

Factors influencing the wearing of protective gloves in orthodontic practice.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to explore how wearing, or not wearing, protective gloves affects the efficiency of orthodontists in performing certain orthodontic procedures. Thirty-six volunteers were randomly selected from members of the Taiwan Association of Orthodontists. A visual analogue scale (VAS) was used to determine the degree of convenience subjects felt in performing 11 specified orthodontic procedures, with and without gloves. In addition, the time required to bend round and rectangular archwires and to tie and untie ligature wires was recorded. The results showed that for 10 of the 11 orthodontic tasks there was perceived to be no difference when wearing, or not wearing, gloves. Only when bending a round archwire was there perceived to be a difference. When the four orthodontic procedures were undertaken on a typodont and timed, no significant difference was found between the use of gloves/no gloves.