

TIPS FROM OUR READERS

## Modification of Makzoume vertical dimension recorder for individuals with a beard

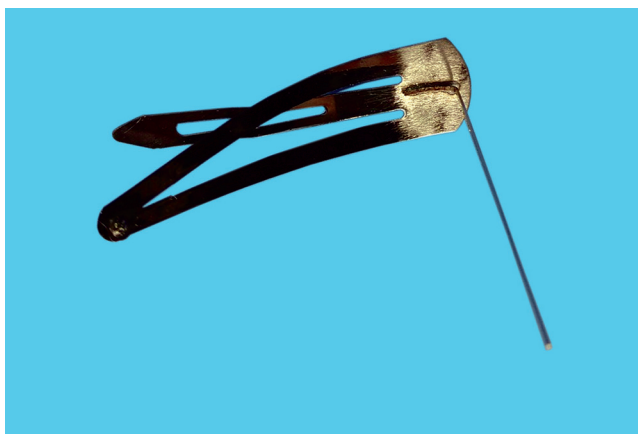


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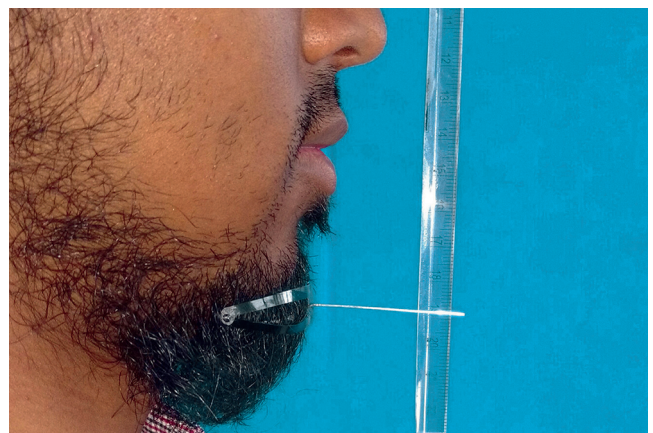
A practical, convenient, and accurate method of measuring the physiologic rest position and occlusal vertical dimension by using a vertical dimension recorder (VDR) was described by Makzoume.<sup>1</sup> The VDR consists of a plastic 20-cm ruler suspended from a rectangular plate and rod attached to the forehead and a square plate with a needle pointer attached to the chin. The plates are attached to the forehead and chin with double-sided foam adhesive tape. In individuals with a beard, it is impractical to attach the needle pointer to the square plate with adhesive tape. Hence, the VDR cannot be used in individuals with a beard. A straightforward technique for attaching the pointer to a beard by using a snap hair clip is described. The snap hair clip provides a strong and stable grip.

### PROCEDURE

1. Select a 4.5-cm metallic triangular snap hair clip (Conair Corp) and remove the color coating over the base of the clip with an acrylic trimming bur.
2. Weld a 6-cm length of 0.016×0.022 inch straight rectangular stainless steel arch wire (D-Tech Orthodontics Ltd) to the base of the clip with a spot welder (Spot Welder Regular; Orthocare).
3. With orthodontic pliers (Universal Orthodontic Plier; Oracraft), bend the welded wire at 90 degrees to the base of the clip with the prongs in locked position (Fig. 1).
4. Unlock the prongs of the clip and snap the clip into the beard at the chin, engaging hair close to skin (Fig. 2).



**Figure 1.** Snap hair clip in unlocked position with wire welded at base.



**Figure 2.** Measuring occlusal vertical dimension and physiologic rest position by directly reading from ruler with wire pointer hair clip assembly snapped in to beard.

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5. Confirm that the wire pointer is perpendicular to the ruler and along the midline of the face.
6. Adjust the patient's head position to parallel the Frankfurt horizontal plane to the floor.
7. Measure the physiologic rest position and occlusal vertical dimension by directly reading from the ruler (Fig. 2).

## REFERENCE

1. Makzoume JE. A procedure for directly measuring the physiologic rest position and occlusal vertical dimension. *J Prosthet Dent* 2017;117:697-8.

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## Noteworthy Abstracts of the Current Literature

### Ability of general dentists and prosthodontists to discern and identify incremental increases in occlusal vertical dimension in dentate subjects

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**Purpose.** The aim of this study was to determine whether dentists are able to discern and identify increases in occlusal vertical dimension (OVD) in dentate subjects without apparent loss of OVD.

**Material and Methods.** A total of 10 dentate subjects had mandibular overlays fabricated at 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-mm openings of the anterior guide pin (AGP) of a semiadjustable articulator. Standardized frontal and profile photographs with subjects wearing each of the overlays were made. Photographs were presented in random order to 40 judges comprising 20 prosthodontists and 20 general dentists who were informed about the purpose of the study. Judges first rated the degree of facial naturalness on a visual analog scale (VAS) and then took a discriminatory sensory analysis test (triangle test) where they were required to correctly identify the image with no increase in OVD from a set of three images.

**Results.** Mean VAS ratings for facial naturalness were inversely correlated with incremental increases in OVD, irrespective of the judge's background. Though subjects were rated less natural with incremental increases in OVD, only a 5-mm increase from baseline was clinically significant ( $P < .05$ ). For the triangle test, judges correctly identified the image with a 3-mm increase in OVD 57% of the time ( $P < .582$ ), irrespective of the judge's profession, sex, race, and years in practice, which were clinically insignificant.

**Conclusions.** Increasing OVD by a 5-mm opening of the AGP of the articulator significantly decreased the judge's evaluation of facial naturalness. The ratings were more pronounced in female subjects than in male subjects. However, an increase in OVD of 3 mm was visually indistinguishable by the judges.

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