your Smile
American Association of Orthodontists
Malocclusion

“Bad Bite”

Can lead to

• Tooth decay
• Gum disease
• Tooth loss.
Orthodontist

A Dental Specialist

• Diagnosis
• Prevention
• Treatment of dental and facial irregularities.
All orthodontists are dentists.

About 6% of dentists are orthodontists.
Orthodontist

A Dental Specialist

• 2-3 years academic specialty training.
Works with your dentist.
Treats all ages

- Children
- Teens
- Adults.
Dr. Edward Angle pioneered a system of categorizing dental irregularities.
Dr. Edward Angle founded the AAO.

American Association of Orthodontists
Class I
Teeth are crowded, irregular or poorly spaced.
Class II
Overbite.
Classifying Malocclusions

Class III
Underbite.
Genetic Malocclusions

• Crowding
• Teeth that protrude
• Extra teeth
• Spacing
• Missing teeth
• Uneven jaw growth.
Acquired Malocclusions

• Thumb sucking
• Dental disease
• Baby teeth lost too early or late
• Accidents.
An uncorrected bad bite may lead to

- Tooth decay
- Gum disease
- Tooth loss
- Poor self-esteem
Malocclusions

An uncorrected bad bite may lead to

• Abnormal wear of teeth
• Difficulty in chewing and speaking
• Stress on bone and gum tissue.
Early Indicators

Signs your child may need to see an orthodontist

• Early or late loss of baby teeth
• Difficulty in chewing or biting
• Breathing through the mouth
• Thumb-sucking beyond age 6
• Crowded, misplaced or blocked-out teeth.
Early Indicators

Signs your child may need to see an orthodontist

• A jaw that is too far forward or back
• Protruding teeth
• Upper and lower teeth that don’t meet, or meet in an abnormal way
• An unbalanced facial appearance
• Grinding or clenching of the teeth.
Orthodontic Check-Up

No later than Age 7.
Orthodontic Check-Up

- Check problems with teeth or jaw growth
- Determine if treatment is needed
- Advise when treatment should start.
• Immediate treatment may not be recommended
• May monitor your child’s development.
When advised, early orthodontic treatment may be beneficial.
Guide the growth of young bones.
Removable or fixed.
Gentle pressure over time.
Orthodontic Treatment

Active Treatment.
Wearing Braces

1 – 3 Years
Varies by
• Severity of problem
• Patient compliance
• Oral hygiene.
Wearing Braces

Best Results

• Avoid hard or sticky foods
• Follow instructions
• Keep appointments.
Keep the teeth in their new positions.
Many patients continue periodic orthodontic visits.
Total Oral Care

• Orthodontist
• Dentist
• Other dental specialists as needed.
For Adults Too

1 in 5 new patients is an adult.
Your orthodontist will consider the health of your:

• Teeth
• Gums
• Supporting Bone.
Looking Good In Braces
Looking Good In Braces

• Smaller
• Less noticeable
• More comfortable.
Looking Good In Braces

- Fun new designs
- Choice of colors.
Dependent upon

• Type of problem
• Complexity of treatment
• Length of treatment.
The Cost

More affordable than ever

• Lifetime benefits
• A great value!
Successful orthodontic treatment is the result of TEAMWORK.

Orthodontist

Family Dentist

Patient

Orthodontic Staff

Patient’s Parents
The orthodontist provides the expertise.
The family dentist monitors the health of the teeth and gums.
The patient carefully follows instructions.
The results can be dramatic.
Before

A new smile.

After
New confidence.
Better oral health.
See Your Orthodontist
Any Questions?
Visit us at www.braces.org