Proper diagnosis of tooth size for each patient is critical in treatment planning for restorative dentistry. The purpose of this study was to find a clinically relevant and applicable range and mean discordance of individual tooth width of the mandibular anterior dentition. The central incisor (CI), lateral incisor (LI), and canine (CA) teeth varied in range from 4.5 mm to 6 mm, 4.5 mm to 7 mm, and 5.5 mm to 8 mm, respectively (N = 417). Nearly 90% of the patients fell within ±0.5 mm of the combined gender normative values. The results suggest that there exists an average discordance between normative values and actual tooth width of the mandibular anterior dentition in a population of male and female patients.

Learning Objectives:
This article will discuss the clinical relevance, range, and mean of individual tooth width of the mandibular anterior dentition, as well as the average discordance between normative values and actual tooth width. Upon reading this article the reader should:

- Become more familiar with individual tooth size as it pertains to the mandibular anterior dentition.
- Appreciate the factors that may affect tooth size between individuals.

Key Words: Biometry, individual tooth width, mean discordance, mandibular, anterior, proportion
Individual tooth size, composed of width and length dimensions, is the primary building block within the clinician’s creation of an aesthetic smile. A variation in maxillary anterior tooth-width dimensions and average discordance from the normative values and the actual tooth width exists between genders. Although less attention has been given to the mandibular anterior teeth, correct tooth size will allow the proper tooth arrangement and proper occlusion to be developed. Aesthetic restorative dentistry frequently entails correction of tooth-size discrepancies associated with length and/or width, secondary to the aging process. Mandibular tooth biometry may be an important aspect of aesthetic reconstruction, wherein identification of tooth size variations (ie, discordance) within individual patients and tooth groups is critical to smile analysis, correction of tooth size discrepancies, and occlusion.

Much attention has been paid to the maxillary anterior teeth. Mandibular aesthetics are equally important, however, as anterior tooth display increases with age (Figures 1 through 3). In addition, they play a role in occlusion—specifically, anterior guidance and posterior disclusion. During the aging process, incisal attrition with compensatory eruption can lead to excessively short teeth, whereas gingival recession can result in excessively long teeth (Figure 4). Malocclusion may cause selective accelerated localized attrition (Figures 4 and 5). Parafunctional habits (eg, bruxism) can also cause excessive and accelerated loss of coronal tooth insufficient structure in the mandibular anterior aesthetic zone, and insufficient tooth length must be addressed as a result (Figure 6). In order to replace lost coronal tooth structure and create a stable occlusion, the restoration of proper tooth dimensions is required, since they are paramount to a successful aesthetic and functional outcome (Figure 7).

Tooth proportion of the mandibular anterior dentition, defined by the width and length as a percentage ratio, falls within a range of 60% to 70%. The maxillary...
antior teeth, on the other hand, have a ratio of 72% to 86%, indicative of a wider tooth, while the mandibular anterior teeth are narrower in size and form.

In an effort to restore proper tooth size, tooth proportion, individual tooth aesthetics, and occlusion within the arch and smile framework, clinicians often reference published dimensions. The questions are:

- What percentage of the time are these anatomic dimensions valid within a given population?
- Is there a clinically relevant and applicable average discordance of mandibular tooth-width sizes between normative values and the actual widths that is representative of patient width variations?

From the tooth width, clinicians can derive the desired tooth length by using the anatomic width/length percentage ratio (eg, 60% to 65% CI and LI; 65% to 70% CA).

The clinical significance of mandibular tooth biometrics and mean discordance is that size for tooth restoration may vary among patients of different age, race, or gender. Therefore, it is imperative that the proper tooth size for each patient be identified before any irreversible restorative procedures are performed.

A biometric analysis of tooth-width dimensions of the mandibular anterior dentition was thus performed in order to find:

- The average discordance between the normative values and the actual tooth width within a given sample of male and female patients;
- The distribution of discordance of different groups (ie, CI, LI, and CA) within this same patient sample; and
- Whether the discordances differ between men and women.

