



# Ortho-Surgical Management of Open Bite Skeletal Class III Malocclusions with Periodontics Deficiency in Adult Patient: Case Report



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## Abstract

It is known that one of the most challenging problems that confront the practicing orthodontist is the treatment of skeletal Class III malocclusion in adult patients. The clinician is faced with the option of either orthodontic camouflage or orthognathic surgery. In severe cases, ortho-surgical treatment is the only guarantor of successful result both functionally and aesthetically. This case report presents the treatment of a Moroccan female patient with open bite skeletal Class III malocclusion and periodontic disease. After combined orthodontic-surgical treatment the result was complete with positive overbite and acceptable occlusion, using a combination of fixed orthodontic appliance treatment as well as the orthognathic surgical management. The patient was satisfied with her new appearance and function.

**Keywords:** Class III malocclusion; Open bite; Orthognathic Surgery; Bimaxillary osteotomy; Orthodontics

## Introduction

Ones of the most complex problems that orthodontics has to manage are skeletal class III malocclusions.

Prevalence of this type of malocclusion is different from a population to another, it goes in Caucasians ranges from 0.8 to 4.0%, to rises up to 12.13% in Japanese and Chinese populations, whatever in North Indian population, and it's found in up to 3.4% of the population [1]. Multi factorial causes are incremented in adult and include genetic and/or environmental factors. The characteristics of this malocclusion are mandibular prognathism, maxillary deficiency or both [2]. Studies show that maxillary deficiency is more frequent, accounting for 60% to 63% of the causes of this malocclusion [3]. It's known that etiology of skeletal class III malocclusion is closely linked to heredity [4]. According to Litton et al. [4] one third of a group of patients with severe class III malocclusion had a parent with the same problem and one-sixth had an affected sibling. Arnett shows that jaw bases attribute to malocclusion in all three dimensions; this is why the dento-alveolar and soft tissue components should be reviewed [5,6].

At first the skeletal disharmony is detected and confirmed, then clinician must make the differential clinical diagnosis of Class III malocclusion, by verifying occlusal pattern both at Centric Relation (CR) and Intercuspal Position (IP). This maneuver aims to assess the severity of the malocclusion, and define the nature

of causes of Class III malocclusion (skeletal, dental malocclusion or functional). Diagnosis is confirmed by lateral cephalograms at the aforementioned occlusal positions [7]. The treatment decision is based on the clinical examination confronted to the cephalometric analysis by assessing the amount of sagittal and vertical discrepancy, dentoalveolar compensations and facial esthetic [8]. To treat this type of malocclusions we can chose one of two options, orthodontic camouflage treatment witch calls on dentoalveolar compensations [9] and orthodontic-surgical treatment which involves correction of the skeletal disharmony [8].

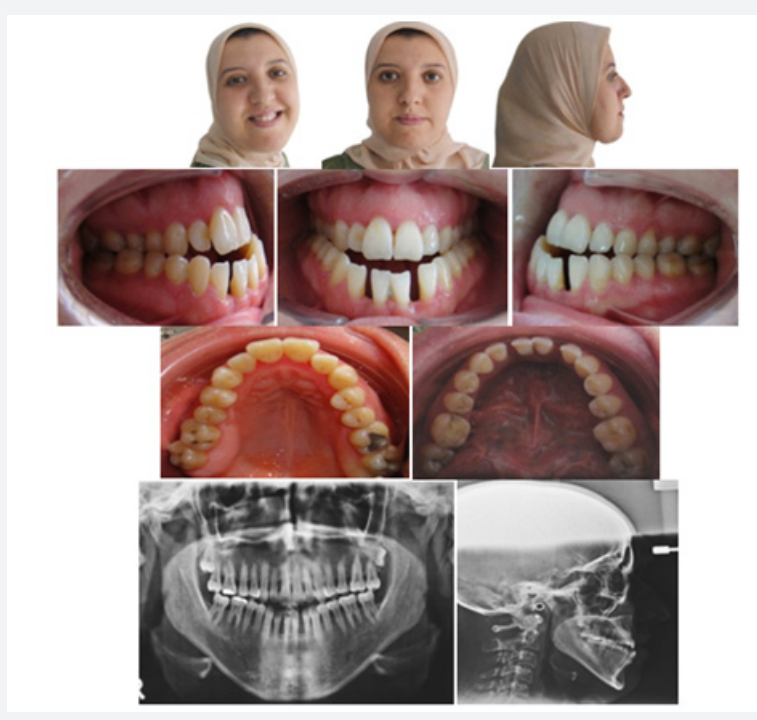
The choice between these two treatment options is made on the basis of a clinical data face cephalometry. The final decision remains dependent on the practitioner's clinical experience and personal preference [10]. In adult Orthognathic surgery and Orthodontic therapy are compliment to each other to achieve the desired results [11]. Accurate clinical examinations followed by the right diagnosis and treatment planning are essential [12]. These complex cases require careful treatment planning, an integrated approach and patient cooperation [13].

