

# CFAO GRADUATE STUDENT POSTERBOARD ABSTRACTS

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### PROVISION OF ORTHODONTIC CARE BY DENTISTS PRACTICING IN CANADA AND CERTIFIED ORTHODONTISTS' PERSPECTIVES

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**Introduction:** In order to obtain perspectives of Canadian dentists on the quality of the undergraduate education received in orthodontics and the extent of orthodontic services provided, a descriptive survey was constructed.

**Methods:** An anonymous web-based survey was created using Survey Monkey® (Palo Alto, USA) which was distributed to registered dentists in Canada via links in newsletters and mass emails.

**Results:** There were 427 responders. 70.9% (n=261/368) of dentists provide orthodontic treatment with 66.9% (n=172/257) offering removable or fixed appliances. 58.5% to 93.4% reported being uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with these treatment modalities. The undergraduate education was deemed good or excellent by 41.8% (n= 168/402) and 50.5% (n=203/402) for their ability to diagnose accurately in the mixed and permanent dentitions. These percentages decrease for their ability to treatment plan and provide treatment.

**Conclusions:** The number of dentists providing orthodontic services to their patients is similar to the 76.3% reported in the USA. It is concerning that dentists report being uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with various orthodontic treatment modalities they commonly use. The quality of orthodontic education provided has improved compared to the 1987 Canadian data, although some amelioration in the undergraduate orthodontic curriculum may be beneficial.

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