In the present study, maximum reduction in arch length was observed in the maxillary permanent first molar region than in the mandibular region. Reduction in arch length was more in the region immediately adjoining the edentulous space. From this we can say that the teeth farther from the edentulous space tend to drift less than the teeth immediately adjoining the space.

Increase in the arch length at canine region was due to the distal migration of the canines and this was more in the mandible than the maxilla. Space closure thus was found to occur by distal migration of canine in the mandible.

Amount of closure varied with the tooth lost. Owen found that the maxillary second deciduous molar spaces show the greatest closure followed by mandibular second deciduous molar spaces, while maxillary and mandibular first molar spaces showed equal amount of closure.

Premature loss of deciduous molars results in reduction of arch length manifested as diminished space of permanent successor. Children do not long remain children, yet what happens during the relatively few years of childhood determines to a large measure, each person's entire life.

One of the important services that a Pedodontist can render a young patient is that of maintaining arch length prior to the eruption of the succeeding permanent tooth. The whole philosophy of prevention of loss of teeth in childhood years is to a great extent based on this need for preserving space for the permanent dentition.

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