



## THE LATERAL OPENBITE: DISCUSSION ON AN UNCOMMON CLINICAL SITUATION AND CASE REPORT

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Open bite is an occlusal condition most observed in the anterior teeth. Posterior open bite is a less frequent occurrence and may manifest as a unilateral or bilateral phenomenon.

### ANTERIOR OPENBITE

Several causes were identified, including oral breathing and airway obstruction, finger sucking, tongue thrust, atypical swallowing, maxillary molar over-eruption and mandibular high angle.

Probably it is not related to a single factor, but rather **the cumulative effect of multiple factors**, particularly in the context of a **predisposed dolichocephalic structure**, which serves to create and maintain the open bite.

### POSTERIOR UNILATERAL OPENBITE

It is often due to the **unilateral condylar hyperplasia (UCH)**. In this case the patient presents facial asymmetry, maxillary cant, unilateral posterior open bite and Class III tendency relationship.

### POSTERIOR BILATERAL OPENBITE

It may be related to a **primary failure of eruption (PFE)** with teeth ankyloses. Less frequently a lateral tongue thrust.

Openbite correction requires a careful analysis of its causes, often in a team with the maxillofacial surgeon and the prosthodontist. The risk of recurrence is high and the patient must be monitored for a long time after correction and, if necessary, referred to a speech therapist to prevent recurrence of oral dysfunction.

**CASE PRESENTATION** - The following is the clinical case of a male aged 23 years and 4 months who presented with a severe bilateral open bite with significant impairment of chewing function, who was treated with a multidisciplinary approach.

