

## Association Of Mandibular Arch Crowding And Vertical Growth Pattern - A Retrospective Study

Research Article

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## Abstract

Dental arch crowding is one of the most common malocclusions encountered in daily practice by an orthodontist. The most common reason that motivates patients to seek orthodontic treatment is anterior crowding as it has a significant aesthetic problem. A retrospective study was conducted in a dental hospital from July 2019 till March 2020 to evaluate the prevalence of dental arch crowding in subjects with vertical growth patterns in the Chennai population. A sample of 127 subjects with vertical growth patterns were selected from the case records of patients who reported to the University Hospital for orthodontic treatment. Mandibular arch crowding was classified into mild, moderate and severe crowding and cross verified with photographs. All the data was tabulated and analyzed using SPSS Version 20. Descriptive statistics and Chi-Square tests were performed. The overall prevalence of mandibular arch crowding in subjects with vertical growth patterns was 72%. Crowding was common in males (54.3%) than females (45.7%). Mild crowding (48%) was more prevalent followed by moderate crowding (27.6%) and severe crowding (24.4%). Mandibular arch crowding was more common in adults (44.9%) followed by adolescents (31.5%) and children (23.6%). No statistically significant association between age, gender and type of malocclusion of subjects with severity of crowding was noted ( $p > 0.05$ ). It can be concluded that the prevalence of crowding in subjects with vertical growth patterns was 72% and no differences among age, gender and type of malocclusion with crowding was noted.

**Keywords:** Crowding; Lateral Cephalograms; Malocclusion; Orthodontic; Vertical Growth Pattern.

## Introduction

An individual who faces a problem with socialization due to aesthetic reasons might visit a dental clinic to consult for aesthetic enhancement. Most of the patients feel that crowding is non-aesthetic and that motivates them to seek treatment. Crowding can be defined as the presence of a discrepancy between teeth size and the available space for their correct functional and aesthetic position, which may affect oral health by increasing susceptibility to dental caries and periodontal disease and further will influence the dental and facial aesthetics of the patients [1].

There are various etiologic factors for crowding including evolution, genetics, environment, tooth size, tooth shape, arch length, intercanine width, intermolar width, and arch dimension [19, 30, 47]. Based on the definition above, crowding occurs not merely

because of tooth-arch discrepancy but discrepancy among many variables [50]. Several factors can be assumed to affect the development and severity of crowding such as the direction of mandibular growth, the early loss of deciduous molars, mesiodistal tooth and arch dimensions, oral and perioral musculature and incisor and molar inclination [3, 19, 43].

Relevant to mandibular growth a pattern, the more vertical growth is, the greater the eruption of incisors to compensate for the vertical space created. This eruption decreases the likelihood to maintain contacts between the teeth and increase the risk of crowding [5]. There was a study which proved that there was a correlation between skeletal growth pattern with lower incisor crowding [27].

The most significant diagnostic advancements in orthodontics is

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radiographic cephalometry [18, 33]. In cephalogram analysis, the gonial angle is used to determine the growth pattern and rotation of the mandible in a patient [44]. The drawbacks of the cephalometric analyses are due to anatomical variation and growth changes occurring in different anatomical landmarks [14]. Another imaging modality in orthodontics is cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) technology which offers an undistorted view of the dentition and three dimensional (3D) spatial orientation of the teeth and roots [18]. Besides that, it can also reveal the dimensions of alveolar bone and space limitations for intrusion and expansion [18]. Thus, advance diagnosis is required to ensure that the treatment planning and outcome are favorable depending on the various dental or skeletal malocclusions. Moreover, to predict the outcome of the treatment, it is important to have knowledge regarding the forces exerted on the orthodontic auxiliaries in which indigenous apparatus is found to be efficient [7, 13, 40]. Previously our team has a rich experience in working on various research projects across multiple disciplines [2, 8, 10, 16, 20-25, 31-34, 38, 49, 55, 58]. Now the growing trend in this area motivated us to pursue this project.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the association of mandibular arch crowding with vertical growth patterns.

### Materials and Methods

A retrospective study was conducted involving patients visiting dental hospitals from July 2019 till March 2020. Ethical approval was granted by the Institutional Ethics Committee with the following ethical approval number SDC/SIHEC/2020/DIASDA-TA/0619-0320.

Data was collected from the records of the patients who reported for orthodontic treatment in a University Hospital. Non orthodontically treated subjects with vertical growth patterns were selected in the study. Exclusion criteria were subjects with other growth patterns and undergoing orthodontic treatment. A total of 127 subjects with vertical growth patterns were selected in this

study. To minimize bias, all data were included and no sorting process was done. Cross verification was done using photographs.

