

# Evaluation of the Effect of Three Types of Rapid Maxillary Expanders (Conventional, Hybrid and MSE) After 6 Months in Adolescents.

## Randomized controlled trial

Mohamed Abdelrhman Shendy<sup>1</sup>, Ahmed Abouelnour<sup>2</sup>, Sara Elkabbany<sup>3</sup>, Abdullah M. Alhawish<sup>4</sup>, Mostafa Magdi Abdel Monem Abdel Allah<sup>5</sup>, Wesameldin Rafaat Ali Gouda<sup>6</sup>, Usama Thabet Ahmed<sup>7</sup>, Ibrahim Saad Abd El-Ghafar<sup>8</sup>, Khaled Mohammad Taha<sup>9</sup>, Abubakr Mohammed Fouad<sup>10</sup>, Ahmed Mangoud Badr<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Associate professor of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Email: shendy\_ortho@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>2</sup>Associate professor of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Email: A.nour@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>3</sup>Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Girls, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Email: Saraelkabbany@gmail.com

<sup>4</sup>King Saud Medical City Orthodontic Department. Email: ahawish@ksmc.med.sa

<sup>5</sup>Associate professor of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Assiut, Egypt, Email: MostafaAbdelAllah1251.el@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>6</sup>Associate professor of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Assiut, Egypt, Email: wesamgouda.el.8.540@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>7</sup>Associate professor of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Assiut, Egypt, Email: dusamathabet@gmail.com

<sup>8</sup>Lecturer of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Assiut, Egypt, Email: ibrahemsaad1114@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>9</sup>Lecturer of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Email: Kh.taha@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>10</sup>Lecturer of Orthodontics, Orthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine for Boys, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Email: bkr20@azhar.edu.eg

<sup>11</sup>Lecturer of Orthodontics Department of Orthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Aswan University, Tingar, Egypt, Email: Dr.Mangoud@Gmail.com

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** The purpose was to assess and analyze the resultant efficacy of three different maxillary expanders (conventional, hybrid, and MSE) on adolescent maxilla utilizing three dimension dental x ray hence cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) was the proper choice.

**Material and Methods:** The trial was based on three groups, and the net sample was made up of 46 healthy 11–16-year-olds (17 girls and 29 boys). Patients were allocated to groups with the aid of sequentially numbered, opaque sealed envelopes (SNOSE). Group A received conventional hyrax appliance (CH) (5 girls, 10 boys), miniscrew assisted rapid palatal expansion (MARPE) was used with two different design in the other two groups, hence, Group B used hybrid hyrax appliance with two anterior palatal miniscrews (HH) (6 girls, 9 boys), and Group C had the maxillary skeletal expander (MSE) (6 girls, 10 boys). Using Anatomage in vivo 5.19, Dental and skeletal parameters change were assessed for each group at base line (T1) and after expansion (T2), based on 92 CBCT scans.

**Results:** ANOVA was used to compare normally distributed numerical variables between groups, and when a difference was shown to be significant, the post hoc test (Bonferroni) was used. In CH, 73.3% of cases were bilateral, in comparison to 53.3% and 56.3% bilateral cases in HH and MSE respectively; with no significant difference between groups ( $p=0.477$ ), when comparing the type of malocclusion class in CH and HH, 73.3% of cases were class 3, in comparison to 75% class 3 cases in MSE; with no significant difference between groups ( $p=0.993$ ).

**Conclusion:** After expansion, all kinds performed well; however, as compared to the conventional hyrax appliance, the MARPE, and particularly the MSE, had stronger skeletal impact and less buccal tilting.

**Keywords:** Rapid maxillary expansion; Hyrax; MARPE; Hybrid hyrax and Maxillary skeletal expander (MSE)

## INTRODUCTION

To resolve a transverse maxillary discrepancy, an orthopedic therapy that expands the maxillary arch by separating the mid-palatal suture is known as rapid maxillary expansion (RME).<sup>[1-3]</sup>

It is crucial to address transverse maxillary discrepancies promptly, as maxillary width growth is completed earlier than anteroposterior and vertical growth.<sup>[4]</sup>

Backside dental tipping with conventional RPE that uses hyrax is an inevitable side effect, even with bonded hyrax.<sup>[5]</sup>

Patients with transverse maxillary deficiency find it challenging to enlarge their maxilla due to the rise in suture fusion degree since a range of orthopaedic and orthodontic methods are available, especially for individuals who are young and developing.<sup>[6-9]</sup> However, this particular obstacle is more difficult to overcome in adults and teenagers who are not growing because of the higher skeletal resistance seen when the midpalatal suture closure.<sup>[10]</sup>

Additionally, this clinical unwanted side effects such unsuccessful expansion, alveolar bone dehiscence,<sup>[11]</sup> posterior teeth crown tipping,<sup>[5]</sup> root resorption,<sup>[12]</sup> reduction in buccal bone thickness, loss of marginal bone, unrelaxed situation, edematous swelling, and gingival recession can potentially result from difficulties with the expansion technique.<sup>[8,13]</sup>

HH devices require additional procedures. The paramedian palate provides an excellent location for palatal implant placement<sup>[14-16]</sup> at the region of third raugae area.<sup>[17]</sup> and miniscrewbicortical engagement was advised to ensure stability and skeletal effect.<sup>[18]</sup>

HH experienced less force localised on the midpalatal and circummaxillary sutures, despite the fact that the banded maxillary posterior teeth in the toothborne appliances had higher stress values than those in the hybrid design but it can be presumed that when the number of anchor teeth increase, this will make side effects disappear during maxillary expansion.<sup>[19]</sup>

The surgically assisted rapid maxillary expansion (SARME) technique was developed to reduce these negative effects, and it aids in overcoming the resistance that the mature zygomatic buttress and bony palate increase.<sup>[20,21]</sup> However, a contentious question in SARME operations is whether the pterygomaxillary disjunction needs to be separated.<sup>[22,23]</sup>

SARME has a number of drawbacks, including the need for surgery, the need for general anaesthesia, the potential for cranial nerve or palatine artery damage, high expense, a difficult course of treatment, and surgical morbidity and mortality. Nasal hemorrhage, extrusion of teeth attached to the Hyrax device, sinus infection, and devitalization of the teeth (if osteotomy is done too near the tooth tips) are possible potential postoperative issues that might occur with SARME..<sup>[24,25]</sup>

For class 3 patients with severe mandibular prognathism, miniscrew assisted rapid palatal expansion (MARPE) was developed as a nonsurgical expansion prior to surgery.<sup>[26]</sup>

The main difference between conventional and hybrid or MARPE that teeth were under a lot of stress from the tooth-borne appliances, and as the quantity of bone support increased, the strains on the teeth dropped proportionately.<sup>[27-30]</sup> However, a different systematic evaluation found less evidence than conventional hyrax (CH).<sup>[31]</sup>

Despite the large number of studies examining maxillary expansion, orthodontics literature lacks data in this particular field since study designs vary depending on multiple confounders, including the appliance type, expansion technique, and patient characteristics. The need for more original research into the specific effects is highlighted by the small number and poor quality of the eligible studies. It was determined to compare the three types of appliances using the same technique of activation to share knowledge that could potentially lead to a useful clinically relevant result in choosing the appropriate application for the age group. This decision was made due to some clinical difficulties and scientific morals when comparing numerous different expansion methods, hence this study was directed to compare the Effect of three types of RME (conventional, Hybrid and MSE) in young adults.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Sample power analysis

This study used a single-center, double-blind study (assessors and data analysts) with a three-arm, parallel, randomised clinical trial design, the allocation ratio 1:1:1 for individuals with transverse maxillary. Using the free G\*Power software (version 3.1.9.4), the sample size was determined based on a prior study conducted by Brunetto et al.<sup>[32]</sup> According to the research, 45 patients—at least 15 for each group—were needed, and to reach this target, starting with 54 patients, it was determined to eliminate any dropouts.

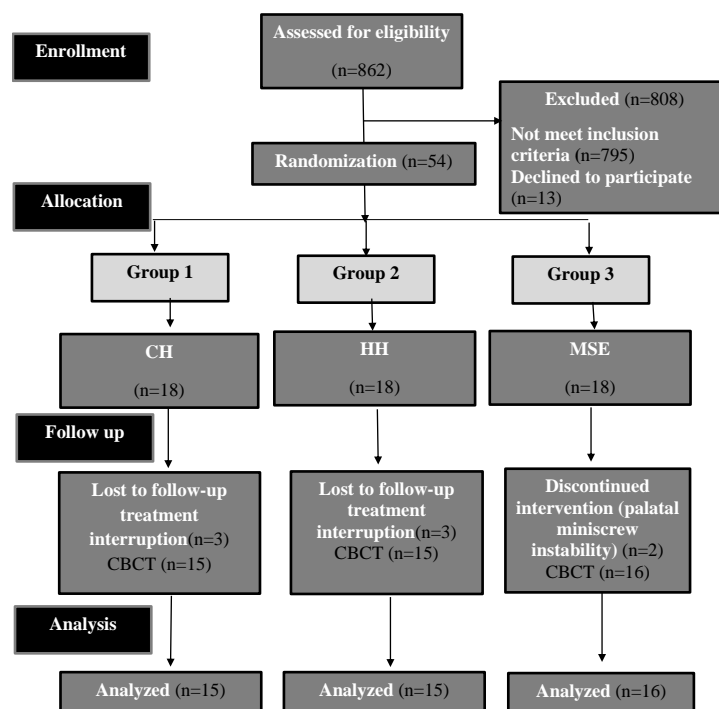
### Ethical approval

The Faculty of Dental Medicine at Al-Azhar University's Institutional Ethical Committee, which upholds the requirements for medical research involving human subjects, approved this study under process number (775/220). The parents or guardians of the children who were permitted to participate signed informed consent forms. Separate consent papers for research participation and full-service orthodontic therapy were given out, and the clinical trial registration number was (NCT05446714).

