

Delaire's Universal Mask: a new external anchorage device. First results treating class II malocclusions.

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Introduction: First results treating mouth breathing and snoring in children using Delaire's Universal Mask (DUM; postero-anterior traction with frontal and peri-cranial anchorage. No mental anchorage).

Material and Method: Three 6-year-old female patients have been treated with DUM. All girls were affected by class II malocclusion according to Delaire Cephalometric Analysis, with mild-to-severe backward displacement of the maxilla. All girls had evidence of mouth breathing, reduced nasopharyngeal space and soft palate retrusion, with different mandibular positions and growth patterns.

Pediatric Sleep Questionnaires (PSQ) and cephalometric analysis were performed at T1, start of treatment; T2, after postero-anterior traction with DUM; T3, two years after the use of DUM.

Results: All three cases showed similar results: an anti-clockwise rotation of the jaws, advancement of the maxilla and soft palate with increased nasopharyngeal space not likely associated with a regression of the amygdalas since results were obtained in a relatively short term. The longest treatment time was 6 months for maxilla and mandible sequential advancements (3 months each). All cases showed improved breathing conditions.

Conclusion: The effectiveness of Delaire's Universal Mask on the advancement of the jaw and on the repositioning of the soft palate and tongue has been widely demonstrated by Delaire and many others. Results obtained with the use of Delaire's Universal Mask with pericranial and frontal anchorage on a small sample are encouraging: DUM treatment should improve breathing among small patients avoiding soft-tissue damage of the pharynx while waiting for the physiological regression of the tonsils and adenoids