

# EARLY MANDIBULAR CANINE-LATERAL INCISOR TRANSPOSITION: CASE REPORT

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## SUMMARY

**Purpose.** The main aim of the present study is to present a case of mandibular transposition between lateral incisor and canine in a paediatric patient.

**Materials and methods.** A fixed multibracket orthodontic treatment was performed by means of a modified welded arch as to correct the transposition and obtaining a class I functional and symmetrical occlusion, also thanks to the early diagnosis of the eruption anomaly.

**Results.** Our case report shows that a satisfactory treatment of mandibular transpositions is obtained when detected at an early stage of the tooth development.

**Conclusions.** The main treatment options to be taken into consideration in case of a mandibular transposition are two: correcting the transposition or aligning it leaving the dental elements in their transposed order; in both cases, the follow-ups show a stable condition, maintained without relapses. Several factors, such as age of the patient, occlusion, aesthetics, patient's collaboration, periodontal support and duration of treatment have to be considered as to prevent potential damage to dental elements and support appliances. The choice between the two treatment approaches for mandibular lateral incisor/canine transpositions mainly depends on the time the anomaly is detected.

**Key words:** mandibular transposition, malocclusion, orthodontic treatment, tooth eruption.

## Introduction

Transposition is an eruption anomaly consisting in the exchange of position between two adjacent teeth (1). Mandibular transpositions are less frequent and show less variability than maxillary ones (2); five types of maxillary transpositions have been so far identified and described whereas only two maxillary transpositions are known: 1) mandibular lateral incisor/canine (Mn.I2. C); 2) transmigrated mandibular canine/erupted canine (Mn. C. trans-erupted) (3).

Both mandibular transpositions are very rare. The prevalence of Mn. L2. C transposition is 0.03%, that of Mn. C. trans-erupted transposition is 0.02% (3).

We also distinguish complete and incomplete

forms depending on the involvement of both crown and root, or the crown only.

Depending on the transposition development stage, different characteristics of this dental anomaly emerge, first described in a study by Peck et al. (4):

**Transposition initial phase:** it is characterised by early distal tipping, coronal movement and severe mesio-lingual rotation (between 60 and 120 degrees) of the lateral incisor of the lower arch, thus affecting the physiological eruption path of the canine which develops transposed mesially to the lateral. The first deciduous molar is often damaged by the ectopic development of the lateral incisor thus inducing its premature exfoliation. At this stage, Mn. L2. C anomaly shows crown transposition of the mandibular lateral incisor and the canine; however, the roots

are not in inverted position yet.

**Mature transposition phase:** this phase is characterised by an ectopic position of the mandibular canine between the lateral and central incisor. In several cases, at this stage, the crowns of the canine and the lateral are clearly and neatly transposed, the roots can be overlaid or in full transposition. At the age of 13, Mn. L2. C. transposition is usually complete for the roots as well. The aetiology of the transposition is multifactorial: in 1998, Peck (3) observed an association between mandibular transposition and dental anomalies, thus supporting the genetic hypothesis.

In mandibular lateral incisor/canine transposition cases, the development phase of the anomaly and the age of the patient are important factors to consider when choosing the most appropriate treatment option (2).

## Case presentation

A 9-year-old male patient, nonsyndromic and free of other associated dental anomalies, under treatment at the orthodontics department of the Dental School of University of Bari for the presence of a mandibular lateral incisor/canine transposition. The patient shows a slightly convex profile, harmonious smile (Figure 1 a), cross bit occlusion and a tendency to molar face to face (class I occlusion tending to class II). The canine class cannot be defined because the lower canine has not erupted in arch yet (Figure 1 b).

The overjet is 3 millimetres, the overbite 3.5 millimetres (Figure 1 b).

The dental midline is not symmetrical because the mandibular line is deviated 1 millimetre right in relationship with the maxillary, dental and facial line (Figure 1 b).

