# AMCOP bio-activators: an innovative solution in interceptive orthodontics for the treatment of malocclusions and orofacial dysfunctions

**Benito Francesco Pio Pennacchio[1]***
**Roberto Vito Giorgio[1]***
**Filippo Cardarelli[1]**
**Nicola Sguera[1]**
**Micaela Del Vecchio[1]**
**Lucia Memè[2]**
**Fabrizio Bambini[2]**
**Ioana Roxana Bordea[3]***
**Erda Qorri[4]**
**Gustavo Vicentis Oliveira Fernandes[5]**
**Lwai Almasri[7]**
**Marwa Alkassab[8]**
**Maher Almasri[8]**
**Andrea Palermo[6]**

[1] Department of Interdisciplinary Medicine, University of Bari "Aldo Moro" Bari, Italy.
[2] D.I.S.C.O. School of Dentistry, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy.
[3] Department of Oral Rehabilitation, Faculty of Dentistry, Iuliu Haţieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
[4] Department of Dentistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Albanian University, Tirana, Albania.
[5] Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health, A. T. Still University, MO, United States.
[7] King's College London, U.K.
[8] The University of Buckingham, U.K.
[6] University of Salento. Lecce, Italy

**Corresponding author:** Ioana Roxana Bordea
e-mail: roxana.bordea@ymail.com

*All authors contributed equally to this work.

## Abstract

**Early orthodontic intervention is essential for effectively managing malocclusions and associated orofacial dysfunctions. A significant development in this area is the application of Cranium-Occluded-Postural Multifunctional Harmonizers (AMCOP) Bio-activators. These devices integrate elastodontic principles emphasizing muscle function to treat skeletal and muscular imbalances and promote ideal tooth alignment, mandibular growth, and orofacial muscle coordination. Focusing on enhancing tongue posture and swallowing function, AMCOP Bio-activators are especially useful in treating Class II and Class III malocclusions, atypical swallowing, and related muscular dysfunctions.**
**Because of its less invasive form, less discomfort, and ease of use, AMCOP provides more patient compliance than more conventional devices like Twin Blocks or Activators. The gadgets are appropriate for children and adults since they reduce treatment duration and provide flexibility for various stages of treatment. The effectiveness of AMCOP Bio-activators in attaining long-term improvements in muscular function and dental alignment, hence decreasing the need for more intrusive procedures, is supported by preliminary clinical evidence. This review investigates their potential in interceptive orthodontics, highlighting their advantages over conventional approaches.**

**Keywords: AMCOP Bio-activators, Elastodontic Principles, Orthodontics.**

**Authors**

Benito Francesco Pio Pennacchio - Roberto Vito Giorgio - Filippo Cardarelli - Nicola Sguera - Micaela Del Vecchio - Department of Interdisciplinary Medicine, University of Bari "Aldo Moro" Bari, Italy

Lucia Memè - Fabrizio Bambini - D.I.S.C.O. School of Dentistry, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy

Ioana Roxana Bordea - Department of Oral Rehabilitation, Faculty of Dentistry, Iuliu Haţieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Erda Qorri - Department of Dentistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Albanian University, Tirana, Albania

Gustavo Vicentis Oliveira Fernandes - Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health, A. T. Still University, MO, United States

Lwai Almasri - King's College London, U.K.

Marwa Alkassab - Maher Almasri - The University of Buckingham, U.K.

Andrea Palermo - University of Salento. Lecce, Italy



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## Introduction

Early orthodontic intervention is crucial for treating a variety of malocclusions that, if untreated, can cause serious issues as adults (1-4). A frequent issue known as malocclusion occurs when the top and lower teeth do not have the best relationship possible, making it harder to chew, swallow, and maintain a beautiful face (5-7) (8–10). Correcting these abnormalities and directing dental-skeletal growth are the goals of early orthodontic treatments, especially when using functional devices, to attain ideal tooth alignment and healthy orofacial muscle function (11-14,16).

The Cranium-Occluded-Postural Multifunctional Harmonizers (AMCOP) Bio-activators, founded on elastodontic principles, represent a noteworthy advancement in this sector (17-21). These devices aim to promote the harmonious development of the mandible and dental arches, enhance posture and tongue function, and treat swallowing disorders (SD) (22-26) (Figure 1). Their use has been wildly successful in treating Class II and III malocclusions and related muscle dysfunctions (MD) (27-31).

The purpose of this article is to thoroughly investigate the efficacy of AMCOP Bio-activators in interceptive orthodontics by examining the theoretical underpinnings of their operation, the different kinds of devices that are available, the advantages over alternative orthodontic techniques, and the clinical data pertaining to their use (32-38).

