



Mechanical Consideration of Mini-Implants - A Short Review

Dr. Aishwarya.K¹, Dr. Ashwin.K.S², Dr. Poorna Devadoss³

¹Senior lecturer, ²Post Graduate, ³Professor

Department of orthodontics, Thai Moogambigai Dental College and Hospital, Mugappair, Chennai- 600107

***Corresponding Author:**

Dr. Aishwarya.K

Department of orthodontics, Thai Moogambigai Dental College and Hospital, Mugappair, Chennai- 600107

Type of Publication: Original Research Paper

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

ABSTRACT

Anchorage control has always been a challenge in the field of Orthodontics, adding to this is the patient's compliance towards removable anchorage systems like headgears and face masks. Intra orally the teeth also cannot be used as absolute anchorage in various situations due to unwanted side effects. In the recent times, the use of Mini implants in Orthodontics is gaining popularity due to their advantages, ease of use and ability to control tooth movement in various planes of space. This article reviews the various aspects of Mini implants like advantages, disadvantages, placement, and compliance etc. in the field of Orthodontics

Keywords: Mini-implants, Screw, Anchorage, Torque

INTRODUCTION

Orthodontic tooth movements follow the principle of Newton's Third Law of Motion which states that "Every action has an equal and Opposite Reaction". Tooth movement happens when forces are applied which is counteracted by equal and opposite force. Generally orthodontic treatment causes unplanned tooth movements which need to be controlled from the beginning. Anchorage control is an important consideration for achieving optimal treatment results in orthodontic practice. To reinforce anchorage and achieve the desired tooth movements, there are several options such as interarch elastics, headgears, bonded intraoral anchorage devices, miniplates, dental implants, and miniimplants. These mechanics and appliances have specific advantages and disadvantages, mainly depending on the specific properties of the individual case. Unfortunately, all types of conventional intra-oral anchorage reinforcement are associated with anchorage loss. Throughout the twentieth century headgear was regarded as the 'gold standard' for anchorage

reinforcement, principally because it was the only source of anchorage not dependent on the dentition. Headgear, however, is often associated with compliance problems, in that insufficient wear by the patient results in anchorage loss^[1].

The use of absolute anchorage dates back to the 1700's where John Hunter, Scottish Surgeon explored the chances of transplanting human teeth^[2]. In 1911, Greenfield described the fabrication & insertion of an endosseous implant^[3]. The first published case of an implant for orthodontic anchorage was introduced by Gainsforth & Higley in 1945^[4]. In 1969, Branemark et al reported that titanium implants remained stable for 5 years without sign of tissue injury or rejection showing that the implant became firmly osseointegrated with the bone^[5]. In 1984, Robert & fellow researchers collaborated with Branemark in a study which concluded that titanium endosseous implants provide firm osseous anchorage for orthodontics & dentofacial orthopedics^[6]. In 1988, Shapiro & Kokich described

the use of Dental implants for anchorage during orthodontic treatment prior to being used for prosthodontic purposes^[7]. Also in the same year, Creekmore used Vitallium implant for anchorage for intruding upper anterior teeth^[8]. Orthodontic mini-implants have been in clinical practice since Kanomi first mentioned them as an anchorage device in 1997^[9]. Spider screw system implant for skeletal anchorage was introduced by Maino et al^[10] and C micro implant system was introduced by Kyu Rhim Chung^[11].

The start of the twenty-first century has seen the emergence of a new form of orthodontic anchorage, utilising orthodontic mini-implants (OMIs), also known as mini-screw implants and temporary anchorage devices (TADs). These are modified bone screws with typical body (endosseous) dimensions of 1.5–2 mm diameter and 6–10 mm length. Their surfaces are polished and smooth compared to tooth implants. Hence they rely on mechanical retention within the alveolar and palatal bones, especially their cortical layers, rather than osseointegration.

Contemporarily, mini-implants have a multitude of indications in orthodontic practice with a wide range of size and design options. Mini-implant anchorage is reported to be used in many cases, such as the upper third molar alignment, correction of a canted occlusal plane, alignment of dental midlines, correction of deep overbites, closure of extraction spaces, extrusion of impacted canines, extrusion and uprighting of impacted molars, molar intrusion, maxillary and mandibular molar mesialisation and distalization, intermaxillary anchorage for the correction of sagittal discrepancies, en masse retraction of anterior teeth, and correction of vertical skeletal discrepancies.

Although there are various advantages there are many frequently encountered problems such as loosening, pain, tissue overgrowth, discomfort of the mini-implants. Their stability is determined by implant design, surgical technique, loading conditions and bone strength. This review evaluates the clinical usefulness, success rates, and analyzes the various factors associated with them.

Classification of Mini Implants used in Orthodontics:

1. Based on Dimensions:
 - a. Diameter

- i. 1.2 mm
- ii. 1.5 mm
- iii. 1.8 mm
- iv. 2 mm
- b. Length
 - i. 5mm
 - ii. 8 mm
 - iii. 10 mm
 - iv. 12 mm
 - v. 14 mm

2. Based on Materials:

- a. Titanium
- b. Stainless Steel
- c. Vitallium

3. Based on Location:^[12]

- a. Maxilla
 - i. Infrazygomatic Crest
 - ii. Maxillary Tuberosity
 - iii. 1st and 2nd Molar Bucally
 - iv. 1st and 2nd Molar Palatally
 - v. 1st molar and 2nd Premolar Bucally
 - vi. Canine and Pre molar Bucally
 - vii. Maxillary incisors Facially
- b. Mandible
 - i. Retromolar Area
 - ii. 1st and 2nd Molar buccaly
 - iii. 1st Molar and 2nd Premolar Bucally
 - iv. Canine and Pre Molar Bucally
 - v. Mandibular Symphysis Facially
 - vi. Edentulous Areas
 - vii. Tori

