

# Dental Arch and Mesiodistal Crown Dimensions in Normal, Crowded, and Spaced Samples

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## الخلاصة

**الأهداف:** تهدف الدراسة الى تقييم تأثير حجم الأسنان و أبعاد القوس السني على تزامم و تباعد الأسنان. **المواد وطرائق العمل:** اشتملت العينة على ٩١ زوجا من القوالب السنية لأشخاص من ذوي النوع الأول من الأطباق ممن تراوحت أعمارهم بين ١٥ إلى ٢٥ سنة. تم تقسيم العينة إلى ٣ مجاميع: مجموعة تباعد الأسنان (٢٩ زوجا من القوالب السنية)، المجموعة الطبيعية (٣٢ زوجا)، و مجموعة تزامم الأسنان (٣٠ زوجا). تم تسجيل القياسات التالية لكل قالب: البعد الأنسي الوحشي لكل سن على حدة و بشكل جماعي، البعد بين الأنياب، البعد بين الأضراس، محيط القوس السني، و طول القوس السني. تم تحليل البيانات باستخدام اختبار ANOVA و معمل ارتباط بيرسون. **النتائج:** أظهرت النتائج وجود فروقات معنوية بين المجاميع الثلاثة فيما يخص أبعاد الأسنان كل على حدة وبشكل جماعي حيث أظهرت مجموعة تباعد الأسنان أصغر حجما من بقية المجاميع فيما أظهرت مجموعة تزامم الأسنان حجما أكبر للأسنان من بقية المجاميع كما أظهرت هذه المجموعة قياسات أصغر لعرض القوس السني ومحيطه مقارنة بالمجموعتين الأخيرتين. كما أظهرت مجموعة تباعد الأسنان قيما أعلى للبعد بين الأنياب ومحيط القوس السني مقارنة بالمجموعة الطبيعية. أظهر اختبار الارتباط وجود ارتباط معنوي بين مقدار التباين في الفراغ مع مجموع الأسنان الأمامية السفلية ومجموعة ١٢ سنا سفليا في مجموعة تباعد الأسنان. كما أظهرت مجموعة تزامم الأسنان ارتباطا معنويا في مقدار التباين في الفراغ مع كل من مجموع ١٢ سنا علويا والمسافة بين الأنياب في كل من الفكين العلوي والسفلي ومحيط القوس السني. **الاستنتاجات:** تم تسجيل وجود اختلافات في البعد الإنسي ألوجهي للأسنان وأبعاد القوس السني بين المجاميع الثلاثة والتي يجب أخذها بنظر الاعتبار عند اختيار تقنيات لتقويم الأسنان اللازمة لتصحيح المشاكل في تزامم أو تباعد الأسنان.

## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** To investigate the contribution of both tooth size and dental arch dimensions to dental crowding and spacing. **Materials and Methods:** ninety one pairs of dental casts of subjects aged 15–25 years with CI I molar occlusion were selected for this study. The sample was divided into 3 groups: the spaced (29 pairs), the normal (32 pairs), and the crowded (30 pairs) groups. For each pair of dental casts the following parameters were measured: individual and combined mesiodistal tooth dimensions, intercanine and intermolar widths, arch perimeter, and arch length. One way analysis of variance and Pearson correlation coefficient were used for the statistical analysis. **Results:** significant difference was noticed among the three groups for tooth dimension both individually and combined. The spaced group showed the smallest tooth size, while the crowded group was found to have the largest tooth size among the three groups. The crowded group showed a significantly smaller upper and lower arch widths and arch perimeter when compared with the spaced and normal groups. The spaced group showed larger upper and lower intercanine widths and upper arch perimeter when compared with the normal group, but this difference was significant only for upper intercanine width. Correlation analysis revealed that spaced group has significant correlation between the space discrepancy and the sums of 6 anterior and 12 teeth in the lower arch. While, space discrepancy in the crowded group showed significant correlation with the sum of 12 upper teeth and upper intercanine width and with lower intercanine width and arch perimeter. **Conclusions:** variations in mesiodistal tooth size and dental arch dimensions do exist among crowded, spaced, and normal dental arches. These variations should be taken into consideration when choosing orthodontic treatment techniques used for resolving problems related to space discrepancy.