### Randomization

Sequentially numbered opaque sealed envelopes with assigned numbers and tagged vehicles were used to facilitate the randomisation procedures. The orthodontic outpatient clinic at Al Azhar University's faculty of dental medicine in Cairo, Egypt, served as the screening site for research participants in this randomised controlled trial (RCT).

The sample included 54 healthy (17 girls and 37boys) 11- 16-year-old patients, but at the end, 46 healthy (17 girls and 29 boys) 11- 15 .8-year-old patients were analyzed due to dropout of 6 and exclusion of 2 patients (8 boys). Group A conventional hyrax appliance (CH) (5 girls and 13 boys) finally became (5 girls and 10 boys) group B hybrid hyrax appliance with two anterior palatal miniscrews (HH) (6 girls and 12 boys) became (6 girls and 9 boys) and group C MSE (6 girls and 12 boys) became (6 girls and 10 boys) as presented in Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** CONSORT flow diagram.

### Inclusion criteria

Both unilateral and bilateral posterior crossbite were seen, and the ages ranged from 11 to 16 years. Maxillary collapse was present, with a skeletal framework underlying. The average height of the anterior face and the existence of fully erupted most of permanent teeth except third molars in all cases and canine and permanent second molars in a few cases. Good general body and oral health, lack of periodontal or gingival disease, lack of underlying medical conditions or drugs that could affect bone quality or periodontal health or cause orthodontic therapy to fail, and lack of prior orthodontic treatment history.

### Exclusion criteria

Cleft lip and palate are examples of craniofacial disorders, no congenital facial anomaly or dysmorphism, amalgam filling in maxillary teeth or any crown and those who declined to take part in this research.

Discontinuation criteria

Improper dental hygiene maintenance care, missing follow-ups have an impact on the study's protocol, destroyed appliances with incorrect expansion screw openings that differed from the activation procedure, and failure to follow a doctor's recommendation or disregard for medical guidance.

#### Assessment of maxillary width

Diagnosing transverse maxillary insufficiency can be challenging due to limited soft tissue alterations and the potential for additional skeletal or dental issues to hide the difference.

Clinical features may include paranasal hollowing, narrow nasal base, exaggerated nasolabial angle, tiny zygomatic process, unilateral or bilateral posterior cross bite, or even compensated with narrow maxilla and high palatal vault.

After measuring the maxilla's transverse width using both clinical and conventional posteroanterior (PA) radiography, the trial's approved patients were asked to undergo cone beam computed tomography (CBCT).

The maxillomandibular differential index (15.3 mm) was used to calculate the transverse discrepancy.

#### Oral hygiene prophylaxis

Scaling, polishing, and gingival treatment (mouthwash with chlorhexidine) were administered to all patients. The periodontal prophylaxis program can be influenced by the patient's age, systemic conditions, cooperation, familial and socioeconomic situation. To standardise the pretreatment oral hygiene measures before expansion, each trial participant received a written homecare instruction sheet and subsequently followed a specified oral hygiene routine for one month.

The hyrax contains a jackscrew which is 9,10 or 11 mm wide (Figure 2 d). (Firenze, Italy: Leone Orthodontics) in groups A and B, while in group C, MSE (Figure 2 c & e) was utilised to cover biocritical involvement, with four mini-implants (diameter=1.8 mm, length=11 mm) secured into the MSE jackscrew with four holes by a specific driver that was needed to accomplish bicortical contact. The midpalatal suture (MPS) and the palatal miniscrews were positioned parallel and symmetrically (Figure 2 c & f). The miniscrews may be positioned in the roof of the mouth thanks to the inclusion of four sheaths that were welded to M1 bands on both sides, (American orthodontic), and the expansion screw arms were soldered to the two segments (CH and HH) or four segments (MSE instances) (Figure 2 a, b, and c).

The same orthodontic technician worked on the expansion appliances. Upon delivery, and after cementation with glass ionomer cement (Medicem) and antiseptic solution (Betadine) was put on the palate at the miniscrew insertion site, and a small quantity of local anaesthesia was provided, each patient received two quarter turns (0.25 mm) daily. For 17 days, the patient or parents applied one quarter turn in the morning and another in the evening, resulting in an average enlargement of around 8 mm. The activation protocol for MSE was 4 turns every day because each turn equalled 0.133 mm, thus four turns would be comparable to 0.53 mm, resulting in a total activation of roughly 8mm after 16 days. Finally, after achieving the necessary expansion, the screw was fixed using light cure flowable composite.

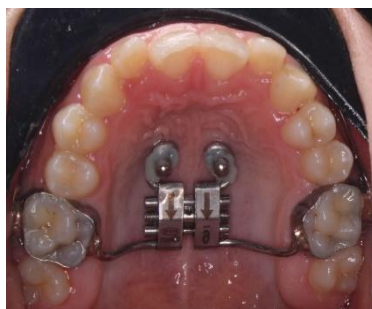
The protraction face mask in class III instances was postponed until the 6-month evaluation period was completed.

#### Outcomes

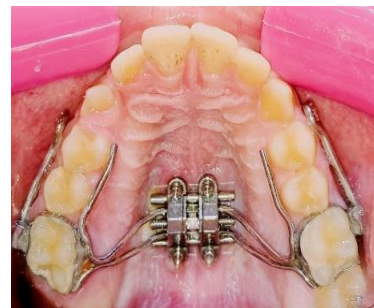
The study's main finding concerned the opening of the midpalatal suture. Patients were monitored once a week during the activation phase to verify the opening of the midpalatal suture. When radiographic evidence of midpalatal suture opening was absent in the periapical view four weeks after the initial activation, maxillary expansion failure using CH, HH or MARPE was determined. To ensure the safe completion of the treatment, expansion was stopped, and the orthodontic treatment plan was changed if the midpalatal suture opening with RPE or MARPE devices failed also skeletal, dentoalveolar measurements were primary outcomes, while periodontal assessments through clinical and by using CBCT images made up the secondary outcomes.



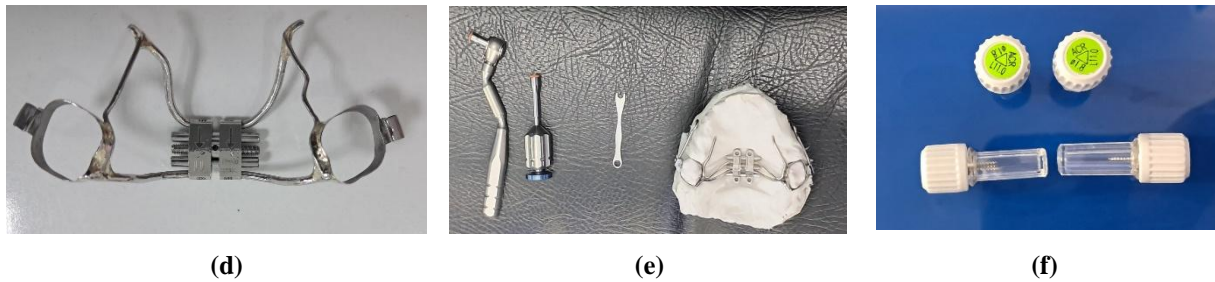
(a)



(b)



(c)



**Figure 2:** Expanders of the study (a) Conventional hyrax (b) Hybrid hyrax (c) MSE (d)Hyrax screw (e) MSE keys and(f) miniscrews.

Each patient had CBCT at baseline (T1) and six months after the last RPE activation (T2). Routine orthodontic data was obtained both before and after therapy. Anatomage in vivo 5.19 was used to analyze dental, skeletal, and buccal bone parameters in each group with adequate scan quality, free of movement artefacts.

Using the maturation of the midpalatal suture and cervical vertebrae, groups that are growing CVM 3 with MSM B and C , while those that are nothave CVM 5 and MSM D who are representing the non-growing participant.(Figure 3).

