Is Tanaka-Johnston mixed dentition analysis an applicable method for a Saudi population?

Moshabab A. Asiry, BDS, MSc, Sahar F. Albarakati, BDS, MSc, Nasr S. Al-Maflehi, BSc (Statistics), MSc (Statistics), Alaa A. Sunqurah, BDS, Monirah I. Almohrij, BDS.

ABSTRACT

Objectives: To test the applicability of the Tanaka and Johnston prediction method in a Saudi population.

Methods:

College of Dentistry, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from September 2013 to January 2014, on a sample of 409 pairs of orthodontic study models.

a) The mesiodistal width of the mandibular permanent incisors, permanent canines, and permanent premolars were measured using an electronic digital caliper with an accuracy of 0.01mm. The predicted widths derived from the Tanaka and Johnston equation were compared with the actual measured widths.

Results: Gender differences were observed in the sum of the mesiodistal width of canine and premolars in both arches as indicated by t-test ($p<0.001$). The sum of the actual mesiodistal widths of canines and premolars were compared with the predicted widths derived from the Tanaka and Johnston equation and significant differences were found ($p<0.001$). The regression analysis indicated that the sum of the mesiodistal width of the mandibular permanent incisors is a good predictor for those of unerupted canines and premolars, with the correlation coefficients ranging from 0.51 to 0.61. Accordingly, 2 linear regression equations were developed for tooth width prediction for Saudi males and females.

Conclusion: The Tanaka and Johnston prediction equation overestimated the sum of mesiodistal widths of permanent canines and premolars in Saudis. New regression equations were formulated for the prediction of tooth width in the Saudi population.

From the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics (Asiry, Albarakati), and the Department of Periodontics and Community Dentistry (Al-Maflehi), and the College of Dentistry (Sunqurah, Almohrij), King Saud University, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Address correspondence and reprint request to: Dr. Moshabab A. Asiry, Assistant Professor, Division of Orthodontics, Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, College of Dentistry, King Saud University, Building No 3500, Riyadh 12372-7051, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Fax: +966 (11) 4679017. E-mail: masiry@gmail.com
Accurate prediction of the mesiodistal widths of unerupted permanent canines and premolars is a valuable diagnostic tool for assessing and managing tooth size/arch length discrepancies during mixed dentition. Determining the space required to accommodate unerupted permanent canines and premolars is helpful in treatment planning for serial extractions, space maintenance, space regaining, eruption guidance or just observation of the patient.1

Three methods have been reported for estimation of the mesiodistal widths of unerupted canines and premolars: 1) measurements of unerupted teeth on radiographs;2) calculations from prediction equations and tables;3,4 3) a combinations of both.5 Tanaka and Johnston developed linear regression equations for the prediction of the mesiodistal width of unerupted canines and premolars among European ancestry.4 T is method of prediction has achieved widespread clinical acceptance because it is uncomplicated, flexible, relatively accurate and non-invasive.7,8 Several studies investigated the applicability of the Tanaka and Johnston prediction method on different population groups. T e results of these studies revealed that the Tanaka and Johnston prediction method is not accurate when applied to those populations.1,8-13 Further, gender differences in the sum of the mesiodistal width of canine and premolars has been reported in literature.14-16 Al-Khadra17 investigated the reliability of the Tanaka and Johnston equations in Saudis. T is study was based on a small sample size (34 patients) and pooled male and female data without considering the genders separately. T eir results revealed the prediction formula for Saudis, if necessary.

Methods. T e current study was conducted at the College of Dentistry, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from September 2013 to January 2014. Sample size calculation indicated that at α=0.05 and 1−β=0.95 with estimated standard deviation 1.2mm the sample size should be at least 360 patients. Therefore, the aim of this study is to test the applicability of the Tanaka and Johnston prediction method in a Saudi population, and to attempt to develop a new prediction formula for Saudis, if necessary.

Disclosure. T is study received funding from the College of Dentistry Research Center and Deanship of Scientific Research at King Saud University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (research project #FR 0063).
From the study data, new regression equations were formulated for the prediction of tooth width in the Saudi population and expressed as \( Y = A + B \times X \). The constants 'A' and 'B' were calculated for female and male subjects separately.

**Results.** Paired t-test was executed to test the difference in the sum of the mesiodistal width of right and left canines and premolars in both arches. No statistical significance was found at a level of significance of 0.05. Therefore, the results of right and left measurements were combined for statistical analysis. Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics for the sum of the mesiodistal width of the mandibular incisors, maxillary canine and premolars, and mandibular canine and premolars among male and female patients. Gender differences were observed in the sum of the mesiodistal width of canine and premolars in both arches as indicated by t-test \( p < 0.001 \).

