



EVALUATING CLOSEST SPEAKING SPACE WITH ARABIC TERMS

Dental Science

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KEYWORDS

Closest speaking space (CSS) is a method used for assessing vertical dimension of occlusion (VDO) in prosthodontic patients^{1,2}. Phonetic technique is used for locating (VDO) and the patient should speak in a lull and unstrained manner³. Arabic patients coming from rural areas have difficulty in speaking English words quickly and smoothly. More time is expended than required for this procedure.

Arabic is national language of Saudi Arabia and is widely spoken. It comprises more than 95% of the Arabic population⁵. A time saving alternative is presented to evaluate CSS in Arabic patients who present with English language barrier.

Distance between incisal edges of anterior teeth when patient says phonetic sound's' is called closest speaking space⁴. Phonetic technique requires the patient to pronounce the words with sibilant sounds. Sibilants /s/, /sh/, /ch/, /z/, /zh/ and /j/ are used. These are high frequency sounds produced by a stream of air squeezed through a minimal incisal opening^{1,6}. Earlier single sibilant sound especially /s/ sound was used in establishing VDO later it was disproved^{3,6}. A short phrase or list of words containing all the sibilants is an acceptable method of determining VDO⁶. This time saving alternative may prove helpful for evaluating CSS in Arabic patients whose primary language is Arabic.

Suggested Arabic terms for evaluating CSS:

Sibilant	Arabic term in English	Definition
/S/	sama	sky
/SH/	shai	tea
/CH/	check	jug
/Z/	zabeeb	raisin
/ZH/	zibdah	butter

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