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Original Articles

## Face Mask Therapy Effects in Two Skeletal Maturation Groups of Female Subjects with Skeletal Class III Malocclusions

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To examine the effects of face mask therapy in adolescent and young adult female subjects with skeletal Class III malocclusion characterized by maxillary retrognathism.

**Materials and Methods:** The material consisted of pretreatment and posttreatment lateral cephalometric radiographs of 28 subjects with Class III malocclusions treated with a face mask. Twenty-eight patients age 10 to 16 years were divided into two groups: the adolescent group (15 female patients) and the young adult group (13 female patients). Within group and between group comparisons were made by paired *t*-test and Student's *t*-test, respectively.

**Results:** Forward displacement of the maxilla and clockwise rotation of the mandible occurred in both the adolescent and young adult groups. Maxillary-mandibular relationship exhibited an increase in the ANB angle and Wits appraisal, and the soft-tissue changes resulted in a more convex profile. The maxillary incisors moved forward while the mandibular incisors moved backward.

**Conclusions:** Face mask therapy improves skeletal Class III malocclusions by a combination of skeletal and dental changes. Although early treatment may be most effective, face mask treatment can provide a viable option for older children as well.

**Keywords:** [Face mask](#), [Class III](#), [Maxillary deficiency](#)

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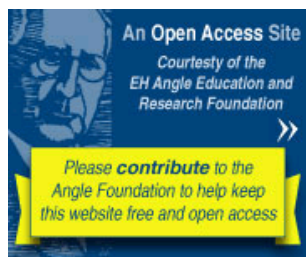
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