

Letters From Our Readers

To: Editor, *The Angle Orthodontist*

Re: Value-addition of lateral cephalometric radiographs in orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning by Anjali Dinesh, Sunil Mutalik, Jonathan Feldman, and Aditya Tadinada. *Angle Orthod.* 2020;90:665-671.

Thank you for publishing this interesting study.

The authors concluded that the use of lateral cephalometric radiographs does not have a clinically significant impact on the diagnosis and treatment planning of orthodontic patients. While we agree that it is possible to arrive at a clinical diagnosis even without lateral cephalograms, we feel that they do offer a number of value additions to orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning such as:

- 1) Helping to quantify the skeletal malocclusion, which would not be possible with photographs and study models alone.
- 2) Helping to analyze post treatment changes quantitatively.
- 3) Localizing the problem and identifying the growth pattern to provide better understanding of the underlying anomaly, especially in skeletal malocclusions.
- 4) Providing the additional advantage of evaluating skeletal maturity by cervical vertebral maturation assessment in a pediatric population.
- 5) Providing valuable information regarding presence of anomaly/pathology in other areas of the cranium (pituitary tumors, nasopharyngeal foreign bodies, sella bridges) which have reportedly been detected in lateral cephalograms during routine diagnosis by astute clinicians.

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