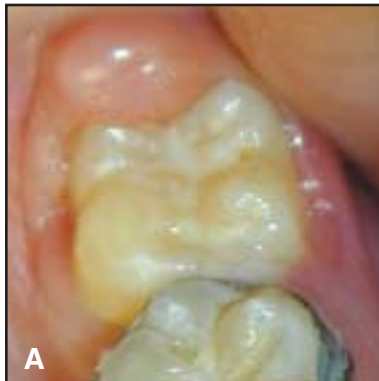


CLINICAL AID

A New Tissue Retractor for Molar Banding

To correct second molar positions, many orthodontists use bonded tubes, which can often be placed before the teeth have fully erupted. Other clinicians choose to wait until the second molars can be successfully banded. In many cases, however, even when the tooth has erupted, a small piece of gingival tissue obscures the distal marginal ridge, making band placement difficult, if not impossible (A). Treatment can be delayed appreciably while waiting for this operculum to resorb.

A new instrument, the Bandhorn Tissue Retractor* (B), is designed specifically to fit into the central groove of the molar, allowing distal tissue retraction. Once the distal marginal ridge is reached, the larger portion of the instrument slides gingivally into the sulcus while retracting any tissue remaining on the marginal ridge (C). Banding the second molar then becomes much less stressful for both orthodontist and patient.



*Trademark of Orthogap, Inc., Tampa, FL.
Available from Ortho Technology, Inc.,
17491 Commerce Park Blvd., Tampa, FL
33647.



GERARD A. PERRET, JR.,
DDS
President, Orthogap, Inc.
15283 Amberly Drive
Tampa, FL 33647
orthogap@ij.net