“In the not-so-distant-future, half of all treatments will be done with aligners”

An interview with Dr Sam Daher, Canada

Vancouver orthodontist Dr Sam Daher is one of the world’s leading experts in clear aligner treatment. Having performed more than 4,000 treatments with Invisalign, he currently runs two practices entirely specialised in this treatment modality in addition to his other four clinics. At the recent British Orthodontic Conference (BOC) in Brighton in the UK, where he presented a paper on open-bite treatment with clear aligners, Dental Tribune had the opportunity to speak with him about the benefits of digital technology, the future of clear aligners in general and his business model.

Dental Tribune: Dr Daher, this is the first time you have spoken at the BOC. How was your presentation received?

Dr Sam Daher: I have never been to the BOC, but I have spoken in London many times before. I can recall my first talk to a UK audience a couple of years ago. Back then, the interest in Invisalign was not what it is today, perhaps owing to a lack of faith in the system. Today, far more experience has been gleaned and we have seen much better results with it, so there is generally more interest from specialists. The attendance of my lecture here in Brighton was amazing. There is clearly much interest and far greater acceptance than before. Also, the questions posed were far more genuine.

Your presentation here in Brighton focused on open-bite treatment with clear aligners. Could you summarise some of your key points for our readers?

One of the main advantages of clear aligners is that with them we can control the vertical dimension. One of the worst things we can do in open-bite treatment is to allow the posterior teeth to push through. With clear aligners, we do not only prevent the posterior teeth from extruding, but actually intrude them a little, when needed, allowing us to control the vertical dimension and close the anterior open bite at a much faster rate than with any other fixed appliance as a matter of fact. Thus, what I aim for is to intrude the posterior teeth when there is already an anterior open bite. With both an anterior and posterior open bite, we create a mandible that simply autotrates and that will help close the anterior open bite.