Abstract: Three treatment options exist to manage congenitally missing lateral incisors: 1) canine substitution, 2) tooth-supported restoration, 3) single-tooth implant. Malocclusion and amount of crowding in the arches, profile of the patient, canine shape and color and lip level are important factors.

In two situations substitution of the canine would be successful: 1) Class II malocclusion with no crowding in the mandibular arch 2) Class I malocclusion with sufficient crowding in the mandibular arch. Generally, a straight profile is ideal for canine substitution. Also micro and mini esthetic of the teeth should be considered in like gingival margin and lip line height, smile line, canine root eminence and golden proportions.

Size and color of the canine and its neighboring teeth are essential factors for substitution. Canine with a wide crown and more convex labial surface is not good choice for substitution because it often needs a significant amount of reduction to achieve a normal occlusion and acceptable esthetics. Also the color of the canine should also be addressed and should approximate that of the central incisor. If it is not, a veneer may be indicated. In the case with no good chance of success with canine substitution, the lateral space should be carefully determined and reserved for future prosthetics or implants. Some temporarily dentures are available for esthetics and functional purposes before growth completion. The success rate of these types of restorations varies widely according to some specific criteria among which could be discussed: the position, mobility, thickness of the abutment teeth and the overall occlusion.