Sociodemographic data including age and gender, the severity of crowding, and the type of malocclusion were recorded. The severity of crowding was classified into mild, moderate and severe crowding.

Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science, SPSS Version 20 (IBM Corporation, New York, USA). A Chi-square test was done to establish the association between the categorical variables.

### Results & Discussion

In this present study, the prevalence of mandibular arch crowding in subjects with vertical growth patterns was 72%. In the study done by Ghulam Rasul et al, 92.6% of patients with hyper divergent facial growth had lower anterior crowding in which the value was higher than the present study and there was a significant difference between growth pattern and anterior crowding [41]. Few studies also reported a positive relationship between crowding with high mandibular plane angles and facial heights [27, 45].

Meanwhile, another study reported that the prevalence of crowding was 10% in vertical growth pattern patients and there was no statistically significant difference, which indicates that there was no relationship between growth pattern and mandibular crowding [29]. Miethke et al also concluded that there was no correlation between primary mandibular anterior crowding with vertical craniofacial configuration [29]. However, with regard to the mandibular growth a pattern, the more vertical growth is, the greater the eruption of incisors to compensate for the vertical space created. This eruption decreases the likelihood to maintain contacts between the teeth and increase the risk of crowding [5].

Crowding was more common in males (54.3%) than females (45.7%). Based on Figure 3, moderate (54.3%) and severe crowd-

Figure 1. Bar chart showing the frequency distribution of gender. X-axis represents gender and Y-axis represents the number of patients with crowding. Blue color denotes male Patients and purple color denotes female patients. Mandibular arch crowding was common in male patients (54.3%) than female patients (45.7%).

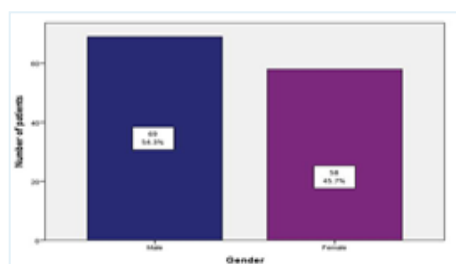


Figure 2. Bar chart showing the frequency distribution age group. X-axis represents the age and Y-axis represents the number of patients with crowding. Purple denotes child, blue denotes adolescent and red denotes adult. Mandibular arch crowding was common in adults (44.9%), followed by adolescent (31.5%) and child (23.6%).

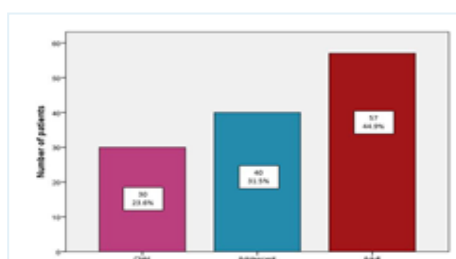


Figure 3. Bar chart depicting the association of gender with the severity of crowding. X-axis represents the gender and Y axis represents the number of patients with crowding. Blue color denotes mild, green color denotes moderate and brown color denotes severe. Chi-Square test was done and association was found to be not statistically significant. Pearson Chi-square value: 1.948a, df: 2, p-value: 0.378 (>0.05). Mild crowding was common in females and moderate and severe crowding were common in males but no significant difference was present.

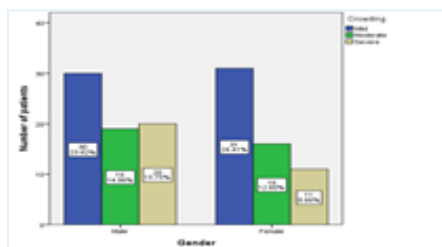


Figure 4. Bar chart depicting the association of age with the severity of crowding. X-axis represents the age and Y-axis represents the number of patients with crowding. Blue color denotes mild, green color denotes moderate and brown color denotes severe. Chi-Square test was done and association was found to be not statistically significant. Pearson Chi-square value: 7.202a, df: 4, p-value: 0.127 (>0.05). Mild and severe crowding were common in adults and moderate crowding was common in children but no significant difference was present.

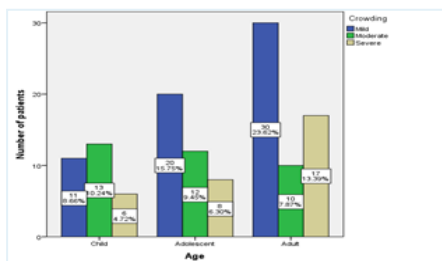


Figure 5. Bar chart showing the frequency distribution of types of malocclusion. X-axis represents the type of malocclusion and Y-axis represents the number of patients with crowding. Green color denotes class I, red color denotes class II and pink color denotes class III. Mandibular arch crowding was common in class I (56.7%) followed by class II (39.4%) and class III (3.9%) malocclusion.

