

Updated Guideline for the Extraction of First Permanent Molars in Children

Extraction of first permanent molar in orthodontics is rarely the orthodontist first choice. Some advocated consequences may include adding 6-9 months to the treatment time, inadequate contact between second permanent molar and second premolar, and difficult techniques during treatment especially space closure in the lower arch.

Nevertheless, some patients are presented with first permanent molars with poor prognosis, where extraction of unrestored premolars is considered unethical. In other patients with mildly crowded malocclusions, who need orthodontic treatment and yet presented with poor conditions of first permanent molars, it is required to include these teeth in the treatment planning. Careful considerations should be given to the timing of extraction and the chosen techniques especially for space closure to eliminate the need of prosthetic replacement in the future.

This lecture presents the updated guidelines for the extraction of first permanent molars and how to incorporate this into our orthodontic treatment planning.