

“To Treat or Not to Treat: That is the Question!”

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Lecture Objective: To invoke the clinician’s critical thinking process – from an ethical perspective – when considering the recommendation of early treatment.

Background: The doctor’s decision to suggest early orthodontic therapy can be fraught with controversy. Support to initiate, delay or forgo early treatment can be contradictory and should be based on a variety of factors including the ethical perspective.

Objective: To stimulate thought about the ethics of early treatment.

The following issues will be explored:

1. Are the results of early treatment as predictable as we would like them to be?
2. What is the level of disclosure we should provide to our patients about early treatment?
3. What are the roles of evidence-based treatment and standard of care in early treatment?
4. Which ethical principles apply to early treatment?
5. A view of the value of early treatment from an ethical perspective will be provided.