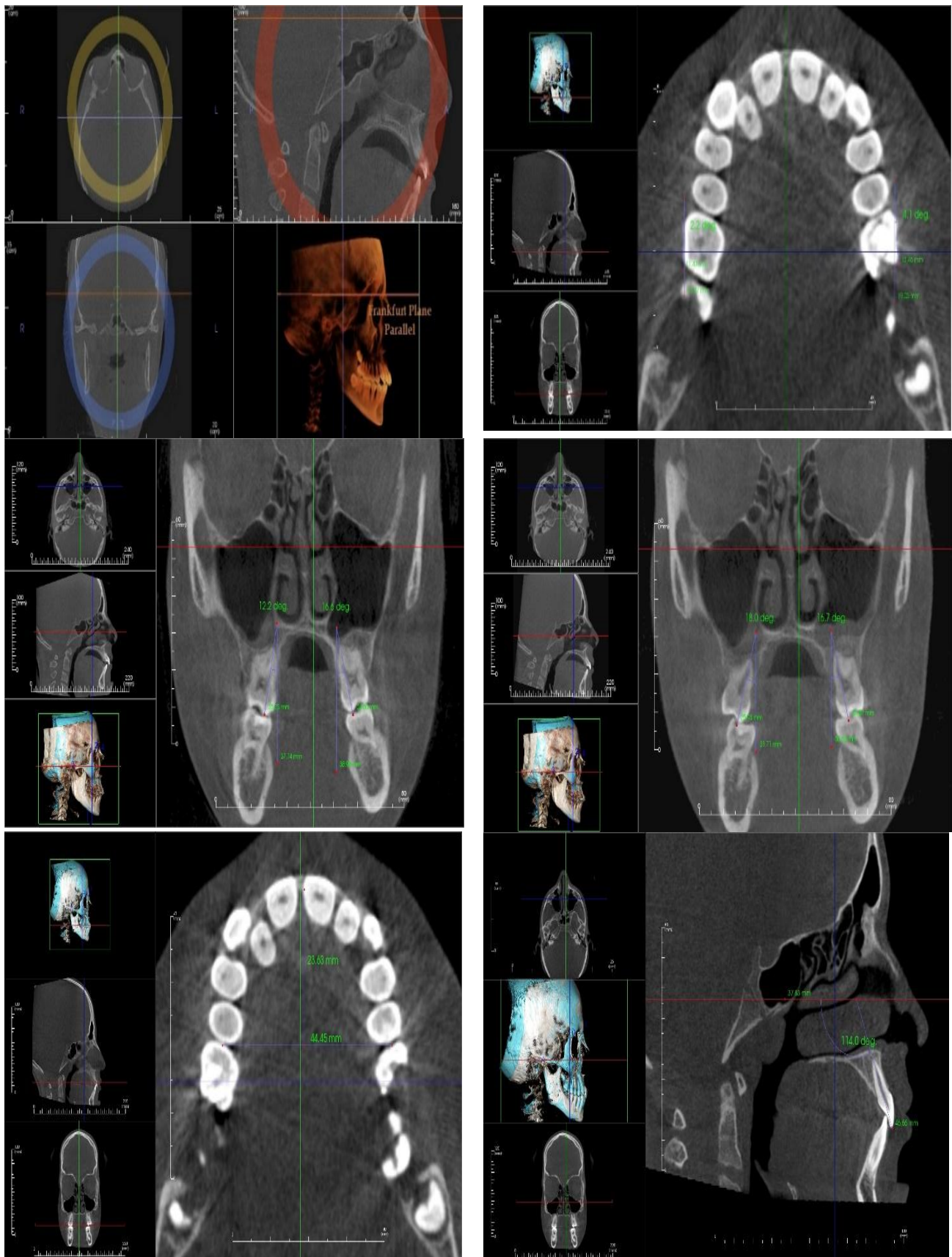
#### The following CBCT measurements were selected

- **Nasal floor molar:** located at the most inferior level of the nasal floor parallel to Frankfort horizontal plane.
- **Nasal floor premolar:** measured at the most inferior level of the nasal floor parallel to Frankfort horizontal plane.
- **Anterior suture opening:** In an axial incision of the palatal plane, locate the anterior nasal spines on both sides. Measured in millimeters.
- **Posterior suture opening:** In an axial incision of the palatal plane, locate the posterior nasal spines on both sides. Measured in millimeters.
- **Hard palate maxillary width 6:**distance between maxillary lateral walls at the level of the nasal floor parallel to Frankfort horizontal plane.
- **Hard palate maxillary width 4:**distance between maxillary lateral walls at the level of the nasal floor parallel to Frankfort horizontal plane.
- **Molar distance:**the distance between the mesiobuccal cusps of the right and left molars parallel to Frankfort horizontal plane.

The angle created by the junction of the lines joining the mesiobuccal and mesiolingual cusp tips of the first molars, or the buccal and palatal cusp tips of the first premolars, and the mid-sagittal plane on both sides.

- **Molar rotation:** the lines passing through mesiobuccal cusp and distopalatal cusp tip of the right and left molars with the mid palatal plane.
- **Premolar rotation:** the lines passing through buccal and palatal cusp tip of the right and left premolars with the mid palatal plane.
- The maxillary first molar or premolar's longitudinal axis and a vertical line parallel to the midsagittal plane were used to assess the buccolingual inclination of the molars on both the left and right sides.
- **Molar inclination:**the lines passing through mesiobuccalcusp and palatal root apex of the right and left molars with the mid sagittal plane.
- **Premolar inclination:**the lines passing through buccal cusp and root apex of the right and left premolars with the mid sagittal plane.
- **Arch depth:**The line created by the connection of mid line point till the inter premolar line in axial section.
- **Incisor inclination:** The angle created by the junction of lines extending the long axis of the maxillary central incisor with the Frankfort horizontal plane.





**Figure 3:** CBCT measurements

## RESULTS

The sample comprised of 54 healthy individuals (17 females and 37 boys). 11-16-year-old patients Finally, 46 are healthy (17 girls and 29 males). 11. 7–15.8-year-old children were analysed after dropout 6 and exclusion of two patients (8 boys). Group A conventional hyrax appliance (CH) (5 girls and 13 boys) became (5 girls and 10 boys); group B hybrid hyrax with two anterior palatal miniscrews (HH) (6 girls and 12 boys) became (6 girls and 9 boys); and group C MSE (6 girls and 12 boys) became (6 girls and 10 boys).

Over a three-week period, 21 cases (seven from each group) completed inter- and intra-examiner reliability tests. Individual examiners ranged from considerable ( $k = 0.62$ ) to less than chance ( $k = 0.2$ ), and the mean intra-examiner agreement was slightly greater than the mean inter-examiner agreement, albeit only fair ( $k = 0.3$ ).

### Statistical analysis

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 was used for data management and statistical analysis. By examining the data distribution and applying the Shapiro-Wilk and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, the data were examined for normality. ANOVA and Bonferroni post hoc tests were used to compare normally distributed numerical variables between groups if a significant difference was found. The paired t test was used to compare the before and post values. The following formula was used to get the mean difference: (Value after-value before)The Kruskal Wallis test was used to assess non-parametric difference data between groups. Every p-value has two sides. P-values less than 0.05 were regarded as significant.

## RESULTS

### I-Demographic data

**Age:** Patients age ranged from 11.7 to 15.8 years. There was no significant difference in age between groups ( $p=0.19$ ), (Table 1),(Figure 4).

**Cross bite:** In Butterfly hyrax, 73.3% of cases were bilateral, in comparison to 53.3% and 56.3% bilateral cases in Hybrid hyrax and MSE respectively; with no significant difference between groups ( $p=0.477$ ), (Table 2),(Figure 5).

**Malocclusion:** In Butterfly hyrax and Hybrid hyrax, 73.3% of cases were class 3, in comparison to 75% class 3 cases in MSE; with no significant difference between groups ( $p=0.993$ ), (Table 3),(Figure 6).

**Table 1:** Descriptive statistics and comparison between age between groups (ANOVA test)

	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max	P value
Butterfly hyrax	14.50	1.04	11.70	15.80	0.190 ns
Hybrid hyrax	13.96	1.21	11.70	15.40	
MSE	13.81	.98	12.10	15.10	

Significance level  $p \leq 0.05$ , ns=non-significant

**Table 2:** Distribution of cases according to cross bite and comparison between age between groups (Chi square test)

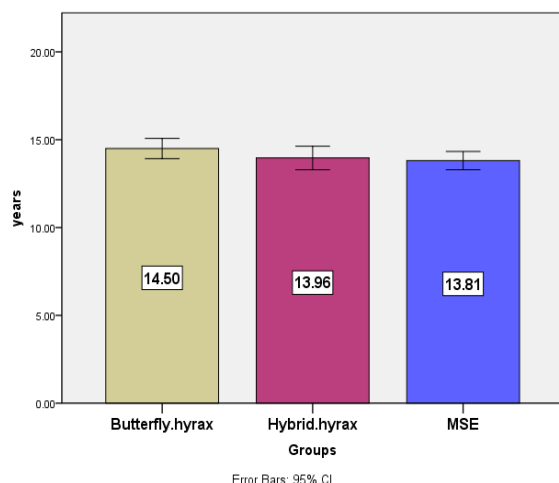
CROSS_BITE		Groups			P value
		Butterfly hyrax	Hybrid hyrax	MSE	
	Unilateral	4 (26.7%)	7 (46.7%)	7 (43.8%)	0.477 ns
	Bilateral	11 (73.3%)	8 (53.3%)	9 (56.3%)	
Total		15	15	16	