**Keywords:** Mesiodistal tooth dimension, Dental arch dimension, Spacing, Crowding.

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## INTRODUCTION

Dental crowding and spacing are common traits of malocclusion which have

special implications in orthodontic treatment planning as well as in stability and relapse after treatment. <sup>(1)</sup> Crowding and

spacing can be described as an expression of an altered ratio between tooth size and dental arch dimensions, both of which are influenced by hereditary and environmental factors.<sup>(2-4)</sup>

The orthodontic literature has an ample amount of information regarding the contribution of tooth size and arch dimensions to crowding.<sup>(5-12)</sup> Some authors stated that crowded arches have larger mesiodistal tooth dimensions than non crowded arches.<sup>(5-9)</sup> However others reported that dental arch size has the greater contribution to development of dental crowding.<sup>(10-12)</sup>

On the other hand, few studies have explored the relation of tooth size and dental arch dimensions to spacing.<sup>(13-15)</sup> In their study, Steigmen *et al.*,<sup>(13)</sup> revealed that in females the mean mesiodistal widths were significantly narrower in spaced dentitions, while spaced maxillary arches in males had significantly greater intercuspid and interbicuspid widths; they concluded that this indicates two different causes of the spaced dentitions. Bernabi *et al.*,<sup>(14)</sup> disclosed that the anterior and overall tooth width ratios and the differences between upper and lower tooth width sums are greater in subjects with crowding than in those with spaced arches. Puri *et al.*,<sup>(15)</sup> reported that mesiodistal crown dimension of teeth, both individually and combined, were significantly greater in crowded arches than in spaced dentitions.

It is important to clarify the role played by both tooth size and dental arch dimensions in the development of crowding and spacing, such an attempt will have a significant implication in the treatment techniques used for alleviation of these problems. Therefore, this study was designed to: (1) Compare, combined and individually, the mesiodistal tooth size among normal, crowded and spaced dentitions. (2) Compare dental arch dimensions among the three groups. (3) Determine the correlation of the degree of space discrepancy in relation to mesiodistal tooth widths and arch dimensions.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ninety one pairs of dental casts of subjects aged 15–25 years were used in this study, individuals within this age group have a relative stability of dental

arch with very small and clinically undetectable changes in alignment and dimensions.<sup>(16,17)</sup> The crowded and spaced samples were selected from dental casts available at Department of Pedodontics, Orthodontics and Preventive Dentistry and from the records of private practice of four orthodontists. All the dental casts of normal occlusion group were selected from University of Mosul dental students.

Each selected cast met the following criteria:

1. Full complement of permanent dentition excluding third molars<sup>(10)</sup> with Class I molar relationship<sup>(9)</sup>.
2. Absence of anomalies in tooth number, size, or shape<sup>(14)</sup> and absence of transverse discrepancy<sup>(18)</sup>.
3. No previous orthodontic treatment.
4. For better standardization additional criterion was considered which is absence of anterior dento-alveolar protrusion/retrusion (as such conditions can affect dental arch dimensions).

Each selected dental cast was classified as crowded when there is more than -3mm discrepancy, as spaced when there is more than +3mm discrepancy<sup>(15)</sup>, and as normal when there is  $0 \pm 1.5$ mm discrepancy. The crowded group included 30 pairs of casts (11 males and 19 females) with a discrepancy ranged from -3.15 to -10.8mm; the spaced group comprised 29 pairs of casts (10 males and 19 females) with a discrepancy ranged from 3.2 to 9.6mm, while 32 pairs of casts (18 males and 14 females) were included in the normal group.

The sample was not assorted into males and females groups because it was difficult to obtain equal numbers for each gender, and thus each dentition group was studied as a combined males and females sample.

With the use of electronic digital caliper (IOS, USA) the following measurements were made to the nearest 0.01mm:

1. Mesiodistal crown widths of all teeth from the right to the left first permanent molar, then the sum of 6 anterior teeth and the sum of the 12 teeth were computed for each cast.
2. Inter canine width.
3. Intermolar width at mesiobuccal cusp tips.
4. Arch length: this was measured as the

perpendicular distance from interincisal point to the line tangent to the distal surfaces of first permanent molars.<sup>(5)</sup>

5. Arch perimeter: this was measured using segmental technique in which the arch is measured in 6 segments.<sup>(5)</sup>

The data were analysed using SPSS program (version 11.5). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Duncan's Multiple Range Test were used to evaluate differences among the three groups. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to establish correlation of space discrepancy to combined mesiodistal tooth sums and arch dimensions.

### RESULTS

The statistical analysis revealed a significant difference among the spaced, normal, and crowded groups regarding the sum of 6 anterior teeth and the sum of 12 teeth in the maxillary and mandibular arches. The crowded group showed the

greatest mean values while the spaced group showed the lowest mean values (Table 1).

Mesiodistal crown dimensions of individual teeth were significantly different among the three groups. The spaced group demonstrated significantly smaller mesiodistal dimensions of all teeth when compared with both the normal and crowded groups.

