

Controlled molar distalization

James Bonham discusses a durable, comfortable, and predictable appliance

Orthodontists today have multiple appliance options to achieve molar distalization. Some distalization appliances have a broader market exposure than others, usually created through podium speakers and company marketing campaigns. Recently, an appliance called the Rapid Molar Distalizer (RMD) has grown only by word of mouth to become the doctor- preferred distalization appliance at Specialty Appliances laboratory. After thousands of successfully treated cases, we wanted to share what makes this distalization appliance so exceptional.

The Rapid Molar Distalizer (RMD) offers predictable molar distalization without molar tipping or anterior advancement. Using small expansion screws on the buccal of the arch, the RMD does not interfere with the patient's speech or swallow pattern. Each screw is comfortably placed parallel to the buccal line angle or central groove, and capable of 12 mm of distalization. When seeking either unilateral or bilateral molar distalization, orthodontists have complete control through their prescribed screw activations. Each screw is generally activated twice per week (right Monday, left Wednesday, right Friday, and left Saturday) until desired distalization is achieved. With

only a ¼ millimeter activation per turn, there is no continuous pressure on the patient's anterior tissue. This eliminates the Nance indent on anterior tissue and prevents tipping of anterior teeth that is seen in most distalization appliances.

Appliance anchorage can be tailored to the patient. In the absence of fully erupted permanent second molars, the appliance is anchored to bands on the first bicuspid and first molars. The second bicuspid will generally follow the first molar down the alveolar process. If the patient has fully erupted second permanent molars, it is anchored to the second molar bands and the second bicuspid. In this case, the first molar will generally follow the second molar down the alveolar process. Lingual buttons are often added so power chain can close the diastema from the drifting teeth.

Transverse corrections are often desired before distalization. The RMD can incorporate a palatal expansion screw in the second bicuspid area, soldered to the lingual support wire. The appliance has extension to the first or second molars as needed but is not soldered to the molar bands so distalization can occur.

Digital scanning and computer-aided design technology delivers many positive workflow enhancements. The Rapid Molar Distalizer is the only distalizing appliance that allows for same day fabrication of both RMD and the holding Nance appliance. Because RMD distalization is measurable by the number of screw activation turns, simply inform the laboratory how much distalization is desired. Specialty Appliances will digitally replicate the prescribed distal movements and print a second model for Nance fabrication. With this new process, doctors eliminate a valuable appointment and deliver the Nance immediately after removing the RMD.

Due to its solid reputation of durability, patient comfort and predictable results, the RMD has become the orthodontist's distalizing appliance of choice at Specialty Appliances. For more information please visit our website at www.specialtyappliances.com or contact us at 1-800-522-4636. **OP**



Figures 1A-1C: A. Before RMD. B. RMD in progress. C. After RMD



RMD with added transverse expansion and lingual buttons to aid in second bicuspid retraction



James Bonham is a partner at Specialty Appliances and manages sales and marketing. He has spent the past 12 years in orthodontics with a strong focus on the integration of digital technology into orthodontic practices.

“The RMD is the most stable distalization appliance I’ve ever used, giving me complete control without breakage.”

– C. Lynn Davis, DDS