Significance level  $p \leq 0.05$ , ns=non-significant

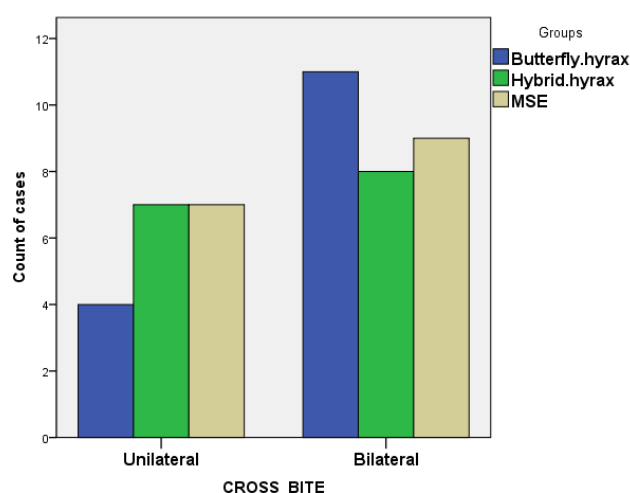
**Table 3:** Distribution of cases according to cross bite and comparison between age between groups (Chi square test)

MALOCCLUSION		Groups			Pvalue
		Butterfly hyrax	Hybrid hyrax	MSE	
	Class 1	4 (26.7%)	4 (26.7%)	4 (25%)	0.993 ns
	Class 3	11 (73.3%)	11 (73.3%)	12 (75%)	
Total		15	15	16	

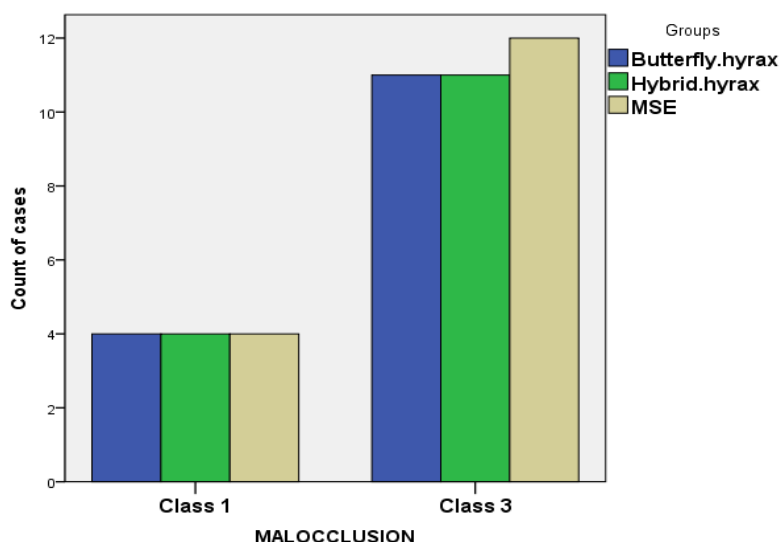
Significance level  $p \leq 0.05$ , ns=non-significant



**Figure 4:** Bar chart illustrating mean age in different groups



**Figure 5:** Bar chart illustrating distribution of unilateral and bilateral cases in different groups



**Figure 6:** Bar chart illustrating distribution of malocclusion classes in different groups

## II- Outcomes

### I- Comparison between Hybrid and conventional hyrax groups

- **Molar distance:** There was no significant difference between groups in pre values ( $p=0.094$ ). Regarding post treatment, The mean value recorded in Hybrid hyrax ( $52.21 \pm 2.59$ ) was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $49.43 \pm 2.41$ ) ( $p=.016$ ). Moreover, there was a statistically significant difference between groups regarding the amount of change (difference) by treatment ( $p=0.000$ ), with the highest value recorded in MSE ( $8.88 \pm 1.58$ ), followed by Hybrid hyrax ( $7.24 \pm 1.77$ ) and the lowest value recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $5.88 \pm 1.39$ ), (**Table 4**), (**Figure 7 & 17**).
- **Premolar distance:** There was no significant difference between groups in pre values ( $p=0.058$ ). Regarding post treatment, The mean value recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $43.67 \pm 2.55$ ) and Hybrid hyrax ( $42.73 \pm 2.7$ ) was significantly higher than that recorded in MSE ( $38.46 \pm 2.61$ ), ( $p=.000$ ). Moreover, the mean value of amount of change (difference) recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $6.68 \pm 1.83$ ) and Hybrid hyrax ( $6.08 \pm 1.84$ ) was significantly higher than that recorded in MSE ( $4.43 \pm 1.82$ ), ( $p=.005$ ). (**Table 4**), (**Figure 7 & 17**).
- **Molar rotation:** There was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre and post values ( $p=0.175$ ;  $p=0.207$  respectively in right side and  $p=0.06$ ;  $p=0.07$  in left side). There was no significant difference between groups regarding the amount of change (difference) by treatment ( $p=0.503$  in right side and  $p=0.757$  in left side), (**Table 4**), (**Figure 8 & 18**).
- **Premolar rotation:** there was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre and post values for the right side ( $p=.566$ ;  $p=.609$  respectively) and the left side ( $p=.455$ ;  $p=.283$  respectively). Moreover, there



- was no statistically significant difference between groups regarding the amount of change (difference by treatment in the right side and left sides ( $p=0.084$ ;  $p=.410$  respectively), (**Table 4**), (**Figure 9&18**).
- **Nasal floor molar:** There was no significant difference between groups in pre values ( $p=0.058$ ) and post value ( $p=0.397$ ). There was a statistically significant difference between groups regarding the amount of change (difference) by treatment ( $p=0.000$ ), with the highest value recorded in MSE ( $4.38\pm0.85$ ), followed by Hybrid hyrax ( $2.6\pm1.04$ ) and the lowest value recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $2.2\pm1.49$ ), (**Table 5**), (**Figure 10&19**).
  - **Nasal floor premolar:** There was no significant difference between groups in pre values ( $p=0.701$ ). Regarding post treatment value, there was a statistically significant difference between groups ( $p=0.001$ ), with the highest value recorded in MSE ( $39.73\pm2.27$ ), followed by Hybrid hyrax ( $38.63\pm1.77$ ) and the lowest value recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $37.04\pm1.17$ ). Moreover, regarding the amount of change (difference) by there was a statistically significant difference between groups ( $p=0.000$ ), with the highest value recorded in MSE ( $4.87\pm0.62$ ), followed by Hybrid hyrax ( $3.43\pm.74$ ) and the lowest value recorded in Butterfly hyrax ( $2.47\pm1.02$ ), (**Table 5**), (**Figure 10&19**).
  - **Hard palate maxillary width 6:** There was no significant difference between groups in pre values ( $p=0.083$ ). Regarding post-treatment, the mean value recorded in MSE ( $64.31\pm1.8$ ) was not significantly different from butterfly Hyrax ( $63.59\pm2.15$ ), but was significantly higher than that recorded in Hybrid hyrax ( $62.04\pm2.68$ ), ( $p=.023$ ). The mean value of amount of change (difference) recorded in MSE ( $5.91\pm0.92$ ) was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax ( $3.37\pm0.96$ ) and Hybrid hyrax ( $3.17\pm1.54$ ), ( $p=.000$ ). (**Table 5**), (**Figure 11&20**).
  - **Hard palate maxillary width 4:** There was no significant difference between groups in pre values ( $p=0.677$ ). Regarding post treatment, the mean value recorded in MSE ( $40.34\pm1.56$ ) was significantly higher than that recorded in butterfly hyrax ( $38.17\pm1.76$ ), ( $p=.002$ ). The mean value of amount of change (difference) recorded in MSE ( $6.35\pm1.25$ ) was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax ( $4.51\pm1.28$ ) and Hybrid hyrax ( $5.09\pm1.16$ ), ( $p=.001$ ). (**Table 5**), (**Figure 11&20**).
  - **Molar inclination:** There was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre and post values ( $p=0.353$ ;  $p=0.734$  respectively in right side and  $p=0.312$ ;  $p=0.892$  in left side). The mean value of amount of change (difference) recorded in MSE was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax and Hybrid hyrax, ( $p=.000$  in right side and  $p=0.003$  in left side). (**Table 5**), (**Figure 12&21**).
  - **Premolar inclination:** There was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre values ( $p=0.191$  in right side and  $p=0.355$  in left side). Post treatment, the mean value recorded in Butterfly hyrax was significantly higher than the other groups ( $p=0.003$  in right side and  $p=0.000$  in left side). The mean value of amount of change (difference) recorded in MSE was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax and Hybrid hyrax, ( $p=.000$  in right side and  $p=0.000$  in left side). (**Table 5**), (**Figure 13&21**).
  - **Arch depth:** There was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre values ( $p=0.064$ ). Post treatment, the mean value recorded in MSE was significantly lower than the other groups ( $p=0.007$ ). The mean value of amount of change (decrease) recorded in MSE was significantly greater than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax and Hybrid hyrax, ( $p=.000$ ), (**Table 6**), (**Figure 14&22**).
  - **Incisor inclination:** There was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre and post values ( $p=0.243$  and  $p=0.922$  respectively). The mean value of amount of change (decrease) recorded in MSE was significantly greater than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax and Hybrid hyrax, ( $p=.001$ ), (**Table 6**), (**Figure 15&23**).
  - **Anterior suture opening:** There was no significant difference between groups, regarding pre values ( $p=0.290$ ). The mean value recorded in MSE post treatment was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax and Hybrid hyrax, ( $p=.000$ ). The mean value of amount of change (increase) recorded in MSE was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax and Hybrid hyrax, ( $p=.001$ ), (**Table 6**), (**Figure 16&24**).
  - **Posterior suture opening:** All groups recorded a value ( $0\pm0.00$ ) pre-treatment. Post treatment, The mean value recorded in MSE was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax, while Hybrid hyrax recorded a significantly lower value than the other 2 groups ( $p=.000$ ). The mean value of amount of change (increase) recorded in MSE was significantly higher than that recorded in Butterfly hydrax; while Hybrid hyrax recorded a significantly lower value than the other 2 groups ( $p=.000$ ), (**Table 6**), (**Figure 16&24**).

