Diagnosing palatally displaced maxillary permanent canines (PDC): How do clinicians decide from a dental pantomogram (DPT) and how valid are these decisions?

Dear Consultants,

My name is Elizabeth Graham, I am an orthodontic postgraduate Masters student studying at the School of Clinical Dentistry in Sheffield. As part of my degree I am carrying out a piece of research looking at which features of an initial dental pantomogram (DPT) prompt clinicians to suspect that a maxillary permanent canine is palatally displaced or impacted.

It is hoped that this research will lead to the development of a set of guidelines to help clinicians, orthodontic or otherwise, determine whether a canine is palatally displaced and requires further assessment. It is also hoped that the results of this study will be used to inform further research investigating the effectiveness of interventions intended to improve the position of a displaced maxillary canine (such as removal of the primary canine).

The study has received ethical approval from the University of Sheffield School of Clinical Dentistry Ethics Committee. I may be contacted via email (eagraham1@sheffield.ac.uk) as may the project supervisor, Professor Philip Benson (p.benson@sheffield.ac.uk) of the School of Clinical Dentistry.

I would like to invite you to take part in this online survey assessing canine position, which should take no more than 10 minutes. Your input in this important area of research is vital and greatly appreciated. The survey can be accessed through the following link:

http://freeonlinesurveys.com/app/rendersurvey.asp?sid=acu7pzucl68v20396561

Thank you most sincerely in advance for your input,

Kindest regards,

Elizabeth Graham