There is evidence of cross of molars, cross of incisors is not detected. The right permanent lower lateral incisor is next to the permanent first premolar, in a phase of early eruption. The deciduous canine and lower lateral incisor persist in the arch. The permanent lateral incisor is lo-

cated distally to the deciduous canine (Figure 1 b).

The oral hygiene is inadequate, with presence of mild marginal gingivitis and plaque build-up (Figure 1 b).

The radiographic examination highlights the position of the permanent canine cusp aligned with the permanent lateral incisor already erupted, whose root is hidden by the canine crown. The first is positioned lingually to the permanent first premolar, its apex is lingual to the erupting canine (Figure 2 a). All the other teeth are in tardive dentition phase; the tooth germs of the permanent third molars are present (Figure 2 b).

On the basis of the orthodontic check-up, the following treatment plan is set:

- 1) establishment of a class I dental occlusion;
- 2) development of an ideal overjet and overbite and correction of the cross-bite;
- 3) correction of the mandibular lateral incisor/canine transposition;
- 4) correction of the root inclination and angulation;
- 5) establishment a skeletal class I.

## Treatment phases

The first phase of the treatment consists in the extraction of the persistent deciduous lateral incisor and canine.

A lower welded arch was positioned with a distal stop at the permanent central incisor and with a lingual loop connecting the lateral incisor and the deciduous second molar as to allow the placing of a button on the lingual surface of the permanent lateral incisor. The same stop on the permanent central incisor enables the placing of an elastic module exerting a mesial traction on the permanent lateral incisor (Figure 3 a).

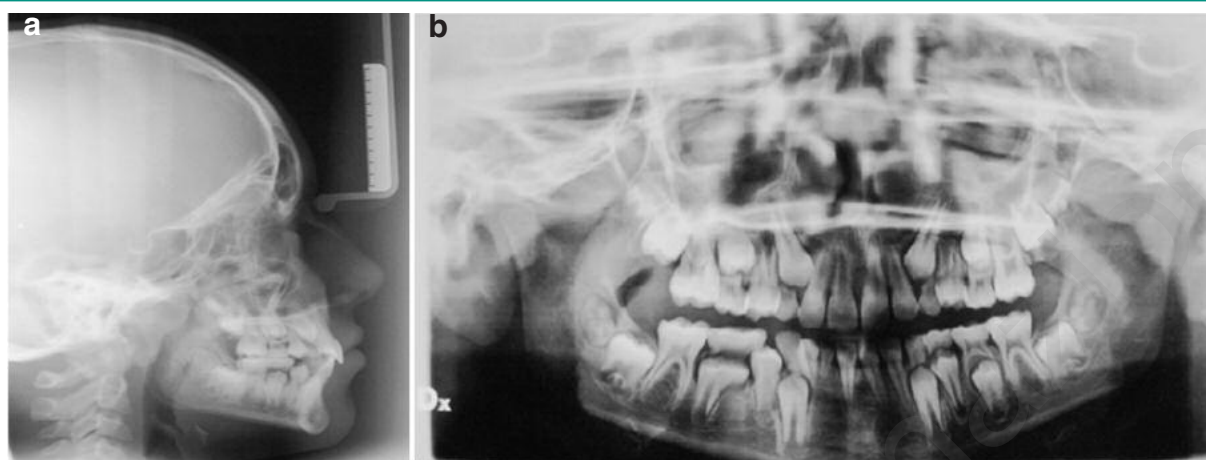
A plate with an anterior hitting plane is then inserted on the upper arch in order to avoid interferences during the movement of the tooth (Figure 3 a).

After about 3 months a button is then applied on the vestibular surface as well, in order to obtain



a lingual traction and to detach the root of the lateral incisor from the crown of the canine thus avoiding any radicular damage (Figure 3 a). Four months from the beginning of the treatment a fixed multibrackets retainer (022-028) is placed, with the insertion of a coil spring open between 42 and 45 to enable the mesialization of 42 without a further diversion of the mandibular line (Figure 3 a).

