

TECHNIQUE CLINIC

One-Step Conversion of a Banded Expander to a Transpalatal Bar

After maxillary expansion to correct a posterior crossbite in the deciduous or early mixed dentition,^{1,2} the arch is usually stabilized with a palatal acrylic plate or a transpalatal arch.³⁻⁵ Fabrication of a transpalatal arch requires taking an impression with the bands in place, followed by a second appointment to cement the new appliance.

This article describes a simple technique for converting a banded expander to a transpalatal bar without the need for an impression or a second appointment.

Procedure

The following procedure was performed in a 24-year-old male patient after surgically assisted rapid palatal expansion with a banded Hyrax* appliance (A).

1. After the expander was removed, it was attached to an adjustable alligator clip stand (B).
2. The posterior wire of the expander was sandblasted, and an .045" stainless steel wire was soldered posterior to the screw, crossing the palate. The screw portion of the appliance was then cut away (C).
3. The new transpalatal bar was polished, and the bands were recemented in the mouth (D).

*Registered trademark of Dentaaurum, Turnstrasse 31, 75228 Ispringen, Germany.



This entire procedure takes less than five minutes, saving time and reducing treatment costs for both patient and clinician.

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