

Canine Lateralisation – Are Patients Fully Informed?

Rowan Campbell



Background

- The ominous lateral incisor...
- Congenitally missing upper lateral incisors affects between **1.7-3%** of the world's population (up to 250 million people)
- They are the second most common congenitally missing tooth after wisdom teeth
- Females (2.8%) > males (0.9%)
- Unilateral more common than bilateral



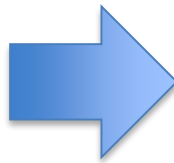
Background

- Patients with congenitally missing lateral incisors or have lateral incisors that are planned for removal have several options:
 1. No treatment
 2. Denture
 3. Bridge
 4. Implant
 5. Canine lateralisation



Canine Lateralisation

- A commonly used treatment option within orthodontics
- In selected cases can yield great results
- Canines are lateralised/mesialised to replace the lateral incisors.
 - The canines are then recontoured to mimic natural lateral incisors:



Aim

- The aim of this audit was to ***assess patient/parent understanding and expectations regarding canine lateralisation treatment.***
 - Evaluate awareness of advantages, disadvantages, and long-term restorative implications.
 - Improve shared decision-making and the consent process.

Methods

- Piloted questionnaire distributed to patients/parents who were due to commence canine lateralisation over a 3-month period (October 2025 to January 2026).
 - Assessed understanding, expectations, and awareness of treatment implications.

You or your child's treatment involves moving the canine tooth into the lateral incisor position

Please complete this questionnaire to help us understand your knowledge and understanding regarding moving the canine tooth into the lateral incisor position.

- Patient Name:
- Patient Age:
- Date:

Section 1: Knowledge of Moving Canine into Lateral Incisor Position

Question	Response (please circle if applicable)
Before today, were you aware of this treatment option?	Yes / No
If yes, how did you hear about this treatment?	Dentist/Orthodontist/Internet/Friends/Family Or Other (please specify):
How would you rate your understanding of this treatment?	No understanding (0) - Excellent (10) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Do you feel like this treatment was adequately explained?	Yes / No
Do you know what treatment is required once your braces are off?	Yes / No If yes, please specify:
Were you advised where this treatment would be provided & costs involved?	Yes / No If yes, please specify:
Were you shown example/pictures of this type of treatment?	Yes / No If yes, please specify:

Section 3: Decision-Making and Values

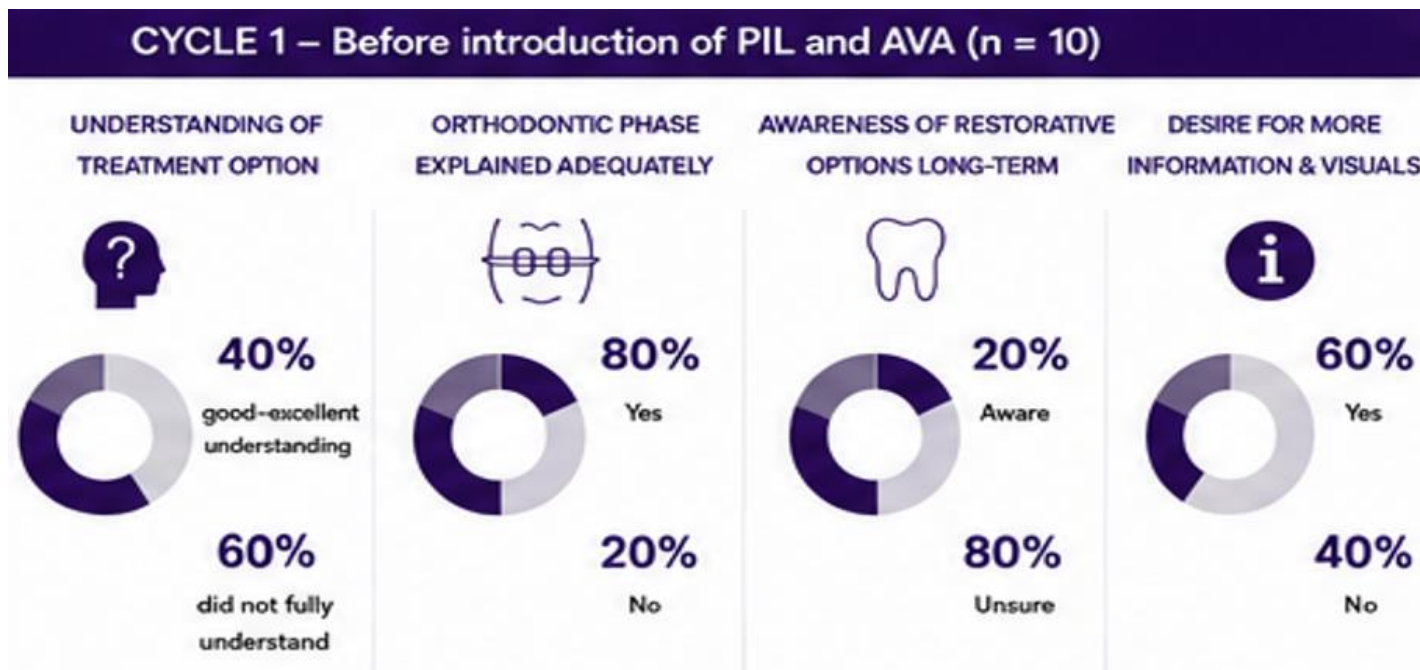
Question	Response (please circle if applicable)
How involved do you feel about deciding which option to choose?	Not involved at all (0) – Fully involved (10) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Did the dentist discuss appearance, function and long-term maintenance?	Yes / No If yes, please specify:
Were your own priorities discussed i.e. cost, appearance, time, surgery etc	Yes / No If yes, please specify:
Do you feel confident that the chosen option reflects your preference?	Yes / No If yes, please specify:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us.

