Which Wind Instrument for Malocclusion?

It is not unusual for a client to ask about the interrelationship of playing a wind instrument and a particular malocclusion. Howard M. Green B.M., MSIS, spoke to an IAOM audience about this subject. He also wrote an article for the 25th Anniversary Edition of the IJOM publication, co-authoring with his wife, Shari Green, RDH, COM. In it, they discuss the skills involved in playing various instruments based on orthodontic contraindication. Tables, photographs and drawings provide answers such as “if the occlusion is Class II, Div I, which instrument is recommended and which should be avoided?” Breath support and the oral cavity are also addressed. This article seems to have been a well hidden “secret” whose time has come. This important information benefits not only the patient, but music instructors, orofacial myologists, orthodontists and speech pathologists as well.

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Question for today: Our Role and Nail Biting

In this section of our Newsletter, we throw out a question for your input.

Should Nail Biting be within our scope of practice?

There is some disagreement whether or not we should address this particular habit since there is little or no research directly linking it to orofacial myology symptoms and orthodontic complications. Share your thoughts about this prevalent negative habit and how and why you believe it impacts our patients and our therapy.

We will include some of your comments in our next issue.