## II-Comparison between pre and post values Hybrid and conventional hyrax groups

Comparing the pre and post values revealed that the post treatment value was significantly higher in post value compared to the pre value in molar and premolar distance (Fig.1), right and left molar rotation (Fig.2), right and left premolar rotation (Fig.3), nasal floor first premolar and molar (Fig.4), hard palate maxillary width first molar and premolar (Fig.5), right and left molar inclination (Fig.6), right and left premolar inclination (Fig.7) and anterior and posterior suture opening (Fig.10). On the other hand, Arch depth and incisor inclination recorded significantly lower post value compared to the pre value (Fig. 8,9), (Table 1-3)

**Table 4:** Descriptive statistics and comparison between (ANOVA test) and within group (i.e. between pre and post value) (paired t test) regarding molar and premolar distance; molar and premolar rotation right and left

GROUP		Pre		Post		Amount of change (post-pre)			P Within group
		Mean	Std. Dev	Mean	Std. Dev	Mean	Std. Dev		
								Median	
Molar distance	Butterfly hyrax	43.55	1.97	49.43 <sup>b</sup>	2.41	5.88 <sup>c</sup>	1.39	5.77	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	44.79	4.27	52.21 <sup>a</sup>	2.59	7.42 <sup>b</sup>	1.77	7.50	.000*
	MSE	42.14	3.25	51.01 <sup>ab</sup>	2.56	8.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.58	8.95	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.094ns		.016*		.000*			
Premolar distance	Butterfly hyrax	36.99	4.60	43.67 <sup>a</sup>	2.55	6.68 <sup>a</sup>	1.83	6.20	.004*
	Hybrid hyrax	36.65	3.15	42.73 <sup>a</sup>	2.70	6.08 <sup>a</sup>	1.84	5.90	.002*
	MSE	34.03	3.12	38.46 <sup>b</sup>	2.61	4.43 <sup>b</sup>	1.82	4.85	.002*
	P value bet. groups	.058 ns		.000*		.005*			
Molar rotation right	Butterfly hyrax	58.32	4.68	59.57	4.74	1.25	.67	1.10	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	61.50	4.54	62.54	4.42	1.04	.58	1.10	.000*
	MSE	61.95	7.38	62.99	7.26	1.04	.65	0.90	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.175ns		.207 ns		.503 ns			
Molar rotation left	Butterfly hyrax	59.75	5.31	61.17	5.27	1.42	.51	1.50	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	64.31	5.57	65.55	5.46	1.25	.82	1.10	.000*
	MSE	60.43	5.65	61.90	5.54	1.48	1.06	1.20	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.060 ns		.070 ns		.757 ns			
Premolar rotation right	Butterfly hyrax	74.71	6.68	75.84	6.64	1.13	.40	1.10	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	73.79	6.58	74.71	6.48	.93	.48	0.90	.000*
	MSE	76.43	7.60	77.21	7.60	.78	.42	0.75	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.566 ns		.609 ns		.084ns			
Premolar rotation left	Butterfly hyrax	74.23	6.40	75.27	6.33	1.05	.32	1.10	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	76.99	6.07	78.65	5.55	1.65	2.50	1.10	.000*
	MSE	75.14	5.83	76.16	5.95	1.02	.47	1.10	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.455ns		.283ns		.410ns			

Significance level  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*significant, ns=non-significant

Post hoc test: Within the same comparison, means sharing the same superscript letter are not significantly different

**Table 5:** Descriptive statistics and comparison between (ANOVA test) and within group (i.e. between pre and post value) (paired t test) regarding nasal floor, hard palate maxillary width molar and premolar; molar and premolar inclination right and left

GROUP		Pre		Post		Amount of change (post-pre)			P Within group
		Mean	Std. Dev	Mean	Std. Dev	Mean	Std. Dev	Median	
Nasal floor 1 <sup>st</sup> .molar	Butterfly hyrax	65.13	5.07	67.33	1.67	2.20 <sup>b</sup>	1.49	1.80	.003*
	Hybrid hyrax	63.48	3.13	66.08	2.80	2.60 <sup>b</sup>	1.04	2.40	.000*
	MSE	62.00	3.36	66.38	3.07	4.38 <sup>a</sup>	.85	4.45	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.058ns		.397ns		.000*			
Nasal floor 1 <sup>st</sup> .premolar	Butterfly hyrax	34.57	1.55	37.04 <sup>c</sup>	1.17	2.47 <sup>c</sup>	1.02	2.40	.001*
	Hybrid hyrax	35.21	2.09	38.63 <sup>b</sup>	1.77	3.43 <sup>b</sup>	.74	3.50	.000*
	MSE	34.86	2.40	39.73 <sup>a</sup>	2.27	4.87 <sup>a</sup>	.62	5.00	.000*

		.701ns		.001*		.000*			
Hard palate Maxillary width 6	Butterfly hyrax	60.43	2.49	63.59 <sup>ab</sup>	2.15	3.17 <sup>b</sup>	1.54	3.10	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	58.67	2.99	62.04 <sup>b</sup>	2.68	3.37 <sup>b</sup>	.96	3.40	.000*
	MSE	58.39	2.44	64.31 <sup>a</sup>	1.80	5.91 <sup>a</sup>	.92	6.10	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.083ns		.023*		.000*			
Hard palate Maxillary width 4	Butterfly hyrax	33.66	1.85	38.17 <sup>b</sup>	1.76	4.51 <sup>b</sup>	1.28	4.50	.001*
	Hybrid hyrax	34.22	1.79	39.31 <sup>ab</sup>	1.39	5.09 <sup>b</sup>	1.16	4.90	.001*
	MSE	33.99	1.58	40.34 <sup>a</sup>	1.56	6.35 <sup>a</sup>	1.25	6.10	.003*
	P value bet. groups	.677ns		.002*		.001*			
Right.1 <sup>st</sup> molar inclination	Butterfly hyrax	18.58	4.41	24.24	5.32	5.66 <sup>a</sup>	1.52	5.80	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	18.43	5.33	23.27	5.20	4.85 <sup>a</sup>	2.10	6.00	.000*
	MSE	20.74	5.06	22.82	4.77	2.08 <sup>b</sup>	1.30	1.70	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.353ns		.734ns		.000*			
Left.1 <sup>st</sup> molar inclination	Butterfly hyrax	18.45	4.34	23.67	6.07	5.21 <sup>a</sup>	2.74	6.30	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	19.09	3.08	23.71	3.68	4.62 <sup>a</sup>	1.62	4.90	.000*
	MSE	20.49	3.78	23.01	3.53	2.52 <sup>b</sup>	1.31	2.35	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.312ns		.892ns		.003*			
Right.1 <sup>st</sup> premolar inclination	Butterfly hyrax	6.70	2.51	11.72 <sup>a</sup>	3.96	5.02 <sup>a</sup>	2.18	5.90	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	6.43	1.56	8.34 <sup>b</sup>	1.63	1.91 <sup>b</sup>	.98	1.60	.000*
	MSE	7.76	2.16	8.72 <sup>b</sup>	2.37	.96 <sup>b</sup>	.51	0.90	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.191ns		.003*		.000*			
Left.1 <sup>st</sup> premolar inclination	Butterfly hyrax	7.37	2.39	12.46 <sup>a</sup>	3.48	5.09 <sup>a</sup>	5.09	5.80	.003*
	Hybrid hyrax	6.57	1.60	8.63 <sup>b</sup>	1.51	2.06 <sup>b</sup>	2.06	2.20	.000*
	MSE	7.61	2.17	8.41 <sup>b</sup>	2.08	.80 <sup>c</sup>	.80	0.70	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.355ns		.000*		.000*			

Significance level  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*significant, ns=non-significant

Post hoc test: Within the same comparison, means sharing the same superscript letter are not significantly different

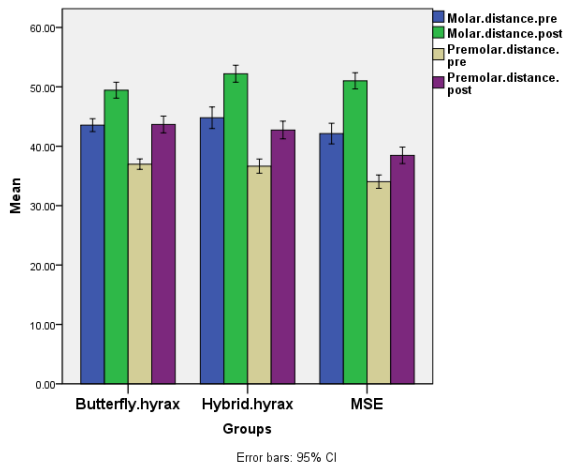
**Table 6:** Descriptive statistics and comparison between (ANOVA test) and within group (i.e. between pre and post value) (paired t test) regarding arch depth; incisor inclination

