

Two Phase Orthodontics – A Special Kind of Treatment

FIRST PHASE

The goal of first phase treatment is to develop the jaw size in order to accommodate all the permanent teeth and to relate the upper and lower jaw to each other.

Children sometimes exhibit early signs of jaw problems as they grow and develop. An upper or lower jaw that is growing too much or not enough can be recognized at an early age. If children after age 6 are found to have this jaw discrepancy, they are candidates for early orthodontic treatment.

Because they are growing rapidly, children can benefit enormously from an early phase orthodontic treatment utilizing appliances that direct the growth relationship of the upper and lower jaws. Thus, a good foundation can be established providing adequate room for eruption of all permanent teeth. This early correction may prevent later removal of permanent teeth to correct overcrowding and/or surgical procedures to align the upper and lower jaws. Leaving such a condition untreated until all permanent teeth erupt could result in a jaw discrepancy too severe to achieve an ideal result with braces.

Orthodontic records will be necessary to determine the type of appliances to be used, the duration of treatment time, and the frequency of visits. Records consist of models of the teeth, x-rays, and photographs.

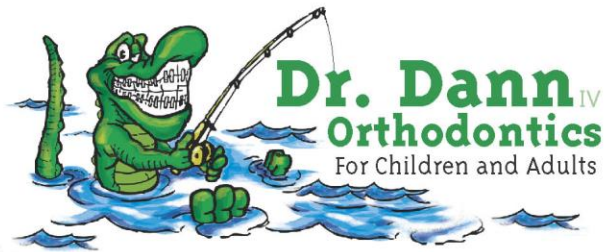
RESTING PERIOD

In this phase, the remaining permanent teeth are allowed to erupt. Retaining devices are not usually recommended since they may interfere with eruption. It is best to allow the existing permanent teeth some freedom of movement while final eruption of teeth occurs. A successful first phase will have created room for teeth to find an eruption path. Otherwise, they may become impacted or severely displaced.

In other words, at the end of the first phase treatment, teeth are not in their final position. This will be determined and accomplished in the second phase of treatment.

Selective removal of certain primary (baby) teeth may be in the best interest of enhancing eruption during this resting phase. Therefore, periodic recall appointments for observation are necessary, usually on a 3 to 6 month basis.

Not all children have a resting phase.



Two Phase Orthodontics – A Special Kind of Treatment

SECOND PHASE

Each tooth has an exact location in the mouth where it is in harmony with the lips, cheeks, tongue, and other teeth. When this equilibrium is established, the teeth will function together properly. They will stay healthy and look attractive. This is the goal for the second or final phase of treatment.

At the beginning of the first phase, orthodontic records were made, and a diagnosis and treatment plan established. Certain types of appliances were used in the first phase dictated by the problem. The second phase is initiated when all permanent teeth erupt, and usually requires braces on all the teeth for an average of 18-24 months. Retainers are worn after this phase.

ADVANTAGES OF TWO-PHASE ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

Two phase orthodontic treatment is a very specialized process which encompasses teeth straightening and physical facial changes. With emphasis today on living longer, staying healthy, and looking attractive, the scope and demands for excellence requires optimum treatment results. The major advantage of a two phase treatment is to maximize the opportunity to accomplish the ideal, healthy, functional, esthetic result that will remain stable throughout a lifetime.

FEES

The Phase I fee will be assessed according to the difficulty of the case.

The Phase II fee will be assessed at the time when Phase II treatment is recommended.

The fee will be in accordance to the difficulty of the treatment needed.

Patient: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Orthodontist: _____

Date: _____

TC: _____

Date: _____