

Ugly Duckling Stage

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This ugly duckling stage is a self-correcting (anomaly) malocclusion which is seen around 8 to 11 years of age or during the eruption of canine.

As the permanent maxillary canines erupt they displace the roots of maxillary lateral incisors mesially. This force transmitted to the central incisors and their roots are also displaced mesially. Thus, the resultant force causes the distal divergence of the crown in an opposite direction, leading to midline spacing. This is called Ugly Duckling Stage.

This condition corrects itself after the canines have erupted. The canines after eruption apply pressure on the crown of incisors thereby causing them to shift back to original positions.

The term ugly duckling stage indicates the unesthetic appearance of child during this stage.

No orthodontic treatment should be attempted at this stage there is a danger of deflecting the canine from its normal eruption path.

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