

Summary of Adverse Incident Reports to British Orthodontic Society 2020

In January 2020, a 10 year old female attended the hospital orthodontic department for fit of a facemask appliance. At her first review appointment it was noted that she had a skin rash on her chin, which her mother reported started approximately nine days after fit. The patient had been wearing facemask for approximately twelve hours per night, of note her forehead was unaffected. A Dermatology opinion was sought who recommended allergy testing, for which the results are pending. The chin pad insert of the facemask was replaced, an antiseptic healing cream applied in the mornings and no further issues were noted. The issue has been raised with the supplier.

At the end of March 2020 all routine orthodontic activity was required to cease temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Resumption of activity began in June 2020 with a phased return and restrictions on aerosol generating procedures. There has been one further incident reported to the Society during this time.

In July 2020, a 17 year old male attended the hospital orthodontic department for removal of a light cured composite bite block on an unrestored upper premolar. In order to avoid an aerosol generating procedure, attempts were made to remove it with a Weingart plier. As it did not yield, a debonding plier was used. Following removal, a 4mm x 2mm area of enamel was noted to have fractured from the buccal cusp. There were no issues apparent with the instruments and the patient reported no pain or sensitivity. A temporary covering of adhesive was applied and the patient instructed to attend their general dental practitioner for restoration. No further issues were reported at a subsequent review.