### Mechanism of Action of AMCOP Bio-activators

AMCOP Bio-activators are novel devices combining a muscle approach with a biomechanical theory based on functional and elastodontic orthodontics (39, 291, 292, 293) concepts(41–43). In addition to moving teeth with conventional orthodontic forces, these devices also affect the orofacial muscles, which affects swallowing, mandibular function, and tongue posture (44-46). The purpose of bioactivators is to increase the synchronization between the tongue and teeth during chewing and swallowing by stimulating the oral muscles (47) (49-51). Correcting atypical swallowing, a prevalent problem in kids and teens that can result in occlusal and skeletal dysfunctions is a crucial component of these devices (52-56). The tongue fundamentally determines the position of the upper and lower teeth (57-58). By rebalancing orofacial muscle activity, AMCOP Bio-activators enhance tongue placement and support natural swallowing function (59-62). AMCOP devices seek a more comprehensive approach to orthodontic therapy by addressing the underlying causes of these dysfunctions, emphasizing not only tooth alignment but also the general functionality of the orofacial system (63-64).

The stability of growth during developmental periods is another essential idea (65-66). AMCOP devices enhance teeth alignment and encourage the growth or contraction of the dental arches (67-71). Devices that address Class II and III malocclusions, such as the AMCOP INTEGRAL or AMCOP Third Class (TC), have demonstrated beneficial effects on mandibular growth and malocclusion control (72-74). These tools function by continuously and gently pressing on the teeth and surrounding tissues, which aids in more physiologically directing jaw development and tooth alignment (75-79).

AMCOP Bio-activators work by combining muscle and biomechanical stimulation in their process (80)-(81). To maintain constant engagement of the orofacial muscles, the devices are made to be worn for specified times both during the day and at night (82-83). By retraining the muscles, this continuous engagement improves function and posture (84-86). Because the bio-activators are composed of flexible and long-lasting materials, they can exert the required stresses on the oral tissues without causing pain or irritation (87) (89-91).

The capacity of AMCOP Bio-activators to affect the posture and function of the tongue is one of their unique qualities (92-93). A vital component of the orofacial system is the tongue, which influences not just swallowing but also jaw growth and tooth location (94) (96). AMCOP devices contribute to developing a more functional and balanced oral environment by enhancing tongue position (97-98). This is especially crucial when treating atypical swallowing since improper tongue posture can result in various problems, such as crossbites and open bites (99-103).

Additionally, AMCOP Bio-activators are made to be flexible enough to accommodate each patient's unique requirements (104-108). The devices can be tailored to

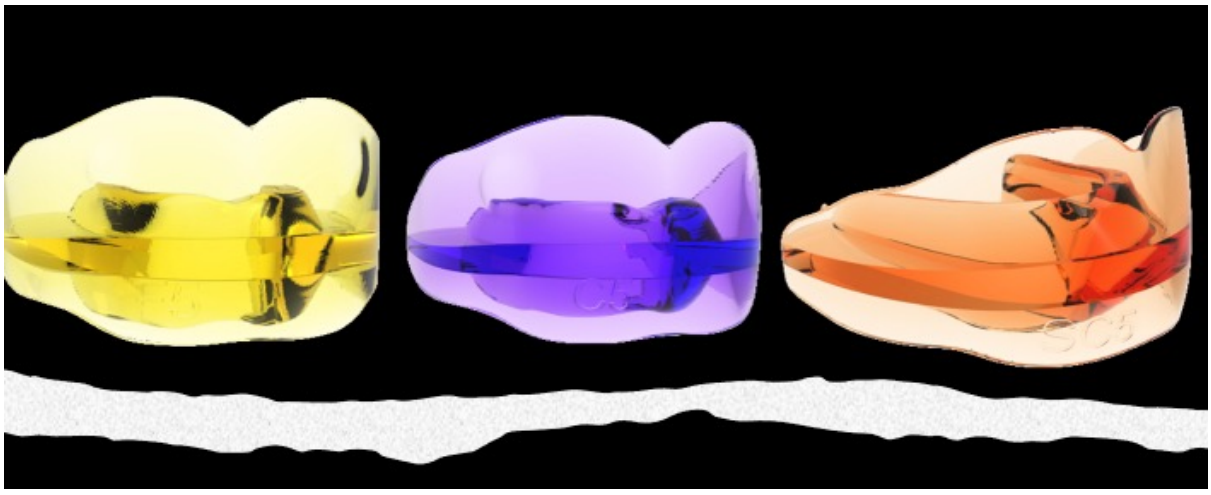

**Figure 1. Some AMCOP devices.**

treat particular orthodontic problems such as crowding, spacing, or malocclusion(110). Each patient will receive a customized treatment plan that optimizes the bio-activator's efficiency thanks to this personalization (111-117). The devices are useful for patients and practitioners because they are simple to use and come with clear instructions for wear and maintenance (118-119). AMCOP Bio-activators can improve general oral health in addition to their orthodontic advantages (120-121). These devices can lower the risk of bruxism, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) problems, and other related illnesses by enhancing the function and coordination of the orofacial muscles (122-126). Patients with higher muscle function may also have better oral hygiene because they can more efficiently clean their teeth and gums (127-128).