Section 2: Expectations and Concerns

Question	Response (please circle if applicable)
What are your expectations for the treatment of missing lateral incisors?	
Do you have any concerns regarding this treatment option?	
Are you aware of any alternative treatments for missing lateral incisors?	
Would you like more information about this treatment?	Yes / No If yes, please specify:

Results – Cycle 1



Interventions Introduced

- Following Cycle 1 feedback:
 - **Patient Information Leaflet (PIL)** was created
 - Included treatment outcome images
 - Improved explanation of restorative options and long-term implications



How Does the Treatment Work?

Step by Step:

1.Assessment & Planning:

X-rays, scans, and photographs are taken to plan your treatment.

2.Orthodontic Treatment (Braces or Aligners):

Teeth are moved carefully to bring the canine into the lateral incisor position.

3.Tooth Recontouring:

The canine is reshaped and polished to resemble a lateral incisor.

4.Cosmetic Finishing (if needed):

Tooth-coloured bonding or veneers may be used for the best appearance.

5.Life-long Retention:

Retainers are provided to keep your new smile stable.

How Long Does Treatment Take?

- Orthodontic treatment typically takes 18-24 months
- Cosmetic reshaping is usually completed at the end of treatment if desired.

What are the Risks?

- Mild discomfort during tooth movement is normal
- Good oral hygiene is essential
- Some cosmetic finishing may be needed for ideal results with possible costs

Are there other options?

Opening space + replacement with:

- Dental implants
- Bridges
- Dentures
- Accepting the space

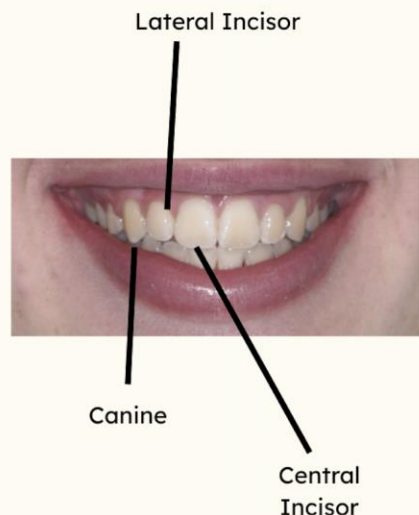
Canine Lateralisation

PATIENT INFORMATION
LEAFLET FOR PATIENTS
WITH MISSING LATERAL
INCISORS



What Are Lateral Incisor Teeth?

Lateral incisors are the small front teeth next to your two main front teeth (central incisors). Some people are born without one or both lateral incisors. This is a common dental condition and can be treated successfully.



What is Canine Lateralisation?

Canine lateralisation is an orthodontic treatment where the canine tooth (the eye tooth) is gently moved into the space of the missing lateral incisor. Once in position, the canine is reshaped to look and function like a lateral incisor.

Why Choose Canine Lateralisation?

- ✓ Uses your natural teeth
- ✓ Avoids the need for implants, bridges or dentures
- ✓ Provides a long-lasting and stable result
- ✓ Improves smile appearance and bite function
- ✓ Is suitable for growing patients and adults

Who is a Good Candidate?

Canine lateralisation may be suitable if you:

- ✓ Are missing one or both lateral incisors
- ✓ Have healthy canine teeth
- ✓ Would benefit from braces to improve bite/aesthetics
- ✓ Wish to minimise long-term restorative burden



Dr Chris McAuley

Results – Cycle 2

CURRENT STATUS – After introduction of PIL only (n = 10)

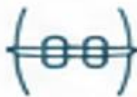
UNDERSTANDING OF TREATMENT OPTION



90%
good-excellent
understanding

10%
did not fully
understand

ORTHODONTIC PHASE EXPLAINED ADEQUATELY



100%
Yes

0%
No

AWARENESS OF RESTORATIVE OPTIONS LONG-TERM



80%
Aware

20%
Unsure

DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION & VISUALS



80%
Yes

20%
No



Results

CYCLE 1 – Before introduction of PIL and AVA (n = 10)

UNDERSTANDING OF
TREATMENT OPTION



40%
good-excellent
understanding

60%
did not fully
understand

ORTHODONTIC PHASE
EXPLAINED ADEQUATELY



80%
Yes

20%
No

AWARENESS OF RESTORATIVE
OPTIONS LONG-TERM



20%
Aware

80%
Unsure

DESIRE FOR MORE
INFORMATION & VISUALS



60%
Yes

40%
No

CURRENT STATUS – After introduction of PIL only (n = 10)

UNDERSTANDING OF
TREATMENT OPTION



90%
good-excellent
understanding

10%
did not fully
understand

ORTHODONTIC PHASE
EXPLAINED ADEQUATELY



100%
Yes

0%
No

AWARENESS OF RESTORATIVE
OPTIONS LONG-TERM



80%
Aware

20%
Unsure

DESIRE FOR MORE
INFORMATION & VISUALS



80%
Yes

20%
No

Conclusions

- PIL enhanced patient understanding
- Shared decision-making was improved
- Better understanding may support informed consent and patient outcomes
- Next steps: Plan to create an audio-visual aid (AVA) to allow patients to view on their own devices in the comfort of their own home



Thank You

Questions?