Significant differences \( p < 0.001 \) were found between the sum of the actual mesiodistal widths of canines and premolars and the predicted widths derived from the Tanaka and Johnston equation for male and female patients (Table 2). Tanaka and Johnston equation overestimated the sum of mesiodistal widths of mandibular and maxillary canines and premolars for male and female patients in the sample of the present study.

**New regression equations.** For the mesiodistal width of maxillary and mandibular canines and premolars of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Actual width</th>
<th>Predicted width</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma ) M and. incisors</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20.54</td>
<td>21.72</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma ) M and. incisors</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20.04</td>
<td>21.78</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1 -** Descriptive statistics and gender differences for the sum of mesiodistal widths of the mandibular incisors and maxillary and mandibular canine and premolars among Saudi patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>SEE</th>
<th>r</th>
<th>( r^2 )</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma ) M and. incisors</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma ) M and. incisors</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2 -** Comparison of the sum of the actual mesiodistal widths of canines and premolars and the predicted mesiodistal widths derived from the Tanaka and Johnston equation among Saudi patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>SEE</th>
<th>r</th>
<th>( r^2 )</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma ) M and. incisors</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma ) M and. incisors</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3 -** Regression parameters for the prediction of the mesiodistal widths of maxillary and mandibular canine and premolars in the present study among Saudi patients.
males (Y), there was a significant linear relationship with the mesiodistal width of lower incisors (X), with respective correlation coefficients for maxilla (r = 0.61; \( r^2 = 37\% \)) and in mandible (r = 0.60; \( r^2 = 36\% \)). The simple linear regression equations \( Y=10.3+0.49X \) and \( Y=9.7+0.49X \) were the best fitting equations for predicting the maxillary and mandibular canine and premolar width for males (Y) (Table 3). Similarly, the mesiodistal width of maxillary and mandibular canines and premolars of females can be predicted by the linear equations \( Y=11.7+0.37X \) and \( Y=11.3+0.39X \) (Table 3). These linear regression equations were the best fitting model with respective correlation coefficients for maxilla (r = 0.52; \( r^2 = 27\% \)) and in mandible (r = 0.51; \( r^2 = 27\% \)).

**Discussion.** The purpose of the study was to test the applicability of the Tanaka and Johnston prediction method in a Saudi population and to attempt to develop a new prediction formula for Saudis if necessary. The age range of the subjects in the present study was between 13 to 20 years of age to minimize the effect of attrition, caries, or tooth loss on mesiodistal width of teeth.\(^{19} \) One operator made the measurements directly on the study models using an electronic digital caliper. Zilberman et al.\(^ {10} \) found that measurement with digital calipers produced the most accurate and reproducible results.

It has been reported in the literatures that male teeth are generally larger than female teeth.\(^ {12-15,21} \) In the present study, gender differences were observed in the sum of the mesiodistal width of canine and premolars in both arches. Therefore, the data analysis was performed separately for each gender. The results showed that the Tanaka and Johnston equation overestimated the sum of mesiodistal widths of mandibular and maxillary canines and premolars for male and female patients in the sample of the present study. The following prediction equations were derived for Saudis: males (maxilla: \( Y=10.3+0.49X \), mandible: \( Y=9.7+0.49X \)) and females (maxilla: \( Y=11.7+0.37X \), mandible: \( Y=11.3+0.39X \)).

**References**


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Illustrations, Figures, Photographs

Four copies of all figures or photographs should be included with the submitted manuscript. Figures submitted electronically should be in JPEG or TIFF format with a 300 dpi minimum resolution and in grayscale or CMYK (not RGB). Printed submissions should be on high-contrast glossy paper, and must be unmounted and untrimmed, with a preferred size between 4 x 5 inches and 5 x 7 inches (10 x 13 cm and 13 x 18 cm). The figure number, name of first author and an arrow indicating “top” should be typed on a gummed label and affixed to the back of each illustration. If arrows are used these should appear in a different color to the background color. Titles and detailed explanations belong in the legends, which should be submitted on a separate sheet, and not on the illustrations themselves. Written informed consent for publication must accompany any photograph in which the subject can be identified. Written copyright permission, from the publishers, must accompany any illustration that has been previously published. Photographs will be accepted at the discretion of the Editorial Board.