



The Hub Dental Practice



ORTHODONTICS INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT

We ask you to read the following to share some facts about orthodontic treatment which, like any medical or dental treatment, includes some limitations. This information is routinely supplied to anyone considering orthodontic treatment at our practice. The purpose of this document is to inform patients and parents of what to expect during orthodontic treatment and to point out potential risks or problems that may be encountered before or after treatment.

PATIENT CO-OPERATION

As a rule, excellent orthodontic results can be achieved with informed and cooperative patients. Patient cooperation is one of the most important factors in determining whether treatment is completed on time.

To help achieve the most successful results, the patient must do the following:

Keep regularly scheduled appointments

Practice good oral hygiene, including brushing and flossing and seeing a Hygienist every 3 months

Wear orthodontic appliances as indicated

Wear elastics if necessary

Eat proper foods so as not to dislodge the braces (brackets, bands)

Wear retainers after braces are removed

Failure to adhere to instructions can lengthen the treatment time and can adversely affect the quality of the treatment results.

In extreme circumstance, it could be necessary to stop orthodontic treatment.

CAVITIES, SWOLLEN GUMS, WHITE SPOTS

Orthodontic appliances do not cause cavities or swollen gums, but can hold food particles and dental plaque. Cavities, swollen gums and white spots (decalcification) can result from lack of brushing and flossing and poor oral hygiene. They need not occur if good oral hygiene procedures are closely followed. The permanent white lines (decalcification) that are sometimes visible around the area of the brackets signal the early stage of a cavity.

In addition to regular monthly visits for orthodontic work we suggest that orthodontic patients see their dentist at least twice a year for periodic examination and to see a Hygienist every 3 months for cleaning.

LOSS OF TOOTH VITALITY

Loss of tooth vitality (nerve within the tooth dies) can occur with or without orthodontic treatment, as it is usually related to a previous injury to the tooth and may even be a result of a large cavity or large filling in a tooth. If vitality is lost, the tooth usually discolours and requires root canal treatment in order to maintain the health of the tooth. Teeth that require extreme position changes may require root canal therapy in the future (such as impacted or very rotated teeth).

TOOTH RESORPTION

Progressive shortening of the roots of certain teeth may occur in some individuals with or without orthodontic treatment. This is a negative side effect that occurs rarely with fixed appliances or braces. Root shortening (root resorption) can be caused by trauma, injury, excessive forces, impaction of teeth, prolonged treatment and hormonal imbalances. Certain patients seem more predisposed to root resorption than others. One cannot predict for certain when it will occur. We use light orthodontic forces to minimize root resorption.

UNFAVORABLE GROWTH

Generally, unfavourable growth causes orthodontic problems. In the case of younger patients, the treatment plan will be determined on the anticipated amount and direction of facial growth. On occasion, the facial growth does not occur as predicted, and it may be necessary to recommend a change in the treatment objectives and procedures. Abnormal growth is a biological process and is beyond the dentist's control. Growth patterns can be adversely affected by finger, tongue or thumb habits. Persistent mouth breathing (abnormal breathing pattern) may cause facial growth to occur in a more vertical direction. My philosophy is to treat problems early and non-surgically. Only in extreme cases will jaw surgery be necessary to correct growth problems.

JAW JOINT PROBLEMS (TMJ)

Some patients experience jaw joint (temporomandibular joint) problems prior to, during, and after orthodontic treatment.

Usually multiple factors cause this condition. Some of the signs and symptoms of TMJ include clicking, popping, limited mobility and in severe cases, pain and locking of the jaw. Many people experience these symptoms independent of orthodontic treatment and some are even referred for orthodontic therapy to correct these conditions. Occasionally a patient may experience some of the jaw joint symptoms during the movement of the teeth in orthodontic treatment, but usually they will subside after treatment is completed.

Jaw joint problems are not all "bite" related, as tension and trauma appear to play a role in the frequency and severity of jaw joint pain. The problems are more common in females and seem to get worse with age. In many cases muscle spasms are the cause of pain. In some cases functional orthopaedic appliances such as expansion appliances and lower jaw advancement appliances are helpful in preventing or treating these problems.

I hereby acknowledge I have been informed to my satisfaction of all the treatment considerations, including benefits of treatment, risks of treatment, risks of non-treatment, and the proposed orthodontic treatment plan and that I now consent to treatment.

Name _____

Date of Birth ____//____//____

Signature _____

Date ____//____//____