

**Force Delivery and Force Decay
Of
Coil Springs Vs Elastomeric chains**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Dentistry

Ain Shams University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For

Master's Degree in Orthodontics

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2010

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Dedication

To my beloved mother, thank you for your endless sacrifice, patience, care, and constant support. Without you nothing would have been possible.

To my sister, thank you for your constant support and continuous encouragement.

To my wonderful friends thank you for your help.

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my most sincere grateful appreciation to **Professor. Dr. Khaled M. Fawzy**, Professor of Orthodontics, and head of Orthodontic and Pediatric Dentistry Department, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain shams University. His endless encouragement, great help, extreme patience, valuable guidance and immeasurable support, will always be sincerely remembered.

I wish to express my deepest thanks and sincere gratitude as well as appreciation to **Dr. Noha E. Sabet**, Professor of Orthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain shams University. Her valuable advice, devoted effort, and unique cooperation, will always be deeply remembered.

I would also like to express my great appreciation and sincere gratitude to my professors, colleagues and staff members of Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dentistry; Ain shams University, for their valuable time, impressive advice, great support, encouragement and cooperation.

Table of Contents

Title	Page
Acknowledgement	i
Table of Contents	ii
List of figures	iii
List of tables	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
AIM OF THE STUDY	37
MATERIALS AND METHODS	39
RESULTS	57
DISCUSSION	85
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	97
REFERENCES	101
ARABIC SUMMARY	

List of figures

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 1:	Stainless steel closed coil springs	40
Figure 2:	Nickel titanium closed coil springs	41
Figure 3:	Nickel titanium closed coil spring showing preformed eyelids	41
Figure 4:	Different types of power chains	43
Figure 5:	Power Chains sectioned into four units	44
Figure 6:	Boley gauge for measurements	44
Figure 7:	Schematic diagram for the testing groups.	45
Figure 8:	Specially constructed framework made of wood divided into equal squares, each square measured 14 by 14 mm.	47
Figure 9:	Shows the pins used on the Wooden framework	47

Figure 10: Wooden framework with NiTi coil springs.	48
Figure 11: Specially constructed frame work made of wood with power chains.	48
Figure 12: Picture of the ninth wooden framework divided into rectangles 14mm horizontal distances by 18 mm vertical distances.	49
Figure 13: Picture of the ninth wooden framework with pre-stretching power chains 100% of their original length at 18 mm.	50
Figure 14: Tension gauge.	51
Figure 15: Container of artificial saliva.	52
Figure 16: Comparison between Stainless Steel A1 and Ni-Ti A2 coil springs groups.	60
Figure 17: Comparison between control sub-groups of power chains (B1N, B2N and B3N).	61
Figure 18: Comparison between pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains (B1S, B2S and B3S).	63

Figure 19: Comparison between coil springs groups (A1 and A2) and control sub-groups of power chains (B1N, B2N, and B3N).	64
Figure 20: Comparison between coil springs groups (A1 and A2) and pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains (B1S, B2S and B3S).	66
Figure 21: Comparison between control sub-groups of power chains (B1N, B2N and B3N) and pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains (B1S, B2S and B3S).	67
Figure 22: Comparison between SS group (A1) and Ni-Ti group (A2) coil springs.	69
Figure 23: Comparison between control sub-groups of power chains (B1N, B2N and B3N).	71
Figure 24: Comparison between pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains (B1S, B2S and B3S).	74
Figure 25: Comparison between coil springs groups (group A1 and A2) and control sub-groups of power chains (B1N, B2N and B3N).	77

Figure 26: Comparison between coil springs groups (group A1 and A2) and pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains (B1S, B2S and B3S).	80
Figure 27: Comparison between control sub-groups (B1N, B2N and B3N) and pre-stretched sub-groups (B1S, B2S and B3S) of power chains.	84

List of tables

Table	Title	Page
	Table 1: The means, standard deviation (SD) values and results of Student's t-test for comparison between initial forces of the two coil springs group A.	59
	Table 2: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between initial force of clear, color and memory power chains of control sub-groups (B1N, B2N and B3N).	61
	Table 3: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between initial force of clear, color and memory power chains of pre-stretched sub-groups (B1S, B2S and B3S).	62
	Table 4: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between initial forces of coil springs groups (A1 and A2), clear, color and memory power chains of control sub-groups (B1N, B2N and B3N).	64

Table 5: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between initial forces of coil springs groups (A1 and A2), clear, color and memory power chains of pre-stretched sub-groups (B1S, B2S and B3S).	65
Table 6: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between initial force of clear, color and memory power chains of control sub-groups (B1N, B2N and B3N) and pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains (B1S, B2S and B3S).	67
Table 7: The means, standard deviation (SD) values and results of Student's t-test for comparison between force decay of the two coil springs (group A1 and group A2).	68
Table 8: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between force decay in control sub-groups of power chains (B1N, B2N and B3N).	71
Table 9: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between force decay in pre-stretched sub-groups of power chains.	73

Table 10: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between force decay in coil springs groups (group A1 and group A2), clear, color and memory power chains of control sub-groups (B1N, B2N and B3N).	76
Table 11: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between force decay in coil springs groups (group A1 and group A2), clear, color and memory power chains of pre-stretched sub-groups (B1S, B2S and B3S).	79
Table 12: The means, standard deviation (SD) values, results of ANOVA and Tukey's tests for comparison between force decay in clear, color and memory power chains of control sub-groups (B1N, B2N and B3N) and pre-stretched sub-groups (B1S, B2S and B3S).	83

Introduction

Different systems have been proposed to close spaces in orthodontics. Although current knowledge on the various properties of the space closure system is extensive, the search for the ideal device still goes on. The ideal space closure system should have mechanical properties that provide a continuous light force, preserve periodontal integrity, and close the space within a minimum time.¹

The force generated by space closing systems depends not only on the device itself, but also on the force applied by clinicians. Since sliding mechanics have been widely employed to close residual extraction spaces, it is important to compare the force exerted by different space closing systems to help orthodontists in choosing between commercially available devices.²

Theoretically, there is no doubt that light continuous forces produce the most efficient tooth movement. Therefore, the optimum force level for orthodontic tooth movement should be just high enough to stimulate cellular activity and frontal resorption, without completely occluding the blood vessels in the periodontal ligament and causing necrosis.³

This force level also aids in decreasing the discomfort of the patient and reducing the overall treatment time, because the lag phase or delay that occurs during undermining resorption is avoided³.

Many techniques have been proposed such as arch-wire closing loops, stainless-steel ties, coil-springs, latex elastics, and synthetic elastomers. However, the most commonly used are coil springs and elastomeric chains.⁴

Coil springs recently became widely used specially the nickel-titanium which has the property of being super elastic producing light continuous force over a long period of time. It is corrosion resistant, but has the disadvantage of being more expensive than other materials. Advantages of synthetic elastomeric chains are that they are easily manipulated, inexpensive; require little or no patient co-operation, hygienic, easily applied, and biocompatible with the oral mucosa.^{4, 5}

On the other hand, they have disadvantages such as absorbing saliva, staining, having rapid loss of applied force due to stress relaxation and this might result in gradual loss of effectiveness to conduct required tooth movement as the force level is not maintained for enough time to have significant effects on the position of the teeth.^{4, 5}

Apart from the physical properties of the materials used and their ability to maintain the applied force, the complex factors found in the oral cavity, such as the fluctuations of temperature and pH, add to the challenge of trying to control the force system. It is therefore an advantage to have knowledge of the behaviour of the different materials in this environment to be able to deliver the desired force and achieve physiologic tooth movement. Thus there was a strong need for comparing different activation techniques and different materials within various media.