

**Title:** Early treatment of the anterior and posterior crossbite: Is it worthy? When? How?

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Rapid maxillary expansion is a useful strategy in the treatment of malocclusion. It is applicable for correcting posterior crossbites(unilateral and bilateral), narrow maxillary arches, mandibular functional shift, and dental crowding. This technique was first described by Angell and, since then, a number of banded loops or helices, jackscrew devices, and spring-loaded devices have been incorporated in fixed or removable appliances to achieve widening of the maxillary arch. RME increases the upper arch transverse dimensions mainly by separation of the two maxillary halves (orthopaedic effect), followed by buccal movement of the posterior teeth and alveolar processes (orthodontic effect).
The effect of the appliance on the midpalatal suture has also been reported to vary with age. A greater response to RPE has been reported in younger subjects, whereas in older subjects the appliance becomes increasingly less effective, to the point where no sutural expansion takes place. This has been correlated with the increase with age of bony intercalations along the midpalatal suture line. It is thought that this osseous interlocking, and perhaps synostosis of the midpalatal suture, causes a mechanical resistance to the actions for the expansion device.
The aim of this presentation will be to analyse the benefits of an early treatment of the anterior and posterior crossbite. It will be explained when it´s the correct time to treat a patient with anterior/posterior crossbite. It will be shown different appliances for this purpose. It will be also clarified when it's the best time to refer a child for an orthodontic assessment by a general dentist.

**Biography**

Dr Chacon graduated as a dentist in 2001 from The University of Seville. She completed her postgraduate training in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopeadics in 2006. In her PhD research, she compared the immediate effect of the rapid maxillary expansion in the mixed and permanent dentitions.Her PhD was presented at The University of Seville in 2014. She has been working as an orthodontist since 2006. She worked 10.5 years for the National Health Service in Scotland as an orthodontist.

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