

**FEATURES
SECTION**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

In June 2006, whilst examining for the Intercollegiate MOrth. exam in London, I was surprised when more than one candidate seemed to think that the way to use the aesthetic component in clinical practice was to invite the patient to score themselves by showing them the 10 photographs and recording their response in the notes. Whilst using the index in this way can be a very useful counselling tool for patients and parents, it is *not* correct to suggest that the patient's or parent's figure is the

correct score. Examining again this year, I was met with the same reaction from two candidates! This would suggest it is being incorrectly taught in some institutions. In these days of rationed National Health Service orthodontics, a correct working knowledge of IOTN is essential and its correct use in clinical practice is required to prevent the orthodontist getting into potential problems with their Primary Care Trust. Is it only me who thinks this is important? Do I need to get out more?

Nigel Fox