



C-Rings for Reactivation of Open-Coil Springs

Open-coil springs usually require reactivation to gain sufficient arch space. Previously published methods for reactivation have included placing crimpable stops or sections of split tubing on the archwire,^{1,2} pre-positioning additional wire segments between neighboring teeth,³ and spreading apart the coils of the spring.³ We have devised a simple and efficient method for chairside reactivation of an open-coil spring using segments of orthodontic wire.

Technique

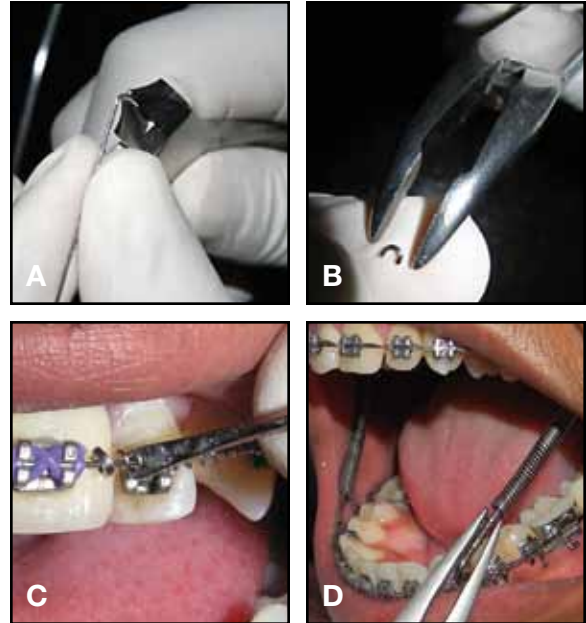
1. Bend the end of a segment of .017" × .025" stainless steel wire flatwise around the round beak of a universal plier, forming a "C" shape (A).
2. Cut the C-shaped section from the end of the wire (B) and grasp it with a Weingart plier or a straight How plier, so that the opening faces toward the archwire.
3. After protecting the patient's airway with a piece of gauze, expose the archwire by pushing the open-coil spring to one side with a ligature tucker. Place the C-ring over the archwire and crimp it slightly to secure it (C).

Discussion

As with previously published techniques, the C-ring does not require archwire removal and thus reduces chairtime. An added benefit is that because rectangular stainless steel wire is readily available in any practice, C-rings can be quickly prepared during or prior to a patient visit.

Another application of the C-ring is to reactivate a Forsus* FRD appliance or to activate the Forsus asymmetrically for midline correction. One or more C-rings can be crimped onto the push rod distal to the stopper while compressing the spring as needed (D).

*Trademark of 3M Unitek, Monrovia, CA; www.3Munitek.com.



REFERENCES

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