

American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics

Founded in 1915 Volume 157 Number 5 May 2020
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COVER

On the cover: Clear thermoplastic aligners are now considered an effective, esthetic alternative to orthodontic treatment with fixed appliances for many adult patients. However, the possible side effects of clear aligner treatment have not been fully investigated. How do they compare with fixed appliances when it comes to pain and discomfort, root resorption, periodontal health, and enamel demineralization? Albhaisi, Al-Khateeb, and Abu Alhajja, in Irbid, Jordan, designed a randomized clinical trial to investigate and compare the formation of white spot lesions in patients treated with clear aligners and traditional fixed appliances. They used quantitative light-induced fluorescence to photograph the anterior teeth and premolars of 42 patients before treatment started and after 3 months. They found that the clear aligner patients developed larger but shallower white spot lesions, while the fixed appliance group developed smaller lesions, but they were more numerous and deeper. Read the full results of the RCT in this issue. The smiling patient on the cover is Elijah Weenig, who was treated orthodontically by Drs. Ed and Shannon Owens, Jackson, Wyoming.

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Video available with article online at www.ajodo.org

The American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (ISSN 0889-5406) is published monthly by Elsevier Inc., 230 Park Avenue, Suite 800, New York, NY 10169. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Elsevier, Journal Returns, 1799 Highway 50 East, Linn, MO 65051.

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