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COVER

On the cover: Orthodontic patients with specific cardiac disorders may be at risk of developing infective endocarditis. The American Heart Association provides antibiotic prophylaxis recommendations for the prevention of infective endocarditis in association with dental procedures, but the only orthodontic procedure listed as requiring prophylaxis in the current version is the placement of bands. However, other orthodontic procedures may create conditions that could increase bacteremia levels. Elastomeric separator placement has been found to lead to significantly increased bacteremia levels due to the potential for subgingival interaction. A closed eruption approach for impacted teeth could create a conduit for bacteremia along the length of the chain, while an open exposure approach does not. Yona Vandersluis and Sunjay Suri, at the University of Toronto, reviewed the literature and provide an evidence-based update on the relationship between orthodontic procedures and infective endocarditis in children. The smiling patient on the cover is Cassandra Lewis. She was treated orthodontically by Dr Jeff Y. Shao, who practices in The Woodlands, Texas.

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