The aim of this report is to describe and discuss the option of orthodontic-surgical treatment of Class III skeletal malocclusion in adult patient for reestablishment of a normal occlusion and an adequate facial esthetics.

**Case Report**

Moroccan female patient aged 35 years reported dissatisfaction with her facial and dental appearance associated to functional problems. Facial examination disclosed facial symmetry with malar deficiency, oral closure needed contracture

of perioral muscles. The facial profile was concave, with maxillary hyperplasia, a protrusive nasomaxillary area and prominent lower third of the face with a protruded lower lip relative to the upper lip. Smile analyses showed a low smile line with a gingival exposure and a well developed buccal corridors (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Pre-treatment photographs, panoramic radiograph and lateral cephalometric radiograph.

Intraoral examination objectified a narrow maxilla, class III molar and canine relationship, anterior crossbite with lack of overbite and bilateral posterior crossbite, accentuated negative dentoalveolar discrepancy in the maxillary arch. The patient had a pathological periodontal tissue, with bilaterals incisif's diastema and local recessions in the mandible. No other family members were known to have similar abnormalities of the teeth and

craniofacial skeleton. Panoramic radiograph (Figure 2) showed horizontal resorption of the bone crests both in the maxilla and the mandible, missing mandibular third molars and retention of the maxillary third one. The postero anterior cephalometric radiograph of the face confirmed skeletal class III malocclusion with open bite sign's.



**Figure 2:** Pre-treatment orthodontic study models.

Cephalometric analysis revealed a good antero posterior maxillary relationship (SNA= 81°), with the mandible positioned anteriorly to the cranial base (SNB=87°). The lag bone bases was negative and estimated at 6°, it was accentuated by vertical abnormality due to posterior mandibular rotation. Added to this classical dento-alveolar compensations was observed and

expressed in sagittal plan with pro alveolar upper incisive (I/NA= 7mm) and retroalveolar lower incisive (i/NB=3mm) (Table 1). No relevant family and medical history was to note. However, the patient was greatly dissatisfied by her looks and highly positive for the treatment.

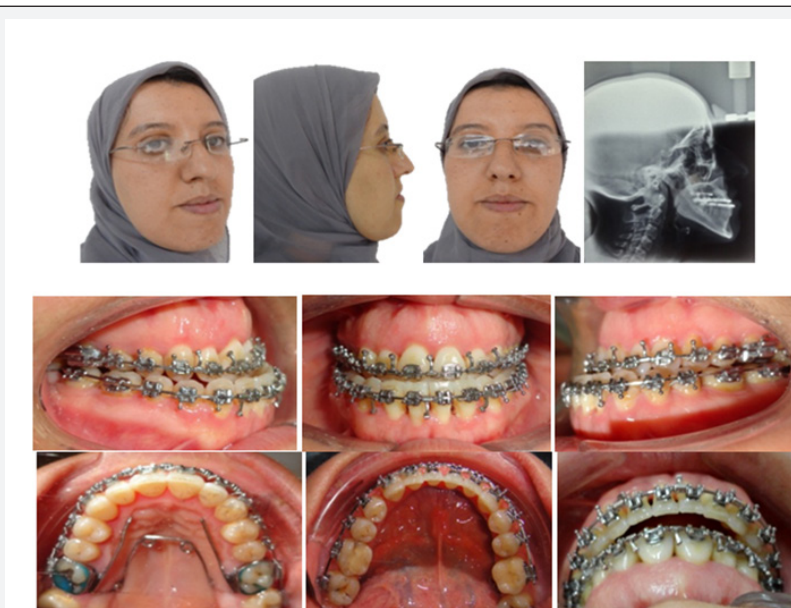
**Table 1:** Cephalometric data.

Céphalometry	Objectives	Before Treatment	After Treatment
SNA	820	810	820
SNB	800	870	800
ANB	20	-80	20
SND	760	790	760
I/NA	220	280	240
i/NA mm	4 mm	7 mm	5 mm
i/NB	250	250	280
i/NB mm	4 mm	3 mm	4,5 mm
I/i	1310	1250	1300
Pog/NB		1 mm	2 mm
Occ/SN	140	220	160
GoGn/SN	320	470	370

**Treatment plan**

The aim of our treatment was to attain a pleasing profile by improving the relationships of jaw bases .We wanted also to correct crossbite and open bite, individual tooth rotations, make sure that an dequate torque for maxillary and mandibular incisors is achieved and at the same time improve the smile line. To reach these goals, was decided for an orthognathic approach, this treatment included three phases. The first one is the pre-surgical phase which consists of orthodontic preparation that was essential to correct dental disharmonies with aligning the arches

and improving torque of maxillary and mandibular incisors. We initiated with 022 preadjusted edgewise appliance. The orthodontic treatment was done without premolar exyarctions. Both maxillary and mandibular arches were aligned using flexible wires NiTi archs which were followed by progressive heavy arch. A quad helix was bonded on the maxillary arch to obtain transversal alveolar expansion (Figure 3). The second phase is jaw surgery. Bilateral sagittal split osteotomy was performed to setback the mandible by 5 mm. LeFort I surgical procedure was carried out as decided and the maxilla was repositioned 3 mm superiorly.