The largest dimensions of individual teeth were presented by the crowded group, however this difference was significant for all teeth when compared with the spaced group; while when the crowded group was compared to the normal group the difference was significant in the right and left incisors and left canine in the upper arch and in all Mandibular teeth except the right canine and second premolar and left first and second premolars (Tables 2 and 3).

Table (1): Comparison of collective mesiodistal tooth dimensions among the three groups.

Variable	Group	No.	Mean	SD	F value	p value	Duncan's grouping*
<b>Sum of 6 upper anterior teeth</b>	Spaced	29	43.74	2.73	31.73	.000*	A
	Normal	32	46.57	2			B
	Crowded	30	48.66	1.71			C
<b>Sum of 12 upper teeth</b>	Spaced	29	89.59	4.89	25.00	.000*	A
	Normal	32	94.54	3.83			B
	Crowded	30	97.55	3.13			C
<b>Sum of 6 lower anterior teeth</b>	Spaced	29	34.15	2	35.01	.000*	A
	Normal	32	36.63	1.96			B
	Crowded	30	38.44	1.4			C
<b>Sum of 12 lower teeth</b>	Spaced	29	82.45	3.91	29.25	.000*	A
	Normal	32	87.11	3.92			B
	Crowded	30	90.21	2.83			C

\* Groups with different letters are statistically different. \* very highly significant at  $p \leq .001$ .

Table (2): Mesiodistal dimensions of maxillary teeth in spaced, normal, and crowded groups.

Variable	Group	No.	Mean	SD	F value	p value	Duncan's grouping*
<b>R central incisor</b>	Spaced	29	8.27	0.56	21.88	.000**	A
	Normal	32	8.69	0.49			B
	Crowded	30	9.21	0.44			C
<b>R lateral incisor</b>	Spaced	29	6.21	0.50	24.12	.000**	A
	Normal	32	6.78	0.47			B
	Crowded	30	7.10	0.38			C
<b>R canine</b>	Spaced	29	7.36	0.45	20.00	.000**	A
	Normal	32	7.88	0.39			B
	Crowded	30	8.06	0.36			B
<b>R 1st pre-molar</b>	Spaced	29	6.69	0.43	9.16	.000**	A
	Normal	32	7.06	0.47			B
	Crowded	30	7.18	0.35			B
<b>R 2nd premolar</b>	Spaced	29	6.43	0.47	8.68	.000**	A
	Normal	32	6.78	0.37			B
	Crowded	30	6.93	0.40			B
<b>R first molar</b>	Spaced	29	9.81	0.54	7.60	.001*	A
	Normal	32	10.14	0.47			B
	Crowded	30	10.31	0.34			B
<b>L central incisor</b>	Spaced	29	8.30	0.52	17.72	.000**	A
	Normal	32	8.67	0.46			B
	Crowded	30	9.12	0.45			C
<b>L lateral incisor</b>	Spaced	29	6.24	0.53	16.93	.000**	A
	Normal	32	6.69	0.39			B
	Crowded	30	7.01	0.48			C
<b>L canine</b>	Spaced	29	7.33	0.42	24.46	.000**	A
	Normal	32	7.84	0.39			B
	Crowded	30	8.12	0.39			C
<b>L 1st pre-molar</b>	Spaced	29	6.69	0.41	10.85	.000**	A
	Normal	32	7.05	0.43			B
	Crowded	30	7.22	0.37			B
<b>L 2nd premolar</b>	Spaced	29	6.39	0.43	10.65	.000**	A
	Normal	32	6.72	0.38			B
	Crowded	30	6.93	0.44			B
<b>L first molar</b>	Spaced	29	9.79	0.55	7.96	.001*	A
	Normal	32	10.19	0.47			B
	Crowded	30	10.30	0.38			B

R= right, L= left. \*Groups with different letters are statistically different. \* highly significant at  $p \leq .01$ , \*\* very highly significant at  $p \leq .001$ .

Table (3): Mesiodistal dimensions of mandibular teeth in spaced, normal, and crowded groups.