The use of elastic chains allowed us to accomplish the mesial movement of the lateral incisor (Figure 3 b). With a steady activation of the coil spring open we obtained the eruption of the canine on which, once erupted in the arch, a bracket is positioned for the alignment of the canine (Figure 3 b). The treatment provides for the sequence of round threads from 014 to 018 until the rotation is corrected and the complete level-



**Figure 2**  
a) Pre-treatment latero-lateral teleradiography. b) Pre-treatment orthopantomography.

ling is achieved; after this phase, rectangular threads 017 and 025 were used as to achieve the correct inclination of the roots of all the dental elements. The patient undergoes regular check-ups each 3-5 weeks during the active phases of the treatment (Figure 3 b). When the retainer is removed, a restraining plate is made in order to preserve the obtained results. At the end of treatment the patient is 11 years old (Figure 4 a) and he did an orthopantomography and a latero-lateral teleradiography (Figure 4 b, c). In Figure 5 a and b we can see cephalometric tracings pre and post treatment.

## Discussion

The main treatment options to be taken into consideration in case of a mandibular transposition are two (5-7): correcting the transposition or aligning it leaving the dental elements in their transposed order; in both cases, the follow-ups show a stable condition, maintained without relapses. Several factors, such as age of the patient, occlusion, aesthetics, patient's collaboration, periodontal support and duration of treatment have to be considered as to prevent potential damage to dental elements and support appliances (8-31).

The choice between the two treatment approaches for mandibular lateral incisor/canine transpositions mainly depends on the time the anomaly is detected (5, 6):

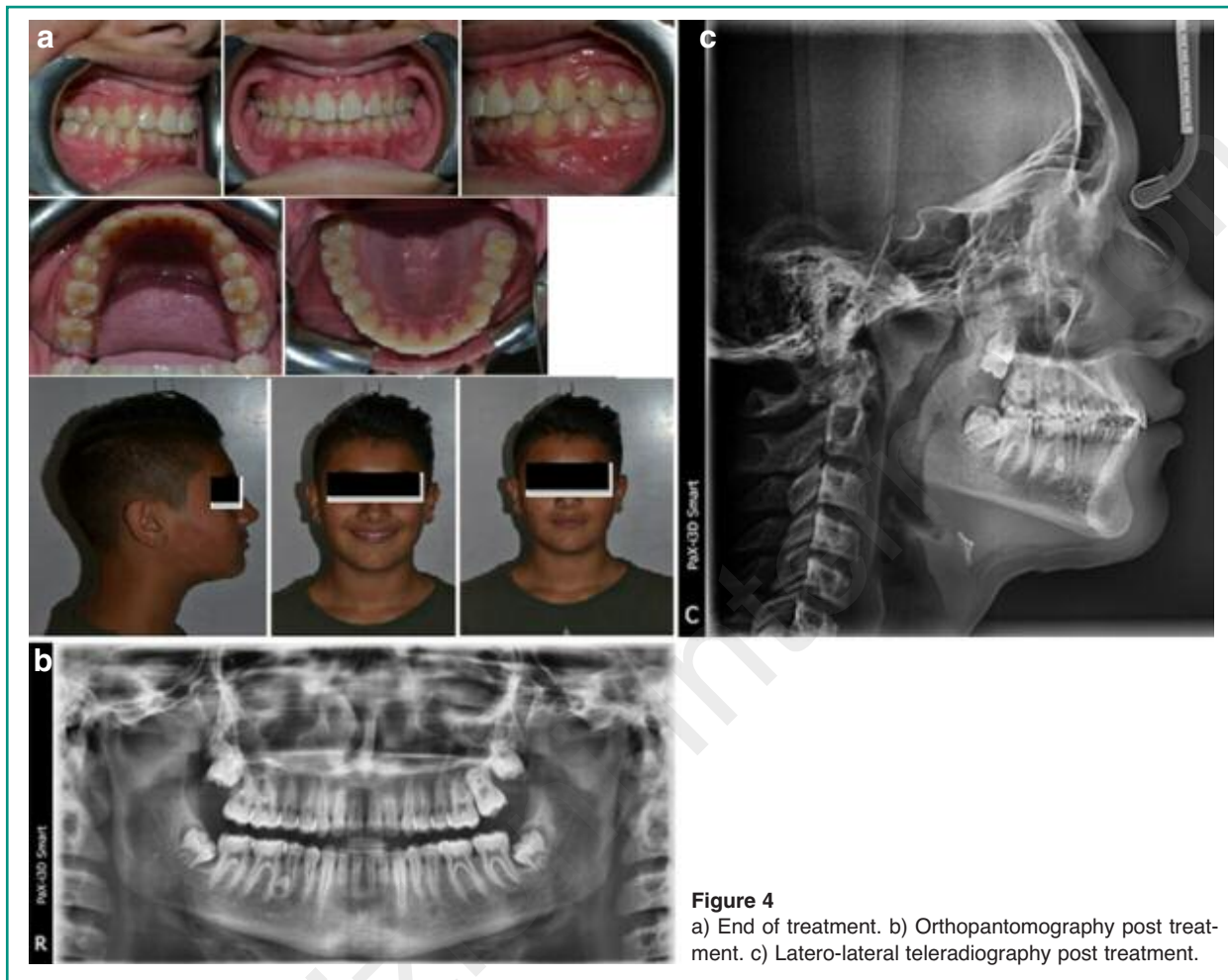
- 1) if the transposition is diagnosed at an early stage, the position of the teeth can be corrected by means of a fixed orthodontic treatment; in the first stage of the treatment extractions are carried out as to reduce the duration of treatment.
- 2) if the transposition is diagnosed after the transposed teeth erupt in their anomalous position, it is preferable not to correct it and to align the dental elements in their transposed order. For this purpose, two options are to be considered depending on the length of the arch:
  - if there is not enough room for the transposed teeth to be aligned in the arch, the extraction could be necessary. The posterior teeth are thus mesially aligned. It is however important to consider the occlusion and the condition of the teeth; if the other teeth are in good conditions, the lateral incisor can be extracted;
  - if there is enough room to align the transposed teeth in the arch, the transposition is then kept and the shape of the transposed teeth can be modified using aesthetic restoration materials.