**Types of AMCOP Devices and Their Applications**

AMCOP Bio-activators come in various forms, each intended to treat a particular orthodontic problem (129-130). The following are the primary categories of AMCOP devices:

- **AMCOP Bio-Activator Devices:** These gadgets provide a novel approach to the functional and orthopedic management of children's dental abnormalities, especially those involving deciduous dentition (131-132). The D and DC devices are intended to treat typical issues, including open bite and transverse deficits brought on by extended pacifier use (133)-(134–136). In addition to replacing pacifiers, these gadgets help treat oral dysfunctions and promote healthy mandibular and dental growth (137)-(138-141) . By preventing malocclusions, these devices encourage the emergence of more balanced dental arches (142-143).
- **First Class Bio-Activator:** Another essential tool in this area, especially for patients with deep bites (144-147). This device's thicker anterior occlusal plane efficiently addresses deep bite problems while enhancing mandibular posture and masticatory performance (148-149). Greater adaptability to orthodontic treatment is made possible by the different arch configurations—S, OS, F, and C—which enable customization based on the unique demands of the patient (150-151). Each arch type is made to meet specific therapeutic demands (152) to maximize long-term results(153-155).

**1. AMCOP INTEGRAL:**

- **Indications:** The AMCOP INTEGRAL device mainly treats unusual swallowing problems and rectifies Class II malocclusions (156). Its design attempts to enhance mandibular posture and align the tongue (157). The device is used throughout the treatment's active phase and again at night for maintenance (161)three on human subjects (162).
- **Function:** Light force to the teeth by AMCOP INTEGRAL to encourage alignment and proper mandibular posture (163-167)overjet, sagittal molar relationship, and dental crowding. Cephalometric tracings were computed by a single blinded observer using Dolphin Imaging software. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS (version 25.00; IBM Corp, Armonk, NY. Furthermore, since the tongue is a significant factor in defining malocclusion, tongue correction is an essential component (168-169).

**2. AMCOP TC:**

- **Indications:** Class III malocclusions, namely those involving a prognathic mandible, are the primary target of this device (170)-(171). By reducing mandibular growth, the treatment seeks to balance the growth of the two maxillae and facilitate upper arch alignment (172-176).
- **Function:** By gently pressing the jaw to restrict its growth, AMCOP TC promotes appropriate mandibular posture and supports normal alignment of the upper and lower arches (177-178) .

**Benefits of AMCOP Devices Over Other Functional Appliances**

Compared to conventional functional orthodontic devices like the Twin Block or the Activator, which are frequently more intrusive and need more patient adaption, AMCOP Bio-activators have many advantages (179-183). These devices are a popular option for the early treatment of malocclusions and orofacial MD because of their many benefits, which include comfort, efficacy, and adaptability (184)requiring multiple interventions. One of the main challenges of contemporary orthodontics is to reduce treatment time by accelerating orthodontic tooth movements. Among the currently used methods, micro-osteoperforations (MOPs-(185)-(186).

1. **Increased Patient Compliance:** Patients' greater adoption of AMCOP Bio-activators, especially youngsters and early adolescents, is one of their most noteworthy features (187)in combination with autologous blood-derived PRP.\nMATERIALS AND METHODS: Partially edentulous patients with severe atrophy of posterior maxillary treated by means of the split bone technique in a two-stage grafting procedures were observed for up to seven years after implants placement. After surgeries, the natural porous fluorohydroxyapatite (FHA (188-191). AMCOP devices are less intrusive and lighter than rigid appliances like the Twin Block or Activator, which are more extensive and frequently difficult to wear (192-193)cognitive impairment (CI. By using elastic materials that better fit the oral cavity, their design lowers the possibility of discomfort and mucosal irritation while in use (194-198). Additionally, during the active stages of treatment, their inherent flexibility improves patient comfort by applying more consistent pressure on the teeth and dental arches (199)-(200). This improves patient compliance, which is crucial for treating young children who often refuse to utilize painful or uncomfortable devices (201-202).
2. **Effectiveness in Correcting MD:** AMCOP Bio-activators' capacity to influence both tooth movement and orofacial musculature is a key benefit over conventional orthodontic equipment (203-207). AMCOP devices provide a multifunctional approach by additionally influencing the position and behavior of the tongue and mandible. In contrast, traditional devices such as the Twin Block concentrate primarily on addressing dental malocclusions (208) this commentary aimed to focus on the auxiliary role of MSCs to reduce inflammatory processes of acute respiratory infections caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19-(209-212). Children and early teenagers who are still developing their skeletons and muscles would significantly benefit