Materials and Methods
Seventy gypsum model stone diagnostic casts were obtained from 36 female and 34 male patients in a private practice population for evaluation. The mandibular
Among the 70 patients studied, the width of the individual teeth ranged from 1.5 mm to 2 mm of the mean. Specifically, the CIs, LIs, and CAs varied in range from 4.5 mm to 6 mm, 4.5 mm to 7 mm, and 5.5 mm to 8 mm, respectively. Mode data—the value with the highest frequency within a statistical range—did not show an asymmetry in the left and right dentition. Respectively, 50%, 47%, and 31% of the total population exhibited the mean tooth width of 5.5 mm for CI, anterior dentition encompassing the CIs, LIs, and CAs was measured. Fabricated from irreversible hydrocolloid impression material (ie, Jeltrate, Dentsply Caulk, Milford, DE), the casts were immediately fabricated in gypsum stone material mixed under vacuum pressure. Six-inch digital calipers (ie, Avenger Measuring Tools, Boulder City, NV) with LED display SAE/Metric (graduations: 0.01 mm, accuracy: ±0.02 mm, repeatability: 0.01 mm) were employed in order to measure individual tooth width at the widest mesial-distal aspect on obtaining each cast. The digital calipers were calibrated and set to zero prior to each measurement. A single operator performed all cast measurements under 2.5x magnification via surgical loupes (ie, SurgiTel, General Scientific Corp, Ann Arbor, MI).

The criteria of the sample population consisted of nonrestored mandibular anterior teeth and non-orthodontic patients without excessive incisal attrition and/or gingival recession. Anterior tooth crowding was not an obstacle in measurement.14,15 Cases exhibiting diastemata due to tooth malformation were excluded from the sample population. Mandibular tooth width was the only parameter measured in this study.7 The patients ranged in age from 16 to 72 years, and 55 of 70 patients (ie, 79%) were Caucasian with a mean of 42 years old.

Range, mean, median, and mode values were calculated (Table 1). Combined gender distribution discordance of tooth width for the mandibular CI, LI, and CA teeth was calculated (Table 2), as was comparative gender discordance (Tables 3 and 4). Numeric data in Table 1 were rounded to the nearest 0.5 mm, ensuring to make the information would remain clinically applicable, since size differences are not visually perceptible below this value.

### Results
Among the 70 patients studied, the width of the individual teeth ranged from 1.5 mm to 2 mm of the mean. Specifically, the CIs, LIs, and CAs varied in range from 4.5 mm to 6 mm, 4.5 mm to 7 mm, and 5.5 mm to 8 mm, respectively. Mode data—the value with the highest frequency within a statistical range—did not show an asymmetry in the left and right dentition.

Respectively, 50%, 47%, and 31% of the total population exhibited the mean tooth width of 5.5 mm for CI.

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**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth Number</th>
<th>N Statistic</th>
<th>Range Statistic</th>
<th>Minimum Statistic</th>
<th>Maximum Statistic</th>
<th>Mean Statistic</th>
<th>Mean Standard Error</th>
<th>Standard Deviation Statistic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>6.59</td>
<td>.067</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>4.49</td>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>5.85</td>
<td>.063</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>5.29</td>
<td>.048</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>5.26</td>
<td>.053</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>6.61</td>
<td>5.84</td>
<td>.056</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>5.66</td>
<td>7.76</td>
<td>6.61</td>
<td>.067</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Mandible Distribution Percentages: Combined-Gender Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.0% [5.5] 1.0% [4.5] 7.0% [4.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.0% [6.5] 8.0% [5.0] 33.0% [5.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.0% [6.5] 26.0% [5.5] 50.0% [5.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.0% [7.0] 47.0% [6.0] 10.0% [6.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.0% [7.5] 17.0% [6.5] 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0% [8.0] 1.0% [7.0] 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean = 6.50 [N = 140] Mean = 6.00 [N = 139] Mean = 5.50 [N = 138]
Median = 6.50 Median = 6.00 Median = 5.50
Mode = 7.00 Mode = 6.00 Mode = 5.00
StDev = 0.52 StDev = 0.44 StDev = 0.38