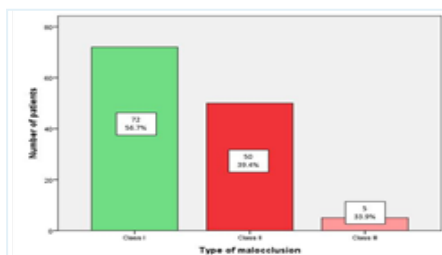
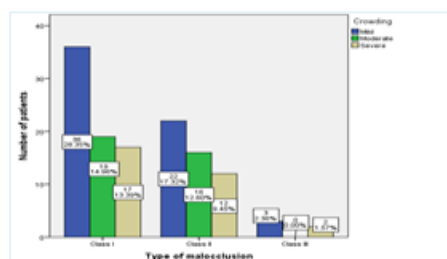


Figure 6. Bar chart depicting the association between type of malocclusion and severity of crowding. X-axis represents the type of malocclusion and Y-axis represents the number of patients with crowding. Chi-Square test was done and association was found to be not statistically significant. Pearson Chi-square value: 2.668a, df: 4, p-value: 0.651 (>0.05). Mild (59%), moderate (54.3%) and severe (54.8%) crowding were common in class I malocclusion but no significant difference was present.



ing (64.5%) were more common in males than females. Meanwhile, mild crowding was more common in females (50.8%) than males (49.2%). However, the present study revealed that there was no statistically significant association between gender and severity of crowding,  $p > 0.05$ . With regard to the severity of crowding, a previous study reported that severe crowding was common in males with 26% which was similar to the present study where 64.5% of males had severe crowding [41]. This study also revealed that there was no statistically significant difference between gender and crowding which was in line with the present study. However, in a study done by Hamasha et al, there was a statistically significant difference between gender and crowding in which the females were common with 45.5% than males with 32.4% [17].

The present study also found that there was no statistically significant

association between age and severity of crowding,  $p > 0.05$ . Mandibular arch crowding was common in adults (44.9%) followed by adolescents (31.5%) and children (23.6%). Based on Figure 4, mild crowding (49.2%) and severe crowding (54.8%) were more common in adults and moderate crowding (37.1%) was more common in children. A previous study reported that the prevalence of severe crowding in adolescents and adults in the Netherlands was 15% [4]. Another study reported that 14.3% of adolescents had crowding [15]. The incidence as well as the severity of the crowding increased during adolescence and adulthood in both normal untreated individuals and orthodontically treated patients [52]. There was no study reported an association between the severity of crowding with different age groups.

Based on the type of malocclusion, mandibular arch crowding

was common in class I (56.7%) followed by class II (39.4%) and Class III (3.9%) malocclusion as shown in Figure 5. Based on Figure 6, mild crowding was common in class I (59%), class II (54.3%) and class III (54.8%) malocclusion. However, there was no statistically significant association between types of malocclusion with the severity of crowding,  $p>0.05$ . A previous study reported the severity of crowding in maxillary and mandibular arch based on types of malocclusion in which moderate maxillary crowding and mild mandibular crowding was common in all malocclusion groups [51]. In contrast to the study done by Shakeel Qutub et al, the study reported that there was a statistically significant difference between types of malocclusion and crowding in which maxillary crowding and mild mandibular crowding were more common in all malocclusion groups [24].

Numerous treatment protocols have been advocated for the management of malocclusion. It is important to carefully diagnose all cases to ensure a good treatment plan and outcomes. For example, in deep bite cases with vertical growth patterns, mini implants provide better outcomes in opening the bite [21, 59]. Nowadays, mini implant is considered an essential component in orthodontic treatment in resistance to unwanted tooth movement [11, 53]. Meanwhile, a new innovation on mini implants such as a ball headed mini-implant was created to achieve a proper skeletal change instead of dental change [22, 58]. However, in skeletal deep bite cases with a horizontal growth pattern and anterior crowding, extraction of premolars are not necessarily required and extraction of lower anterior teeth may provide a favorable prognosis [11, 26, 46].

The limitations of this study were the small sample size and the possibility of observer bias. Further study can be done to evaluate the various treatment approaches in managing cases with different severity of crowding and vertical growth pattern.

Our institution is passionate about high quality evidence based research and has excelled in various fields [2, 8, 10, 16, 20-25, 31-34, 38, 49, 55, 58]. We hope this study adds to this rich legacy.

## Conclusion

Within the limitations of the study, it can be concluded that the prevalence of crowding in subjects with vertical growth patterns was 72% and no differences among age, gender and type of malocclusion with severity of crowding was noted.

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