

CLINICAL AID

Custom-Made Rotational Ligatures

Many types of auxiliaries are commercially available for the correction of mild-to-moderate rotations, including Steiner wedges, rotational wedges, and rotational ligatures. These pre-fabricated products do not always fit the anatomy of the rotated tooth and the severity of the rotation, however, and they can also be costly.

The following procedure can be used for fabricating customized rotational ligatures. The required materials can be found in any orthodontic office: a stick or cylinder used to hold elastomeric ligatures, a scissor, a 23- or 25-gauge needle, ligature wire, and a Mathieu plier.

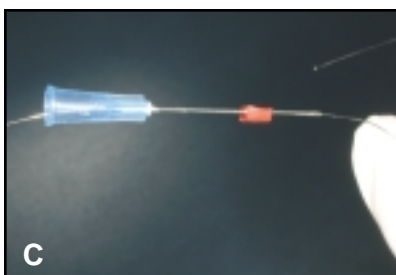
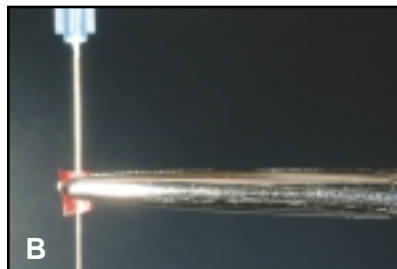
1. Choose a color of elastomeric stick, and cut it to the desired thickness with the scissor, depending on the severity of the rotation and the mesiodistal width of the rotated tooth (A).

2. Hold the elastomeric wedge with the Mathieu plier, and perforate it with the needle (B).

3. Thread the ligature wire completely through the needle (C). Remove the needle while holding the wedge and the ligature wire (D).

4. Tie the ligature wire above the archwire on the side opposite the wedge, which should lie under the archwire on the appropriate side to rotate the tooth (E).

These practical and inexpensive rotational ligatures can



be made at the chair or in advance. A rotation can be corrected in as little two weeks (F).



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