

TECHNIQUE CLINIC Quick Replacement of Elastomeric Chain

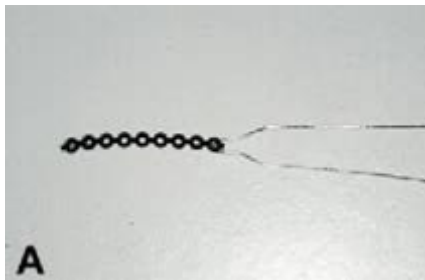
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Elastomeric chain anchored to an archwire can be an efficient means of force delivery, but the force decays rapidly, and the chain sometimes has to be replaced sooner than the next appointment would normally be scheduled. If the archwire runs through the chain, the wire has to be removed before the chain can be replaced.

We have developed the following technique to anchor an elastomeric chain to an archwire so the chain can be replaced without removing the wire, thus considerably reducing chairtime.

- 1. Measure and cut the appropriate length and color of elastomeric chain.
- 2. Pull a stainless steel ligature wire through one terminal link of the chain (A).



- 3. Place the chain over the archwire.
- 4. Insert the free ends of the ligature wire through the other terminal link of the chain (B).



- 5. Gently pull the ligature wire and the remaining links of chain through the terminal link until the chain is secured in place around the archwire (C).



- 6. Remove the ligature wire; attach the free end of the chain to the bracket of the tooth to be moved (D).



The example shown is an erupting ectopic cuspid, but this technique can be used whenever anchorage of elastomeric chain to an archwire is desired. □