**Figure 3**

a) Pictures of the different phases of the orthodontic treatment. b) Orthodontic treatment phases.



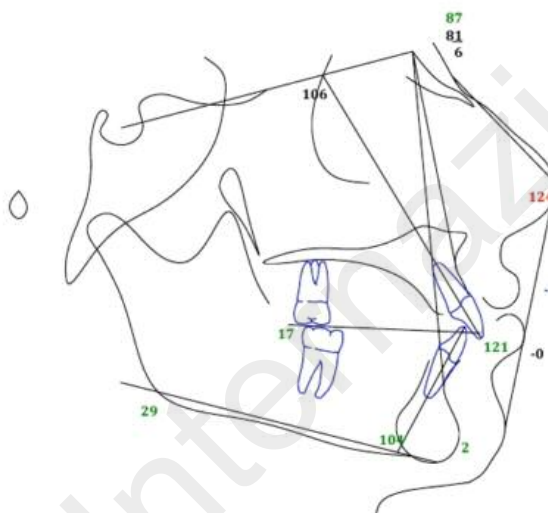
**Figure 4**  
a) End of treatment. b) Orthopantomography post treatment. c) Latero-lateral teleradiography post treatment.

Peck and Peck (2) advise to correct only the pseudo-transpositions and to keep the transposed order of the dental elements in all the types of real transpositions. Weeks and Power (7) clarify the necessary interventions to obtain an acceptable compromise without correcting the transposition. The correction of teeth in their normal position is reported by several other Authors (6-8).

Correction is a complex process, potentially detrimental for the teeth and the support appliances; they also present the advantages and disadvantages of alignment and the correction. Our case report shows that a satisfactory treatment of mandibular transpositions is obtained when detected at an early stage of the tooth development.

