

Orthodontics

improving your bite and smile

Orthodontic Treatment

Orthodontics is a speciality of dentistry that is concerned with the treatment of malocclusions (improper bite). The bite may be affected by tooth irregularities such as malposition and/or disproportionate jaw relationships.

Orthodontic treatment is performed for two main reasons: for cosmetic purposes to improve the look of the smile and also to improve the occlusion or bite.

It is performed on some children but mostly teenagers and more often these days on adults to correct many problems.

Depending on the purpose and each individual case, the orthodontic treatment may involve:

- Extraction of teeth to allow more room for movement
- The fitting of braces – brackets and wires to the teeth
- Speciality devices such as head gear or expansion appliances
- Surgical procedures to expose unerupted teeth or to reposition jaws
- Retainer plates or fixed retainers to stabilise teeth after treatment

Example of Repositioning Teeth



Before



After

Benefits of Orthodontics

More than just straightening teeth to look good, orthodontics is used to correct:

- **Deep overbite** – Where upper front teeth overlap too far over lower teeth
- **Open bite** – When there is a space between the upper and lower front teeth, even when the back teeth are biting together
- **Overjet** – Where the upper front teeth protrude too far over the lower teeth
- **Crossbite** – When teeth come together in the bite, one or more teeth are abnormally positioned causing for example, a lower tooth to come in front of an upper tooth.
- **Malocclusion** – When the relationship of teeth and/or jaws are abnormal

More Benefits

- Easier cleaning – more effective brushing and flossing resulting in better tooth and gum health
- Alleviate pain and dysfunction of the Jaw joints (TMJ)
- May help with speech problems
- More even wear of teeth and dental restorations
- Better functioning of teeth for eating
- Increases personal confidence and satisfaction

Orthodontic Consultation

If the Dentist has diagnosed any abnormalities in the relationship of your teeth or jaws, orthodontics may be the better option to correct these problems. The Dentist will usually refer you to a specialist called an Orthodontist, to be appraised.

This obligation-free orthodontic consultation usually involves taking certain measurements and records such as models and radiographs of the entire mouth, jaw and skull.

A treatment plan is formulated to provide the best outcome possible for your case. This plan will outline what treatment can be undertaken, when is the best time to perform it and how long it is expected to take.