

# Letters to the editor\*

## CBCT interpretation

The June editorial, "Befriend your oral and maxillofacial radiologist" (Turpin DL. *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop* 2007;131:697), presents some critical and penetrating questions for our specialty, and we all should be grateful to the editor for having posed them.

We agree that the medical model of radiologic examinations should be the standard for orthodontists prescribing cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT). Once a referral by an orthodontist is made to an imaging provider for a CBCT scan, a comprehensive report of the findings of this substantial data set, covering all anatomic regions, should be completed by the oral and maxillofacial radiologist. Alternatively, the orthodontist could do the report and then assume all responsibility for the interpretation.

The important question that should precede this referral is whether the patient will benefit as a result of the radiologic exposure. Ideally, a CBCT examination should lead to a more comprehensive treatment plan with the expectation of a superior treatment outcome. A possible change of treatment plan would justify the referral. However, routine referrals by clinicians for CBCT scans should most often be considered inappropriate. The benefit/risk ratio should be greatly in the patient's favor.

Just as important, no orthodontist should stray into an area of interpretative ignorance but, rather, should make use of the oral and maxillofacial radiologist's experience and knowledge. When in doubt, delegate!

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## Correction

The article, "Physical properties of root cementum: Part 8. Volumetric analysis of root resorption craters after application of controlled intrusive light and heavy orthodontic forces: A microcomputed tomography scan study (Harris DA, Jones AS, Darendeliler MA. *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop* 2006;130:639-47), in the November 2006 issue contained an error. Data reported for the control and heavy force groups in **Table II** were switched. The corrected table is printed here.

**Table II.** Estimated means for cube root volume by force

<i>Force</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SE</i>
Control	.024	.009
Light	.054	.008
Heavy	.098	.008

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