	GROUP	Pre		Post		Amount of change (post-pre)			P Within group
		Mean	Std. Dev	Mean	Std. Dev	Mean	Std. Dev		
								Median	
Arch depth	Butterfly hyrax	26.92	2.87	26.19 <sup>a</sup>	2.47	-.74 <sup>a</sup>	.38	-0.70	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	25.93	2.47	25.39 <sup>a</sup>	2.43	-.53 <sup>a</sup>	.22	-0.50	.000*
	MSE	24.72	2.25	23.38 <sup>b</sup>	2.41	-1.34 <sup>b</sup>	.60	-1.30	.000*
	P value bet. groups	.064ns		.007*		.000*			
Incisor inclination	Butterfly hyrax	117.31	3.65	114.46	3.37	-2.85 <sup>a</sup>	2.00	-2.80	.000*
	Hybrid hyrax	118.45	4.29	114.67	4.30	-3.79 <sup>a</sup>	1.80	-3.70	.000*
	MSE	120.05	5.32	114.63	5.79	-5.43 <sup>b</sup>	1.48	-5.30	.000*
		.243 ns		.992 ns		.001*			
Anterior suture opening	Butterfly hyrax	.09	.27	3.57 <sup>b</sup>	.47	3.47 <sup>b</sup>	.34	3.50	.004*
	Hybrid hyrax	.27	.44	3.93 <sup>b</sup>	.64	3.67 <sup>b</sup>	.36	3.70	.000*
	MSE	.30	.42	5.99 <sup>a</sup>	.46	5.69 <sup>a</sup>	.33	5.70	.002*
	P value bet. groups	.290 ns		.000*		.000*			

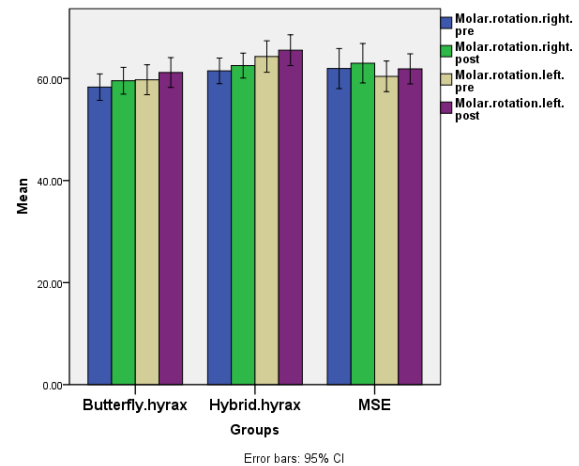
Posterior opening	suture	Butterfly hyrax	.00	.00	2.14 <sup>c</sup>	.44	2.14 <sup>c</sup>	.44	2.20	.000*
		Hybrid hyrax	.00	.00	3.06 <sup>b</sup>	.37	3.06 <sup>b</sup>	.37	3.10	.000*
		MSE	.00	.00	5.16 <sup>a</sup>	.49	5.16 <sup>a</sup>	.49	5.05	.000*
		P value bet. groups	---		.000*		.000*			

Significance level  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*significant, ns=non-significant

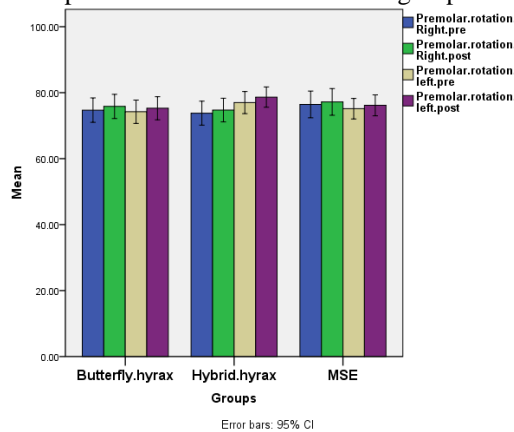
Post hoc test: Within the same comparison, means sharing the same superscript letter are not significantly different



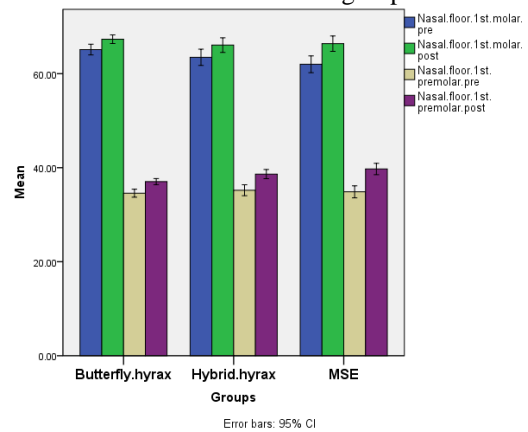
**Figure 7:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of molar and premolar distances in different groups



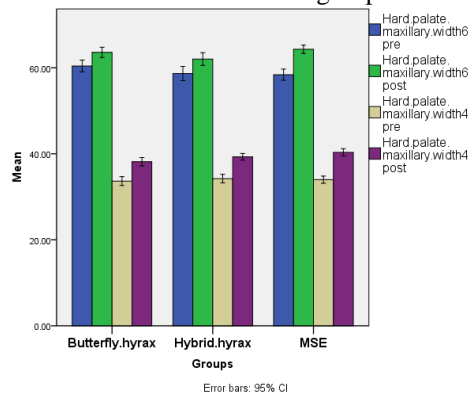
**Figure 8:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of molar rotation in different groups



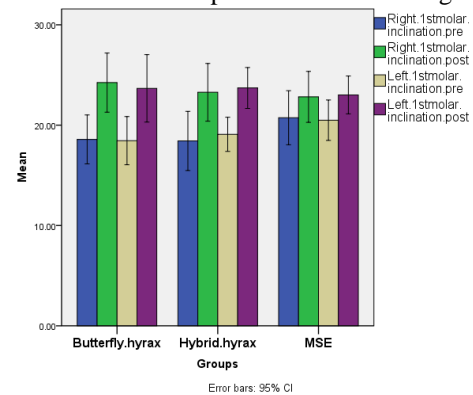
**Figure 9:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of premolar rotation in different groups



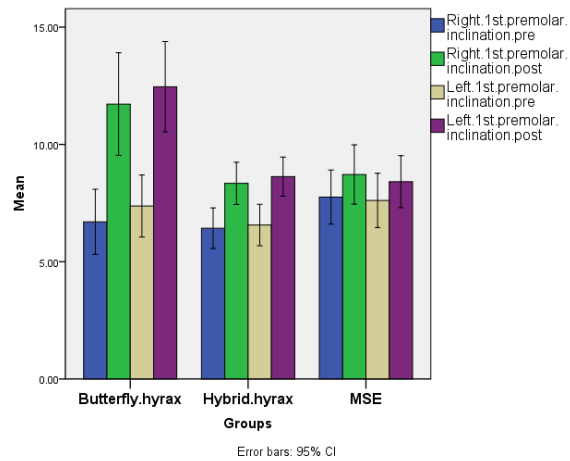
**Figure 10:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of nasal floor first molar and premolar in different groups



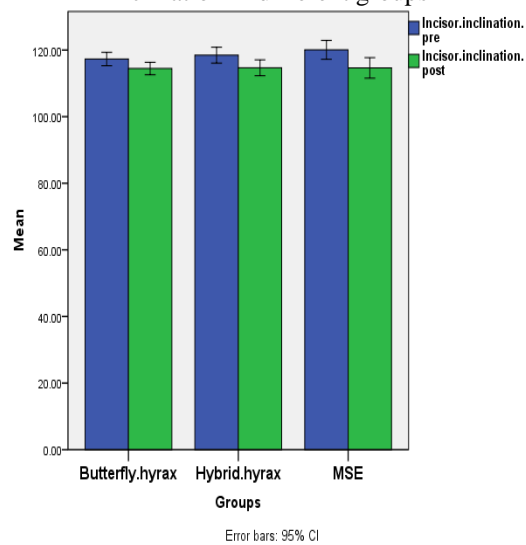
**Figure 11:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of hard palate maxillary width first molar and premolar in different groups



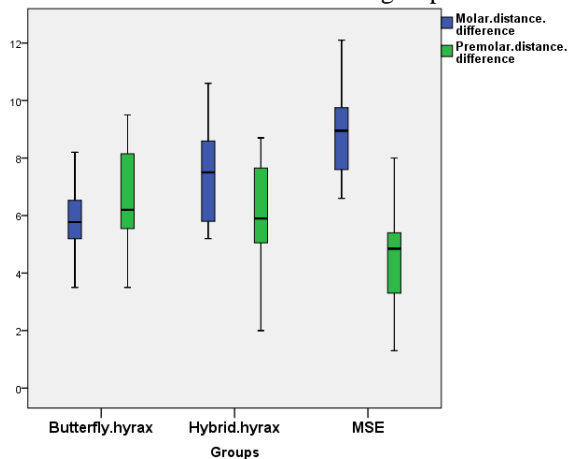
**Figure 12:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of molar inclination in different groups