Range = 5.50 - 8.00 Range = 4.50 - 7.00 Range = 4.50 - 6.00
6 mm for LI, and 6.5 mm for CA (Figures 8 through 10). As a group, a CI with a width of 5.5 mm, LI with a width of 6 mm, and a CA with a width of 6.5 mm occurred in 42% of the population (Figure 11); 89% of the patients fell within ±0.5 mm of the mean values (Figure 12).

Male patients ranged from 0.5 mm to 1 mm greater in tooth width than female patients for the mandibular CAs only. The majority of males were +0.5 mm and females were -0.5 mm of the combined gender mean for the CA tooth group. There were no gender differences for the mandibular CI and LI tooth groups (Figures 13 and 14). The average discordance and distribution of discordance for CIs revealed 57% for males and 39% for females, indicating slightly greater variation of tooth width for females [Figure 13]. The mean LI values were the same for both at 6 mm, with different distribution frequencies at 54% and 40% for males and females, respectively (Figure 14). While the CA mean distribution frequencies were 50% and 43% for males and females, respectively (Figure 15), the mean values differed by +0.5 mm for male patients. Results of nonparametric Wilcoxon 2-sample test and parametric t test revealed evidence for significant gender effects for the mandibular CA only; no differences were found for the CI and LI tooth groups (Figure 16). The findings of the two tests were consistent.

### Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth Number</th>
<th>#22/#27</th>
<th>#23/#26</th>
<th>#24/#25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>7.00 [N = 68]</td>
<td>6.00 [N = 68]</td>
<td>6.00 [N = 68]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StDev</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>6.00 - 8.00</td>
<td>5.00 - 7.00</td>
<td>4.50 - 6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth Number</th>
<th>#22/#27</th>
<th>#23/#26</th>
<th>#24/#25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>6.00 [N = 72]</td>
<td>6.00 [N = 71]</td>
<td>5.50 [N = 71]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StDev</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>5.50 - 7.50</td>
<td>4.50 - 6.50</td>
<td>4.50 - 6.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
significance of these data is that there exists a range of patient tooth sizes with different confidence levels; therefore, proper diagnosis of patient tooth size is critical before any treatment is rendered. In addition, the absolute mean values for the different size groups of patients are not interchangeable.

The mandibular central incisors exhibited the least variability, with 83% (ie, 5 mm to 5.5 mm) being -0.5 mm of the mean width (ie, 5.5 mm); 7% at 4.5 mm and 10% at 6 mm, respectively. The mandibular LI and CA teeth showed a greater variability (Table 4, Figure 12).

Gender differentiation of tooth size was a major consideration in this study, even though gender differences in tooth shape have not been supported in the dental literature.16 Comparative-gender, tooth-width range for males was consistently 0.5 mm larger, and for females invariably 0.5 mm smaller than the mean for the mandibular canines only. Expanding the mean range by +0.5 mm for males (eg, 6.5 mm to 7 mm) increased the population from 36% to 72% for CA (Figure 17). Decreasing the mean range by 0.5 mm for females (eg, 6.5 mm to 6.5 mm) increased the population from 36% to 67% for CA (Figure 18). Male and female comparative mean values were the same for LI and CI, though distribution frequencies differed. Expanding the range by -0.5 mm, the mean averages increase from 42% to 69% for male LI, 42% to 75% for female LI, 44% to 85% for male CI, and 44% to 80% for female CI—with an increase of 35% from 40% to 75% for both gender groups (Figures 11, 17, 18).

