

# TECHNIQUE CLINIC

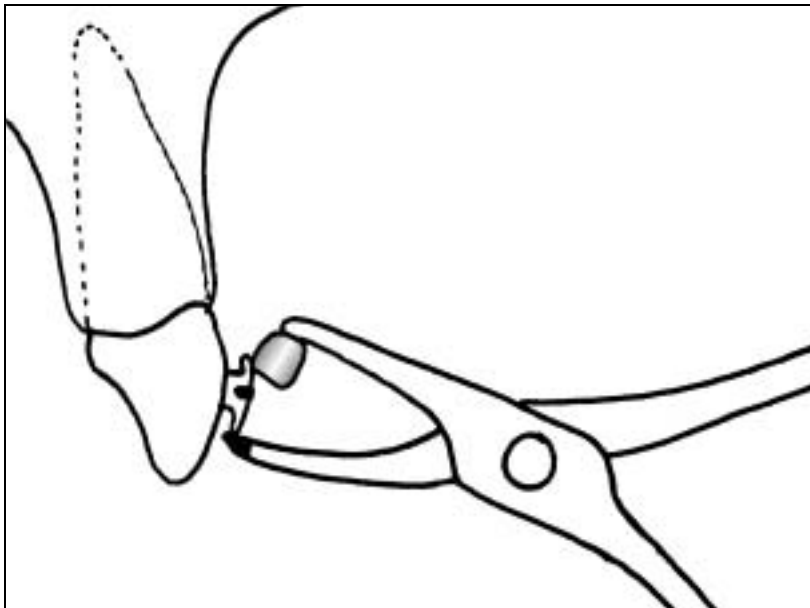
## Simplified Orthodontic Debonding

**T**he most common technique used for debonding orthodontic attachments is to shear the adhesive by firmly holding a ligature-cutting plier against the tooth surface, adjacent to the proximal edges of the attachment, and squeezing the plier closed. Because this approach usually requires removal of the archwires, great care must be taken to prevent the patient from aspirating the debonded attachments.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the tips of the ligature-cutting or debonding plier can scratch or gouge the surface of the enamel.

A simpler and safer method of debonding uses a posterior band-removing plier.\* The metal tip of the plier is placed under the gingival tie wings of the bracket to be debonded, with the tip touching the facial aspect of the bonding base, but not the tooth surface. The plastic tip is held in contact with the occlusal-facial aspect of the occlusal tie wings (A). Squeezing the plier firmly peels the bracket off the tooth (B).

Because the instrument does not come in contact with the tooth surface, the enamel cannot be damaged. Both debonding and debanding can be done with the same instrument and without the removal of archwires. If there is concern about

\*Model No. I-347, RMO, Inc., P.O. Box 17085, Denver, CO 80217.



the brackets coming loose, they can be tied in a figure-8 manner as suggested by Koo and Chung.<sup>2</sup> Cleanup of the bonding adhesive and banding cement is performed as usual.

### REFERENCES

1. Parkhouse, R.C.: Medical complications in orthodontics, *Br. J. Orthod.* 18:51-57, 1991.
2. Koo, B.C. and Chung, C.: A safer debonding/debanding technique, *J. Clin. Orthod.* 32:374-375, 1998.



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