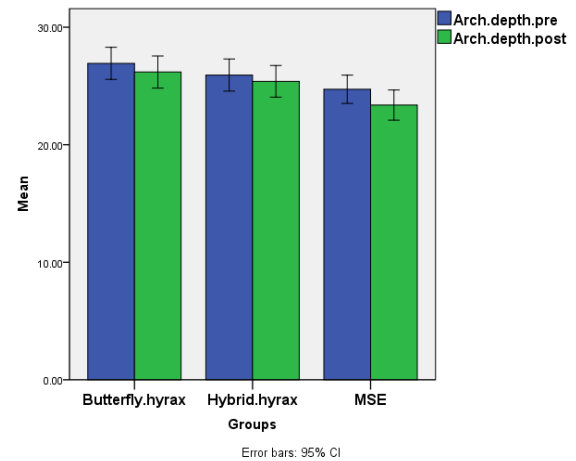
**Figure 13:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of premolar inclination in different groups



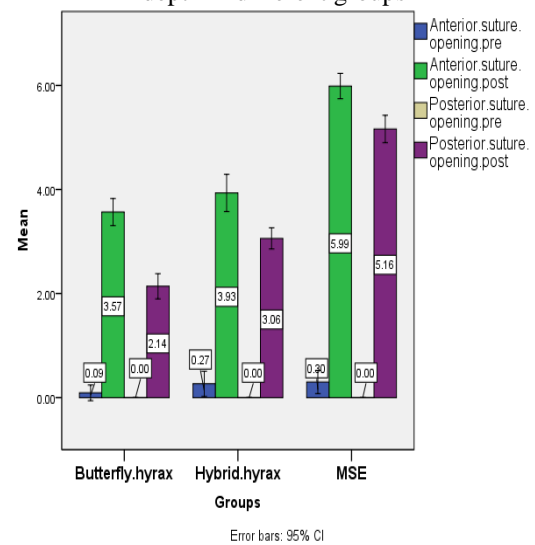
**Figure 15:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of incisor inclination in different groups



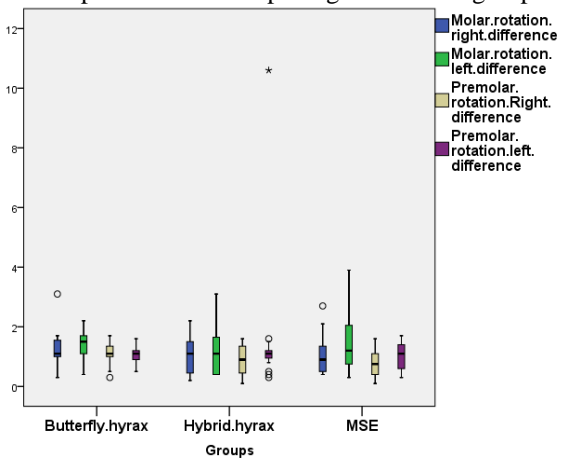
**Figure 17:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in molar and premolar distance in different groups



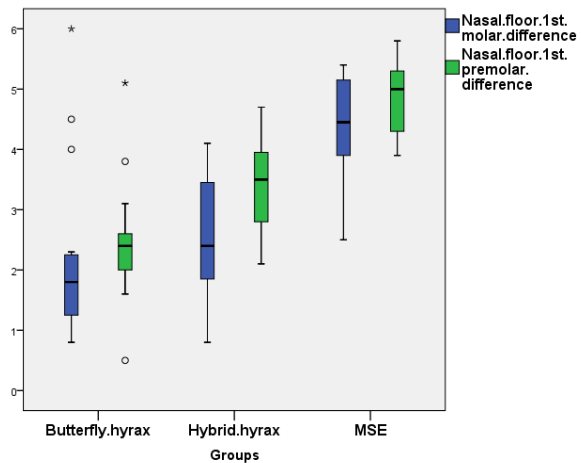
**Figure 14:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of arch depth in different groups



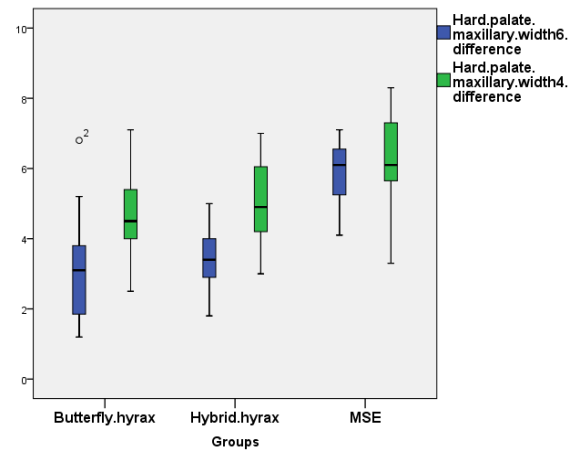
**Figure 16:** Bar chart illustrating mean value of anterior and posterior suture opening in different groups



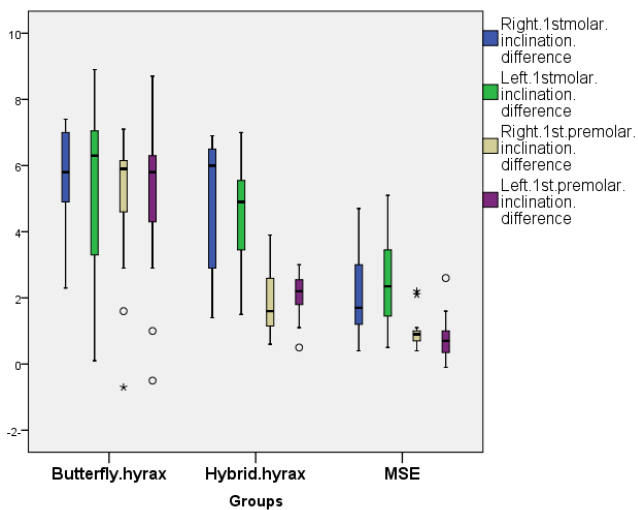
**Figure 18:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in molar and premolar rotation in different groups



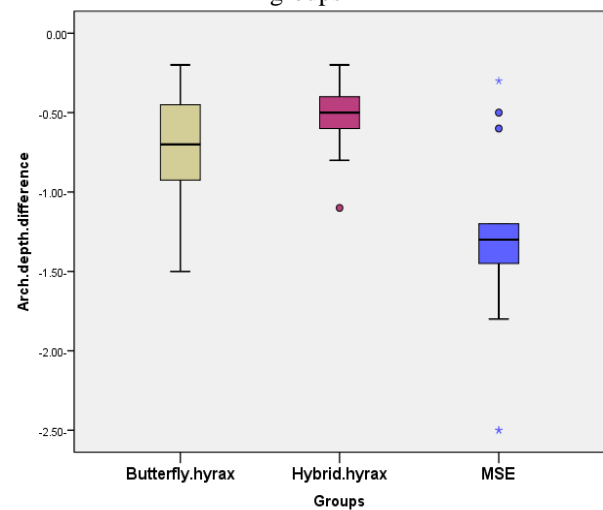
**Figure 19:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in nasal floor difference in different groups



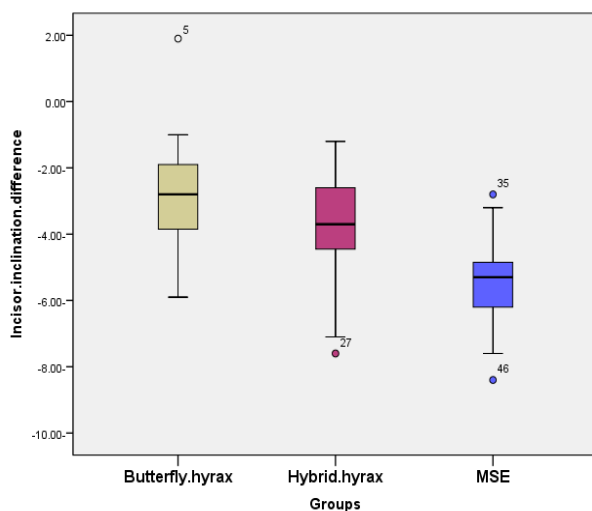
**Figure 20:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in hard palate maxillary molar and premolar in different groups



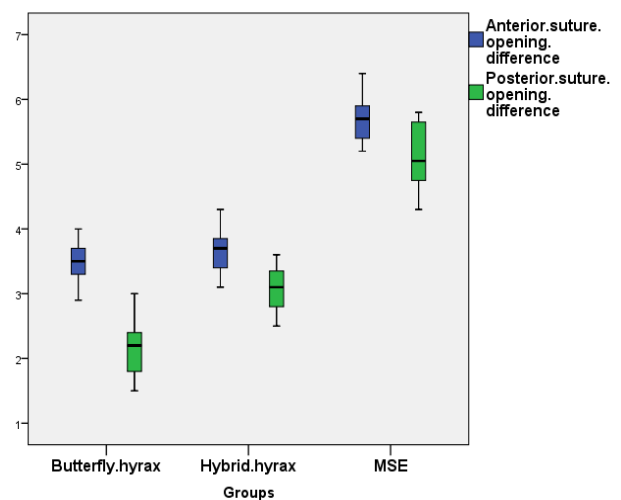
**Figure 21:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in molar and premolar inclination in different groups



