

TECHNIQUE CLINIC

Prevention of Mucosal Irritation from the Forsus Fatigue Resistant Device

The Forsus Fatigue Resistant Device* (FFRD) is a fixed hybrid functional appliance used in the correction of Angle Class II malocclusions. The FFRD is attached by means of a spring connected to the upper first molar headgear tube and a push rod connected to the lower archwire, distal to the canine or first premolar.¹⁻⁴

Recent studies have reported some discomfort and functional limitations in patients treated with the FFRD, but these issues normally resolve over time. The most serious problems have been mucosal irritation and traumatic ulcers, usually from the rod protruding toward the cheek, especially during the first months of treatment.^{1,5,6}

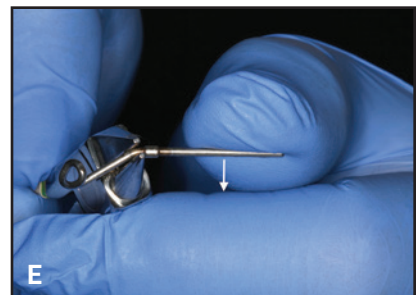
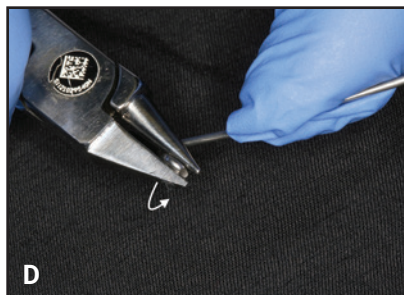
This article describes a simple modification that directs the push rods downward into the vestibule of the cheek, eliminating or reducing soreness and traumatic ulcers. The conventional

FFRD is pictured on the patient's right side and the modified device on the left, illustrating the diminished lateral projection of the rod (A).

Technique

1. Hold the rod with a plier, just past the stop on the side closer to the loop. Bend the rod so the flat top of the loop aligns with the first section of the rod (B).
2. Grasp the loop with the plier and slightly open the space between the loop and the rod (C).
3. Twist the loop mesially, so that the open end of the loop bends back toward the rod (D).
4. To round out the arch, hold the rod just past the stop as in Step 1, and tilt it in toward the arch (E).

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



A video of this technique can be viewed in the online version of the article at www.jco-online.com.

REFERENCES

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