A clinical investigation of the concepts of differential and optimal force in canine retraction

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The force systems from orthodontic appliances may produce forces and moments in each of the three planes of space. Viewing a dental arch from the side or buccally, an orthodontic spring may be produce a horizontal force compelling the teeth in a mesiodistal direction toward one another and a vertical force extruding or intruding a tooth or teeth. Boester and Johnston (1974) reported on a clinical investigation of the concepts of differential and optimal force in canine retraction. The experimental design included the application of four different force levels to each quadrant of ten orthodontic patients receiving four premolar extraction therapy. The assignment of retraction force to quadrant was random within each patient.