Variable	Group	No.	Mean	SD	F value	p value	Duncan's grouping*
<b>R central incisor</b>	Spaced	29	5.12	0.37	25.91	.000*	A
	Normal	32	5.43	0.35			B
	Crowded	30	5.80	0.26			C
<b>R lateral incisor</b>	Spaced	29	5.60	0.37	27.08	.000*	A
	Normal	32	5.96	0.39			B
	Crowded	30	6.35	0.28			C
<b>R canine</b>	Spaced	29	6.33	0.40	30.10	.000*	A
	Normal	32	6.90	0.33			B
	Crowded	30	7.05	0.30			B
<b>R 1st premolar</b>	Spaced	29	6.65	0.28	16.40	.000*	A
	Normal	32	7.03	0.42			B
	Crowded	30	7.25	0.37			C
<b>R 2nd premolar</b>	Spaced	29	6.77	0.28	11.29	.000*	A
	Normal	32	7.12	0.38			B
	Crowded	30	7.27	0.43			B
<b>R first molar</b>	Spaced	29	10.62	0.58	11.02	.000*	A
	Normal	32	11.02	0.55			B
	Crowded	30	11.33	0.43			C
<b>L central incisor</b>	Spaced	29	5.15	0.36	18.50	.000*	A
	Normal	32	5.44	0.44			B
	Crowded	30	5.80	0.29			C
<b>L lateral incisor</b>	Spaced	29	5.59	0.35	25.85	.000*	A
	Normal	32	5.99	0.40			B
	Crowded	30	6.32	0.30			C
<b>L canine</b>	Spaced	29	6.34	0.37	31.18	.000*	A
	Normal	32	6.89	0.37			B
	Crowded	30	7.10	0.28			C
<b>L 1st premolar</b>	Spaced	29	6.70	0.32	13.83	.000*	A
	Normal	32	7.10	0.41			B
	Crowded	30	7.25	0.36			B
<b>L 2nd premolar</b>	Spaced	29	6.82	0.32	10.40	.000*	A
	Normal	32	7.15	0.33			B
	Crowded	30	7.28	0.41			B
<b>L first molar</b>	Spaced	29	10.70	0.67	9.63	.000*	A
	Normal	32	11.02	0.54			B
	Crowded	30	11.37	0.38			C

R= right, L= left. \*Groups with different letters are statistically different. \*very highly significant at  $p \leq .001$ .

Significant difference was noticed among the 3 groups in all upper and lower arch dimensions except for upper and lower arch lengths. The intercanine and intermolar widths and arch perimeter for both arches were significantly narrower in the crowded group compared with the normal and spaced groups; on the other hand all arch dimensions showed a non significant difference between the spaced and normal groups except the upper intercanine width

which was significantly wider in the spaced group as demonstrated in Table (4).

The correlation coefficients for the combined mesiodistal tooth widths of 6 and 12 teeth and arch dimensions in relation to the amount of space discrepancy are demonstrated in Table (5). In the spaced group, the degree of space discrepancy was found to have significant correlation only with the sums of lower six anterior and 12 teeth. While, the space

discrepancy in the crowded group showed significant correlation with the sum of up-

per 12 teeth, upper and lower intercanine widths, and lower arch perimeter.

Table (4): Comparison of dental arch dimensions among the three groups.

Variable	Group	No.	Mean	SD	F value	p value	Duncan's grouping*
Upper ICW	Spaced	29	35.44	1.91	21.25	.000***	A
	Normal	32	34.45	1.39			B
	Crowded	30	32.58	1.28			C
Upper IMW	Spaced	29	52.12	2.56	4.46	.015*	A
	Normal	32	52.13	1.95			A
	Crowded	30	50.42	2.46			B
Upper arch perimeter	Spaced	29	95.53	4.96	4.57	.013*	A
	Normal	32	94.84	3.68			A
	Crowded	30	92.35	2.58			B
Upper arch length	Spaced	29	36.72	2.43	.302	.74	A
	Normal	32	37.04	1.74			A
	Crowded	30	36.67	1.55			A
Lower ICW	Spaced	29	27.18	1.83	6.99	.002**	A
	Normal	32	26.45	1.71			A
	Crowded	30	25.28	1.81			B
Lower IMW	Spaced	29	44.78	2.64	12.77	.000***	A
	Normal	32	44.86	1.57			A
	Crowded	30	42.18	2.37			B
Lower arch perimeter	Spaced	29	86.62	3.53	4.78	.011*	A
	Normal	32	86.81	3.52			A
	Crowded	30	84.23	3.09			B
Lower arch length	Spaced	29	32.35	1.7	2.07	.132	A
	Normal	32	32.07	1.99			A
	Crowded	30	31.3	1.91			A

ICW= intercanine width, IMW= intermolar width. \*Groups with different letters are statistically different. \* significant at  $p \leq .05$ , \*\* highly significant at  $p \leq .01$ , \*\*\* very highly significant at  $p \leq .001$ .

Table (5): Correlation of space discrepancy to combined mesiodistal tooth sums and arch dimensions.