**Figure 3:** Pré-surgical facial, intraoral photos and radiographs.

In the aim to stabilize the mandibular, a rigid fixation was used. Finally, a post-surgical phase has been, it's an orthodontic

phase to achieve final desired tooth interdigitation using wires and settling elastics (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Post-surgical facial, intraoral photos and radiographs.

### Treatment results

After combined orthodontic-surgical treatment, it was observed functional occlusion, normal overjet and overbite, adequate intercuspation with coincident midlines, and normal lateral and protrusive excursions.

The post-treatment radiograph revealed no periodontal bone loss, acceptable root parallelism of the newly positioned incisors and canines (Figure 5). The cephalometric data showed that the sagittal skeletal relationship was corrected from Class III to Normal and the mandibular plane was maintained (Table 1). The overall treatment duration was 6 months.



Figure 5: Final extraoral, intraoral photographs and radiographs.

### Discussion

Skeletal class III malocclusion in adult is characterized by a rich clinical table, which involves many esthetic and functional prejudices, [14] a good comprehension of the components of this malocclusion conditions the establishment of an accurate and effective treatment plan [15]. To treat this type of malocclusion, the clinician can chose between two options, orthodontic camouflage and orthognathic surgery. The use of the surgery requires that the clinician after evaluating the patient's face, deduce that facial esthetics is deficient, which imply that orthodontic treatment alone is insufficient to achieve a successful result.

Many authors agree on the fact that in adult patient who present with ful fledgest class III malocclusion, combined ortho-surgical management remains the only option [4,16,17]. For limit cases called "borderline, the choice of the appropriate option can be difficult to make. Many studies have been destined to identify criteria of distinguishing the mean value of indicators of treatment choice, especially the cephalometric ones [15,18]. According to Cassindy [19] borderline Class III can be treated by orthodontic or surgical treatment, in the base of moderate skeletal discrepancies they involves [19].

In our case, patient presented severe class III malocclusion, with many esthetics and functional problems.

Skeletal parameters were sounded on the facial plane with esthetic disgrace. The therapy of choice to correct the skeletal discrepancy was ortho-surgical treatment through dental decompensation. Orthodontically, it was easy to achieve negative overjet by repositioning the maxillary anterior teeth and closing spaces at the mandible. Patient was informed about aesthetic prejudice than result of the lag aggravation before surgery; she was also made aware of the need for combined surgery. Bilateral sagittal split osteotomy was performed to setback the mandible by 5 mm, we associate le- Forte I surgical procedure, to reposition the maxilla 3 mm superiorly and correct vertical prejudice.

Referring to Eckhardt & Cherackal [1,20] bimaxillary osteotomy, comparing to one-jaw osteotomies, offers a greater potential to modify anterior face height, what is heard on the soft tissues. This is why it's justified in patients, such as in this case, in the aim to improve excessive vertical dimension of the lower face [1,20]. Clinical success after orthognathic therapy can be defined as a combination of following factors: patient (and patient's family) satisfaction, Correct static and functional occlusion, patient comfort when chewing no pain in the temporomandibular joint and stability of the result in long term [16].

In terms of stability, in 2-jaw surgery, there is better control of ramus inclination and less relapse related to this, but upward movement of the maxilla that allows the chin to rotate upward and forward brings its total forward movement to about the same level as with mandonly surgery [4]. When upward and forward movements of the maxilla are combined with lower border ramus

osteotomies, thus prevent excessive forward rotation of the mandible and garant the excellent postsurgical stability [16,21].

Mobarak et al. [21] assessed long trem changes in soft tissue profile following mandibular setback surgery and deduced that mandibular setback surgery is a stable procedure and if relapse occurs, it appears in first six months postoperatively [22-25]. Bailey et al. [26] evaluated long term soft tissue changes after orthodontic and surgical corrections of skeletal class III malocclusions and concluded that class III patients are less stable during first year after surgery but show fewer changes in hard and soft tissue measurements beyond that point [26]. In their retrospective cephalometric study extended over a period of 5 years, L'Tanya J et al. [27] show those skeletal Class III adult patients treated by ortho-surgery show minimal change in soft tissues in post-surgery [27].

### Conclusion

High Class III certainly is a great challenge to orthodontist and constitutes the greatest cause of facial deformity among all types of malocclusions. Success in the management of such malocclusion is conditioned by a proper diagnosis and treatment planning. In adult with a severe discrepancy, combined ortho-surgical approaches is the only way to achieve successful results. It demure a stable procedure, however relapse may be due to faculty planning, faulty or postsurgical growth which is avoided in adult patients. In our case the patient and her legal guardians were very pleased with the final result, which considerably improved her self-esteem. In contrast long term follow up demure essential.

### Ethical Statement

The patient has been consented and approved the inclusion of her case and photographs in this scientific purpose.

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