With the aging process, changes in tooth length can occur. The restoration of proper tooth length is, therefore, important in aesthetics and function. Proper tooth length can be derived with the tooth proportion...
Mandibular Lateral Incisor Width
Comparative Gender
Average Discordance and Distribution of Discordances

Figure 14. Comparative-gender mean width discordance percentages for the mandibular LIs. Mean values are identical for LIs in both gender groups at 40% width discordance for females and 54% width discordance for males.

Mandibular Canine Width
Comparative Gender
Average Discordance and Distribution of Discordances

Figure 15. Comparative-gender mean width discordance percentages for the mandibular CAs. Mean values differ between gender groups, with males appearing +0.5 mm wider than females.

Figure 16. Results of nonparametric Wilcoxon 2-sample test and parametric t test revealed evidence for significant gender effects for the mandibular canines. The findings of the two tests were consistent.

equation $L = \frac{W}{\text{tooth proportion \%}}$ (ie, approximately 60% to 70% for the mandibular anterior teeth), once tooth width is established. During aesthetic reconstruction, these values are very useful because they can be applied to their respective gender group with a reasonable level of confidence; 75% for both males (Figure 17) and females (Figure 18).

Conclusion
There is a broad range (ie, 5.5 mm to 8 mm) of individual tooth width for the mandibular anterior teeth within a combined-gender population of Caucasian patients. Despite this, the groups of individual teeth fell within a narrower range, with CIs ranging from 4.5 mm to 6 mm, LIs of 4.5 mm to 7 mm, and CAs measuring 5.5 mm to 8 mm. Approximately 40% of the 70 patients in the study were at the mean value of 5.5 mm width for CI, 6.0 mm for LI, and 6.5 mm for CA. The patient majority, at about 90%, fell within ±0.5 mm of the combined-gender mean value for individual tooth width within each tooth group. The data exhibited a traditional bell-curve distribution frequency. Ten percent of the patients in the study exhibited tooth sizes indicative of small and large tooth width for all tooth groups.
Practical Procedures & Aesthetic Dentistry

Statistically significant gender differences existed for the mandibular CA teeth; no gender differences existed for the CI and LI teeth. Nearly 75% of male patients fell within -0.5 mm of the mean value for CI and LI and +0.5 mm for CA. Approximately 75% of female patients fell within -0.5 mm of the mean value for CI, LI, and CA. Comparative-gender male CA mean values were consistently 0.5 mm greater than the combined-gender CA mean value (ie, 6.5 mm to 7 mm) about 70% of the time. Comparative-gender female mean values were consistently 0.5 mm less than the combined-gender CA mean (ie, 6.5 mm to 6.5 mm) approximately 70% of the time.

In summary, a mean discordance of tooth-width size exists for a given population of male and female patients. Only 42% of the population is clustered around their respective mean tooth width. Expanding the range around the mean by ±0.5 mm, however, increases the discordance from the mean by 42% to almost 90%. Mean values and distribution frequency differed significantly between genders for only the mandibular CA tooth group, finding that females are consistently smaller by 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm than males. There were, however, no gender differences found for the mandibular CI and LI tooth groups.

Mandibular anterior teeth are more consistent in size and variability than maxillary anterior teeth, in which mean discordance values are 50% and 36%, respectively, and 90% (ie, at ±0.5 mm) and 80%, respectively (fn 3). Unlike the maxillary anterior teeth, in which gender differences exist for all tooth groups, only the mandibular CA tooth group showed a gender difference, which is a critical factor in restoration. These findings have clinical relevance in that proper tooth biometry for each individual patient must be diagnosed and identified before any tooth restoration is attempted, in order to create an aesthetically pleasing smile and functional occlusion.

Acknowledgements
The authors express their gratitude to Eugene Hittelman, EdD, New York University College of Dentistry, and Dominik H. Pfleger, PhD, University of Basel, Switzerland, for their support in the preparation of this article. They would also like to thank Dr. Joseph Greeneberg for his continued studies on mandibular anterior tooth aesthetics.

References