

Problems Related to Phonetics

Complaints	Causes	Treatments
Whistle on “S” sounds	Air stream passes unimpeded or with inadequate impedance between the dorsal surface of the tongue and the anterior palate	Increase the palatal resin convex contours lingual to the maxillary central incisors to impede the air stream passing between the tongue and palate. Create rugae if necessary
Lisp on “S” sounds	The air stream passing between the tongue and interior palate is excessively impeded, usually by rugae or excessive resin contour	Reduce occlusal vertical dimension until premolars no longer contact during speech
Maxillary & Mandibular incisors or premolars contact during sibilant (<i>s, sh, z, ch</i>)	Occlusal vertical dimension too great	Reduce occlusal vertical dimension until premolars no longer contact during speech
Clinician observes that incisal edges of maxillary incisors contact the lower lip 1 mm or more labial to the wet/dry junction of lower lip when “F” & “V” sounds are made	Maxillary teeth may be set too far labially	Evaluate lip support and overall appearance of anterior teeth as they are positioned. Reset to a more lingual position as needed. Incisal edge of maxillary incisors should contact the wet/dry junction just lingual to it during production of the “F” & “V” sounds