

# CLINICAL AID

## A Modified Dental Probe for Orthodontic Use

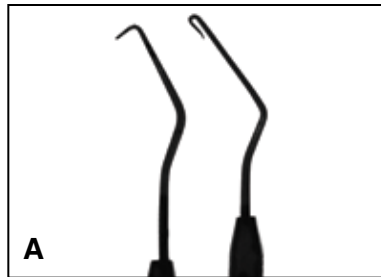
**W**e have modified a standard No. 5 dental probe for use in threading elastomeric chain through tight spaces. A No. 139 plier is used to slightly open the tip of the probe; the angled end is then closed with a No. 410 plier. The result is a slender, hooked tool (A) that can pass through a lingual molar tube or along the palatal aspect of a transpalatal arch.

A typical application for the modified probe is shown here: a case needing simultaneous labial and palatal canine retraction to prevent unwanted canine rotation.<sup>1,2</sup> First, a length of elastomeric chain is guided through the lingual tube (B). After passing the modified probe through the most mesial chain link, the distal link is hooked, laced through the mesial link, and attached to a palatal button on the canine (C).

An elastomeric chain can be quickly and easily attached to the lingual molar surface with the modified probe. Patient comfort is enhanced because lingual hooks are not required.

### REFERENCES

1. Sueri, M.Y. and Turk, T.: Effectiveness of laceback ligatures on maxillary canine retraction, *Angle Orthod.* 76:1010-1014, 2006.
2. Shpack, N.; Davidovitch, M.; Sarne, O.; Panayi, N.; and Vardimon, A.D.: Duration and anchorage management of canine retraction with bodily versus tipping mechanics, *Angle Orthod.* 78:95-100, 2008.



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