 0.022 x 0.028-in (73,2%). As to orthodontic archwires, 88.2% use stainless steel round archwires and conventional round NiTi archwires, 52.6% use round NiTi heat-activated and 46.5% use TMA rectangular archwires.

The elastomeric ligature (92.9%) was the most used to attach the archwire to the bracket.

Based on the obtained results the authors conclude that the analyzed orthodontists allege the effectiveness as the main reason of the orthodontic material choice, being the conventional brackets ligated with elastomeric ligatures the most used by the interviewee as well as the stainless steel wire and Nitinol wire. More recent dental devices, as self-ligating brackets and mini-implants, did not show significant usage.

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