



2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on  
**PEDIATRICS AND HEALTHCARE**  
May 13-14, 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

## **TITLE: Space management in children: To Maintain or not?**

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### **ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)**

Space management is an important area of concern among preschoolers and adolescents. Early childhood caries has a devastating effect on the primary and succedaneous dentition and influences the eruptive tooth movement. Management of space issues continues to play an important role in a dental practice which relies on major interaction between the primary provider and the specialists. The recommended timing of referring patients with moderate crowding to specialists for treatment is in the late mixed-dentition stage of development. Dental neglect of the primary dentition is the principal cause of malocclusion in the permanent dentition. Regular, and satisfactory dental care maintains the primary teeth in a healthy condition until their normal exfoliation. The objective of space maintenance and tooth guidance should be kept constantly in mind, that is, to prevent something bad from getting worse. Problems in the dental arches involve lack of space, space loss, malposition and malalignment of teeth. All such problems relate to the following modes of treatment: space maintenance, space gaining, and guidance in alignment and occlusion. Diagnosing and treating space problems requires an understanding of the aetiology of crowding and the development of the dentition to render treatment for the mild, moderate and severe crowding cases. Considering all these factors, space issues in children are a major area of concern which requires accurate diagnosis and management as mismanagement can result in disproportionate jaw and tooth sizes.

### **BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)**

Dr Ramesh R has completed his Master in Pediatric Dentistry and Master in Healthcare management at the age of 33 years from RGUHS University, India. He is the Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry department of Saveetha University, India. He has been serving as a peer reviewer and editorial board member of several reputed journals.

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**Mode of Presentation:** Oral

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