**Figure 22:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in arch depth in different groups



**Figure 23:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in incisor inclination in different groups



**Figure 24:** Box plot illustrating value of difference in anterior and posterior suture opening in different groups



## DISCUSSION

Because of the nature of the clinical work, the issue of blindness toward the patients or the practitioners to the processes was very difficult and cannot be avoided entirely; nevertheless, the outcome assessors were not aware of the groups to which the patients belonged.<sup>[33]</sup>

Due to ethical concerns, it was not possible to have a group mimic skeletal pattern to the treated sample act as control because the activation period lasted 16 days as standardization and to reduce bias,<sup>[8,34]</sup> and this period is non-significant in the facial growth curve because all of the patients were expected to pass the peak of maxillary growth.<sup>[35]</sup>

CBCT was selected to calculate the linear parameters. Previous studies<sup>[36–38]</sup> have proved that accurate measurements whether linear or angular dento-skeletal can be done through using CBCT were images. A minute systematic error was mentioned in study,<sup>[36]</sup> but it has no statistical effect except in summation of the total combined value. On the other hand, CBCT can tell multiple knowledge on various levels about the remodeling style of bone and soft tissues after rapid maxillary expansion.<sup>[39]</sup>

One of the image quality drawbacks was the wide field of view, which increased susceptibility to scatter noise and, as a result, decreased spatial resolution. However, full skull exposure was necessary to permit accurate skull alignment and link the results with more conventional reference planes, such as FH and MSP..<sup>[40,41]</sup>

This result was consistent with earlier researches that used CBCT as an assessment tool.<sup>[38,42–45]</sup>

To permit more stable skeletal effect, to discard metallic artifacts during the second exposure of CBCT at T2,<sup>[46]</sup> and permit for deposition of minerals at the midpalatal suture, comprehensive treatment was performed after suitable six months retention period.<sup>[34]</sup>

The type of appliance used, sample age, gender, bone density, midpalatal suture maturity, and muscle and soft tissue behaviour may all have an impact on the results obtained following maxillary expansion.<sup>[47,48]</sup>

The anatomical elements that vary significantly include the pyramidal process's size and shape, the thickness and density of each individual bone, the degree of interdigitation between sutures, or the intimate relationships between several circummaxillary sutures, all of these confounders should be considered.

Moreover, it was not surprising that the midline diastema appeared except in 3 cases in group 1 CH. The breadth of the diastema was not measured since it was probably not a reliable sign of sutural expansion, as multiple factors, such as the perioral musculature, frenum attachment, tongue location, and transeptal fiber strength, can influence the degree of diastema.<sup>[10,49]</sup>

Using a conventional RPE on developing patients, Lione et al.<sup>[50]</sup> found that the splitting of midpalatal suture at the anterior and posterior nasal spines was 3.01 and 1.15, respectively, while Cantarella et al.<sup>[51]</sup> found that in late adolescents, MSE effectively separated the midpalatal suture, resulting in a nearly good split and paralism of the suture when viewed sagittally. The separation at the posterior nasal spine (4.3 mm) was roughly 90% of that at the front nasal spine (4.8 mm).<sup>[52]</sup>

Skeletal expansion 5.91 mm was higher with tooth-bone-borne devices (MSE and HH) compared to tooth-borne devices (CH expanders). The direct projection of force on the maxilla at the depth of the palatal vault brings it closer to the center of resistance compared to a CH appliance.

An essential component of the MARPE design is the miniscrew's location. One of the best places for practical anchorage needs is the T-zone in the anterior palate.<sup>[53–55]</sup> Due to its remoteness from anatomical structures, this region offers superior stability with minimal soft tissue annoyance and strong bone quality. It is also safe in avoiding accidental touch with roots.<sup>[56]</sup>

The ideal for placing temporary anchoring devices at the first and second premolar levels.<sup>[57]</sup>

In the present study, when viewed axially, the MSE's four mini-screws—two anterior and two posterior—allow the mid-palatal suture to separate in a parallel fashion to the zygomatic buttress bones, in comparison to the CH and HH this is due to the biomechanical effect of the two posterior miniscrews.

In 36 patients of group 2 and 3, only two were discarded due to failure of the miniscrews in the MSE and 3 patients in hybrid hyrax lost to follow up the treatment, whereas 31 had clinically acceptable mobility.

The occurrence of unilateral crossbite cases or the distinct physiology of the circummaxillary suture response to the application of expansion force in the right and left sides may be the cause of asymmetrical splitting, this was by previous study.<sup>[51]</sup>

The average rise in TI results at the maxillary permanent first molar both right and left side among the groups was cleared, with no difference suggesting a symmetrical effect of expansion, which was in agreement with others.<sup>[45,58,59]</sup> and was at odds with earlier researches.<sup>[43,44]</sup> Since the molars in Akin et al.<sup>[43]</sup> which used a different expander with a different activation protocol in patients with actual unilateral posterior crossbite, had more tipping (7.3) degree on the affected side than on the unaffected side (2.5) degree.<sup>[43]</sup>

As regard to skeletal changes at the level of nasal floor related to first molar highest value recorded in MSE (4.38±0.85) mm, followed by HH (2.6±1.04) mm and the lowest value recorded in CH (2.2±1.49) mm. This agreed with previous studies.<sup>[39,50,51,60–63]</sup>

The skeletal changes at the level of nasal floor related to first premolar showed that the highest value recorded in MSE (4.87±0.62) mm, followed by HH (3.43±.74) mm and the lowest value recorded in CH (2.47±1.02) mm,

At the level of hard palate related to first premolar, the skeletal changes clear the effect of MSE is higher in comparison to the other two devices. On the other hand when hard palate related to first premolar was evaluated, the changes confirmed the real orthopedic effect of MSE is the highest when compared to the CH and HH, this was in accordance with previous studies.<sup>[61,62,64-66]</sup> The changes in maxillary width at the nasal floor and in the palatal level (NF and HP) were fewer than those in inter dental level. RME's differential impact is described by the lateral rotation of the maxillary halves, with a fulcrum placed near the frontomaxillary suture.

The inter molar distance in the present study was 5.88mm in CH, 7.42 mm in HH and 8.88 mm in MSE, where the teeth inclination in the present study of first molar was 1.52 and 2.74 in CH, 2.1 and 1.62 in HH and in MSE was 1.30 for the right side and 1.31 degree in the left side. As pointed to the inter premolar distance in the current study was 5.88mm in CH, 7.42 mm in HH and 8.88 mm in MSE, respectively, where the teeth inclination in the first premolar was 5.02 degree and 5.09 in CH, 1.91 degree and 2.06 in HH and in MSE was 0.51 for the right side and 0.8 degree in the left side this was in agreement with Choi et al<sup>[66]</sup>, Akyalcin et al<sup>[64]</sup>, while it was in discordance with Garib et al<sup>[60]</sup>, since the design of the CH in the present study does not contain band on the first premolar and the difference in age of participants.

In HH and MSE, the less teeth inclination in comparison to conventional hyrax due to the additional stability and direct effect on bone provided by the miniscrews, which can increase the expansion results in more skeletal form in the palatal bone and suture. This was consistent with earlier research<sup>[32,34,67-70]</sup>

The molar rotation was 1.25 degree in CH while in HH and MSE was 1.04 that means the amount of rotation at the molar level did not show any significant difference while the premolar results were 1.13 degree in CH, 0.93 in HH and 0.78 degree in MSE, revealing less rotation in MSE due to no band on the first premolar

The current study's results for tooth rotation disagreed with Corbridge et al<sup>[65]</sup> who observed a substantial increase in molar rotation, owing to the fact that they utilized a different approach (SME), a different device (quad helix), and a different age group (9.2 years).

The arch depth after expansion exposed a distinctive decrease in all groups, -0.74 mm in CH, -0.53mm in HH and -1.34 mm in MSE

In the current investigation, palatal movement of the maxillary incisors was seen in all groups, which is consistent with prior findings.<sup>[61,62]</sup> However, this contradicted the findings published by Doruk et al<sup>[71]</sup>, who highlighted some incisor proclination in group I (fan type), but group II (hyrax type) was consistent with the current study.

Perhaps perioral musculature or other physiologic pressures kept the incisors from tilting toward the labium. The molars showed modest buccal tilting, as predicted, while the incisors did not, which might be explained by the molars' firm connection to the appliance, preventing the perioral musculature and other physiologic pressures from operating on them.<sup>[72-74]</sup>

Previous researches.<sup>[69,70,75,76]</sup> on the skeletal effects of these devices supports the MSE's superior ability to induce skeletal expansion and promote alveolar stability. In the current study, the MSE tends to exert less force on the surrounding gingival and periodontal tissues than conventional expanders, potentially lowering the risk of periodontal complications.

As regard the palatal measurements, it was stated that the changes resulting from the effect of growth on the palate per year are minor and little<sup>[63,77]</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

After expansion, all kinds performed well; however, as compared to the conventional hyrax appliance, the MARPE, and particularly the MSE, had stronger skeletal impact and less buccal tilting.

Since palatal expansion always results in a short-term increase in transverse dimension, it is a successful technique for treating dental posterior crossbite.

## LIMITATIONS

Evaluation of gender differences, hormonal effects, and the lack of a passive group as a control for moral and medical-legal concerns.

Application of indirect miniscrew positioning in the hybrid group was neglected to simulate direct application of miniscrews in MSE appliance first group.

Using three-dimensional printed expansion appliances instead of bands may encourage more effective transformation.

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