

THE “H” SERIES OCCLUS-O-GUIDE®:
A SOLUTION TO RESISTANT OVERJET CORRECTIONS

The “H” Series Occlus-o-Guide® is designed so that the mandible in the set-up is advanced 6mm. from the maxilla into a Class III relation. When worn, this quickly advances the mandible in those cases where the last couple of millimeters of overjet resist final correction. In most cases, the “G” Series is sufficient in gaining an optimum horizontal correction, however, in about 10%, the mandibular advancement seems to slow down so that about a 2 or 3mm. of correction is difficult and slow to attain. In these individuals, the same size “H” Series is used. For example, if a 4G was used for the correction, a 4H would be the correct size to finish such a case. The “H” Series can be used passively only at night, but more rapid results can be achieved when daily exercise of 2 to 4 hours together with nighttime wear is used.

The “H” Series is not recommended as a routine mandibular advancement appliance to replace the “G” Series. It is advisable to begin the horizontal overjet corrections with the “G” Series, and only if the final 2 or 3mm. of correction becomes resistant, does one resort to the use of the “H” Series. The reason for this conservative application of the “H” Series, is because if the patient is losing enthusiasm and decides not to wear the appliance as actively during the day in favor of more passive nighttime wear, there will be more labial tipping of the lower incisors. Passive wear of the appliance does not usually hold the lower incisors into the sockets as well as active wear and as a result there is a greater tendency for labial tipping of these teeth with only passive wear.

Whether the “H” appliance is used or not at the beginning of a severe overjet correction, does not make any difference as to labial lower incisal tipping as long as the 9 years old or older patient exercises at least two hours each day. At 7 or 8 years of age, the patient can get considerable successful overjet and overbite corrections with only one hour of active wear. Excessive overjets can be corrected at early ages such as under 7 or 8 years of age with only passive nighttime wear without incisal tipping.

One must be extremely aware of the effectiveness of the “H” Series to correct overjet and as a result, close supervision of the patient on a regular monthly basis is essential during its use. As soon as perfection of the overjet is accomplished, the use of the “H” Series must be stopped immediately and the original “G” Series use is resumed. If this is not carefully monitored, the patient, if left on his own without careful monitoring on the part of the dental professional, can develop a skeletal Class III relation within a few months wear.

The “H” Series appliance is available in the “G” Series design format for mixed dentition cases from 6 to 12 years of age. It can be used in the full adult dentition, but one must be aware that it does not cover the occlusal surfaces of the second molars and might be accompanied by the overeruption of these teeth which might accelerate the opening of the bite.

The “H” Series appliances are available in the following 13 sizes to accommodate about 95% of the variations the population.

1H	2 1/2H	4H	5 1/2H	7H
1 1/2H	3H	4 1/2H	6H	
2H	3 1/2H	5H	6 1/2H	

The "H" Series is not available with breathing holes and are only made of standard medium hardness.

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