Patient: DV Prof.DV, ID: CASO, Male, Age: 5y 0m (Birth: 04/11/2002)  
04/11/2007 Initial Analysis: Steiner Norm: Other

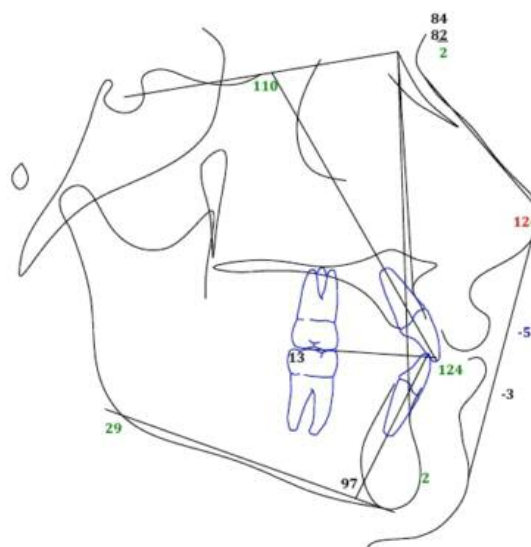
	Value	Norm	Std Dev	Dev Norm
Interincisal Angle (U1-L1) (°)	120.8	130.0	6.0	-1.5 *
IMPA (LI-MP) (°)	104.0	95.0	7.0	1.3 *
ANB (°)	6.0	1.6	1.5	3.0 ***
Lower Lip to E-Plane (mm)	-0.2	-2.0	2.0	0.9
Upper Lip to E-Plane (mm)	-4.6	0.6	2.0	-2.6 **
MP - SN (°)	28.9	33.0	6.0	-0.7
SNA (°)	86.7	82.0	3.5	1.3 *
SNB (°)	80.7	80.9	3.4	-0.1
U1 - SN (°)	106.4	101.8	5.5	0.8
Occ Plane to SN (°)	17.1	14.4	2.5	1.1 *
L1 - HB (mm)	6.2	4.0	1.8	1.2 *
U1 - HA (mm)	2.5	4.3	2.7	-0.7
U1 - NA (°)	19.7	22.8	5.7	-0.5
L1 - NB (°)	33.5	25.3	8.0	1.4 *
Pop - HB (mm)	2.5	0.4	1.7	1.2 *
Soft Tissue Convexity (°)	124.2	140.4	4.0	-4.1 ****



a

Patient: DV Prof.DV, ID: CASO, Male, Age: 5y 0m (Birth: 04/11/2002)  
04/11/2007 Progress Analysis: Steiner Norm: Other

	Value	Norm	Std Dev	Dev Norm
Interincisal Angle (U1-L1) (°)	123.6	130.0	6.0	-1.5 *
IMPA (LI-MP) (°)	97.0	95.0	7.0	0.3
ANB (°)	1.8	1.6	1.5	0.1
Lower Lip to E-Plane (mm)	-2.9	-2.0	2.0	-0.5
Upper Lip to E-Plane (mm)	-5.2	0.6	2.0	-2.9 **
MP - SN (°)	29.0	33.0	6.0	-0.7
SNA (°)	84.2	82.0	3.5	0.6
SNB (°)	82.4	80.9	3.4	0.5
U1 - SN (°)	110.4	101.8	5.5	1.6 *
Occ Plane to SN (°)	13.3	14.4	2.5	-0.4
L1 - HB (mm)	4.9	4.0	1.8	0.5
U1 - HA (mm)	4.6	4.3	2.7	0.1
U1 - NA (°)	26.1	22.8	5.7	0.6
L1 - NB (°)	28.5	25.3	8.0	0.5
Pop - HB (mm)	2.2	0.4	1.7	1.1 *
Soft Tissue Convexity (°)	124.4	140.4	4.0	-4.0 ****



b

**Figure 5**

a) Cephalometric tracing pre treatment. b) Cephalometric tracing post treatment.

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