4. Based on Head Type:^[13]

- a. Small head type
- b. Long head type
- c. Circle head type
- d. Fixation head type
- e. Bracket head type

ADVANTAGES OF MINI IMPLANTS AS TEMPORARY ANCHORAGE DEVICES^[14]:

- Insertion and removal does not require any particular surgical procedure.
- There is no need for complicated clinical and laboratory procedures (i.e., fabrication of acrylic splints).
- Miniscrew implants can be immediate loaded (there is no need for a waiting period for

Osseo-integration, in contrast to orthodontic implants), reducing the total treatment time.

- Miniscrew implants offer a variety of locations that can be inserted, unlike conventional dental implants used for orthodontic anchorage.
- The provided absolute anchorage eliminates undesirable effects on the teeth that otherwise would have been normally used as anchorage.
- Patient cooperation is limited to maintaining immaculate oral hygiene.
- Miniscrew implants can be easily removed.
- Cost is relatively low.

DISADVANTAGES OF MINI IMPLANTS AS TEMPORARY ANCHORAGE DEVICES ^[14]:

- Damage of the adjacent tissues or root injuries might occur as a result of improper insertion.
- Irritation or inflammation of peri-implant tissues and consequent failure of the mini screw implant is also possible, especially by patients with poor oral hygiene.
- When the oral surgeon is involved for insertion (mainly when drilling is required), there is an additional cost to the patient.

Mini-Screw design:

The orthodontic mini-implant made up of titanium alloy grade V for anchorage. Orthodontic mini screw has 4 components [fig 1]

1. Head – Configuration of head differs based on requirement ^[13].
2. Neck – accessories like elastics, Niti coil springs etc. are attached here.
3. Platform – Available in three different sizes (1mm, 2mm, and 3mm) to accommodate varying soft tissue thickness at different implant site.
4. Body – It is available as cylindrical or tapered with self-drilling or self-tapping types. It provides better mechanical retention, less loosening breakage, and stronger anchorage.



Figure 1: Parts of mini-implant

Mini Screw Size:

In the maxilla, implant diameters equal to or less than 1.4 mm with 8-10 mm length are recommended for orthodontic anchorage due to the porous nature of bone. Whereas in the mandible, the choice of diameter should be larger than 1.4 mm with 6-8 mm length due to dense cortical bone. The 1.5 mm tapered and 2.0 mm cylindrical versions of the mini implants achieved significantly greater primary stability than the 1.5 mm cylindrical design ^[15].

Tseng et al. reported a 100% success rate for a mini-implant of more than 12 mm in length and he concluded that the length of the mini-implant was related to its success rate ^[16]. He also reported that the success rate of the mini-implant of 8 mm in length and 2 mm in diameter was 80%. Miyawaki et al ^[17] reported success rates of 83.9% for 1.5-mm diameter and 85% for 2.3-mm diameter screw-type implants but the selection of size (diameter) is purely based on the jaw involved, location, and interdental bone thickness. Motoyoshi et al ^[18] showed higher success rates (91.9%) with 1.6 mm in diameter and 8 mm long compared to previous studies.

Mini Screw Angulation:

The buccal cortical bone is thin in maxilla from canine to the second premolar. Thus screw should be placed such that it does not touch the roots. The interdental space between the roots resembles an inverted pyramid. The Space keeps increasing in width to about 5mm as the root taper apically. The

screw is placed at 30- degree to 40 -degree angle to the long axis of the teeth in the maxilla to keep it in the widest space available between the roots apically. Mandible has a dense buccal cortex which requires a shorter screw with 10 degree to 20 degree angulation. To achieve the best primary stability, an insertion angle ranging from 60° to 70° is advisable. If the available space between two adjacent roots is small, a more oblique direction of insertion seems to be favourable to minimize the risk of root contact^[19].

Implant Placement Torque (IPT):

IPT is the frictional force generated at the interface between the bone and screw during tightening. In a dense cortical bone, screw with larger diameter produce larger IPT and enhanced stability. A method was adopted to improve the success rate of mini-implants, by controlling the placement torque through the use of a drill size in proportion to bone density so that a recommended placement torque of (5–10 N cm) was achieved. By using this method excessive torqueing of the mini screw during insertion was reduced⁷. Motoyoshi et al¹² reported higher loss rates when the insertion torque exceeds 10 Ncm (100 Nmm) for mini-implants with a diameter of 1.6 mm. This could be the reason for higher

implant loss rates with mini-implants at very high insertion torques in the mandible. The placement and removal torques averaged approximately 8 and 4 N cm, respectively. A torque of 4 N cm imparts sufficient anchorage for mini-implants^[15].

Loading of mini screw:

In a study using finite element analysis, it was found that immediate loading should be limited to 50 cN of force in a 2 mm diameter mini screw implant^[17]. In other study, no significant association was found between the success rate and immediate loading, and it was concluded that immediate loading is possible if the applied force is less than 2 N^[16].

Conclusion:

Miniscrews have a high success rate of approximately 90% the same as miniplates and large titanium screws, and they provided sufficient anchorage immediately after placement surgery for any orthodontic tooth movement. In addition, miniscrews placed without a mucoperiosteal incision or flap surgery significantly reduced the patient's pain and discomfort after implantation. Miniscrews have suitable characteristics as orthodontic anchorage devices.

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