Group	No.	Space discrepancy	Sum of 6 anteriors	Sum of 12 teeth	ICW	IMW	Arch perimeter	Arch length
Spaced	29	Upper	-0.24	-0.20	0.09	-0.14	0.14	0.20
		Lower	-0.52*	-0.51*	0.17	-0.001	-0.04	0.07
Crowded	30	Upper	0.39	0.57**	-0.46*	-0.09	-0.13	-0.001
		Lower	-0.06	0.17	-0.58**	-0.33	-0.45*	-0.32

ICW= intercanine width, IMW= intermolar width. \* Significant at  $p \leq .05$ , \*\* highly significant at  $p \leq .01$ .

### DISCUSSION

This study focused on investigating the contribution of tooth size and arch size to dental crowding and spacing. The sums of six anterior teeth and the twelve teeth in both arches were significantly greater in the crowded group compared with the normal group. This supports the findings of previous studies that explored the etiol-

ogy of dental crowding.<sup>(9,15, 19)</sup> On the other hand, it does not support the findings of Howe *et al.*,<sup>(10)</sup> and Radzic<sup>(12)</sup>, this conflict may be attributed to variation in sample selection. Howe *et al.*,<sup>(10)</sup> studied a sample of subjects ranged in their age from 9 to 44 years while the sample studied by Radzic<sup>(12)</sup> was selected at random without paying any attention to the type of

dental occlusion. Significantly smaller sums of the six anterior and the 12 teeth in both arches were reported for the spaced group compared with both the crowded and normal groups. These findings agree with those of Puri *et al.*,<sup>(15)</sup> and with the results of Steigman *et al.*,<sup>(13)</sup> in females.

When tooth size was compared individually, significantly smaller mesiodistal dimensions of teeth was noticed in spaced group when compared with both normal and crowded groups. This comes in accordance with the results of Puri *et al.*,<sup>(15)</sup> except that when they compared spaced and normal groups significant difference was noticed only for right premolars in the upper arch and for right incisors and second premolars and left incisors and canine in the lower arch. Comparison between normal and crowded groups showed a significantly greater dimension in crowded group for upper and lower incisors which coincides with the findings of previous studies.<sup>(5,7, 20)</sup> The results of the present study support the findings of Yoshihara *et al.*,<sup>(6)</sup> and Frederick<sup>(21)</sup> who investigated the relation between upper incisors and crowding and they also support the findings of Imai *et al.*,<sup>(22)</sup> whom their investigation was confined to lower incisors. However, the crowded and normal groups demonstrated a non significant difference in mesiodistal dimensions of upper and lower premolars and upper molars, thus an inference can be drawn that the difference in the sum of 12 teeth between the crowded and the normal groups is related mainly to upper and lower incisors teeth sizes.

The significantly smaller upper and lower arch widths and arch perimeter that were reported for the crowded group come in accordance with Al-Khatib<sup>(5)</sup> except that in his study the difference in intercanine width was not significant. In their study, Poosti and Jalali<sup>(9)</sup> reported a significantly narrower upper and lower intercanine widths and upper intermolar width in crowded arches with CI I molar relations, while no significant difference was reported regarding arch perimeter in both arches which contradicts the results of the present study. This may be related to variation in the method used for measuring arch perimeter between the two studies. The find-

ings of smaller upper and lower intermolar widths are also supported by those of Kuntz *et al.*,<sup>(23)</sup>.

On the other hand, arch dimensions revealed no significant difference between the spaced and normal groups, except for upper intercanine width. This finding combined with the significant correlation noticed between the amount of space discrepancy and the sums of 6 and 12 lower teeth in spaced sample, may suggest a greater contribution of tooth size to dental spacing. In considering crowded sample, significant correlation was found between space discrepancy and the sum of 12 teeth and intercanine width in the upper arch and with intercanine width and arch perimeter in the lower arch. This along with the findings of larger teeth and smaller arch dimensions in the crowded group compared with the normal group can lead to the conclusion that CI I crowded arches involve both larger mesiodistal tooth sizes and smaller than normal arch dimensions.

## CONCLUSIONS

Mesiodistal tooth dimensions, both individually and combined, differ significantly among normal, spaced, and crowded dental arches. The crowded group was found to have the largest tooth size followed by the normal and the spaced groups. All dental arch dimensions, except arch length, were significantly smaller in the crowded group compared with normal and spaced groups. Spaced dental arches were found to have significant correlation between space discrepancy and tooth size, while crowded dental arches showed significant correlation between space discrepancy and both tooth size and arch dimensions (in particular intercanine width).

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