from this (213-214). One primary reason for dental misalignments is abnormal swallowing, which AMCOP devices can address by working on the tongue (215-216). More stable and natural dental alignment results from better orofacial muscle activity and tongue position (217-218).

3. **Flexibility of Use:** From the interceptive phase to the maintenance phase, AMCOP Bio-activators are intended for use at various orthodontic treatment (219)phases(220) (84,221,222). Because of this, they are especially adaptable and can be used to improve adult dental arch alignment and address emerging malocclusions (223-224). They save time and lessen the necessity for more intrusive procedures like orthognathic surgery for severe misalignments or fixed appliances in later phases of treatment (225-226). Additionally, their effectiveness and widespread use among experts are increased by their application to a broad spectrum of malocclusions, including Class II, Class III, and SDs (227-228).
4. **Reduction of Treatment Time**: The shorter treatment duration of AMCOP when compared to conventional orthodontic equipment is a significant advantage (229)-(230)-(231). AMCOP devices enable the best outcomes in comparatively short amounts of time because of their capacity to efficiently stimulate growth and align the dental arches (232)-(233)-(234–236). This is particularly crucial in orthodontics, where patients may undergo drawn-out and taxing procedures (237)-(238)-(239). Without needing more involved surgeries or drawn-out treatments, AMCOP devices improve teeth alignment and speed up the correction of malocclusions (240)-(241)-(242–244). This lessens the patient's physical and mental strain throughout treatment and produces satisfying outcomes faster (245-246).

AMCOP Bio-activators offer many benefits over conventional orthodontic appliances and are a convenient and efficient way to treat malocclusions (247-251). Many orthodontists and patients use them because of their capacity to enhance patient compliance, correct MD, adjust to various treatment stages, and shorten treatment duration overall (252-256).

**Current Studies on AMCOP**

Even though AMCOP Bio-activators are becoming increasingly popular in orthodontics, studies on their long-term impacts are still in the early stages of development (257-259). Nonetheless, early clinical data indicates that these tools hold great promise for the early management of orofacial dysfunctions and malocclusions (260-264).

Applying bio-activators appears to drastically alter tongue alignment during swallowing, which reduces atypical swallowing and improves orofacial muscle performance (265)-(266)-(267–269). This makes tongue posture correction a prominent topic of research (270-274). This improves the long-term functional health of the mouth in addition to the placement of the teeth (275-276). Additionally, studies have demonstrated that when significant misalignment occurs, AMCOP lessens the need for more invasive orthodontic procedures such as orthognathic surgery or permanent appliances (277)-280).

Furthermore, some research indicates that long-term usage of AMCOP, through the activation and maintenance stages, may have long-lasting, sustainable benefits on mandibular growth and dental alignment (281-285) This is particularly crucial for interceptive treatment since prompt action can avoid the need for more invasive remedial measures later in life (286)-(287)-(288–290).

## Conclusion

AMCOP Bio-activators are a significant advancement in interceptive orthodontics. They provide a practical means of treating malocclusions and orofacial dysfunctions early on. These devices can address problems, including abnormal swallowing and misalignment of the dental arches, while favorably influencing skeletal growth. According to their elastodontic approach, which combines orthodontic movement with enhanced muscular function, AMCOP Bio-activators greatly enhance masticatory and swallowing abilities by promoting appropriate tongue posture and controlling orofacial muscular activity, improving facial appearance.

Higher patient compliance due to AMCOP's less intrusive nature is one of its primary advantages over more conventional devices like the Twin Block or Activator, which can be unwieldy and challenging for patients, particularly young ones, to tolerate.

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There was no outside support for this study.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors disclose no conflicts of interest.

## List of Abbreviations

**AMCOP** - Cranium-Occluded-Postural Multifunctional Harmonizers
**MD** - Muscle Dysfunctions
**SD** - Swallowing Disorders
**TC** - Third Class (riferito a un tipo di dispositivo
**TMJ** - Temporomandibular Joint

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