



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.**



# Orthodontist

**All orthodontists  
are dentists.**

**About 6% of  
dentists are  
orthodontists.**



# Orthodontist

## A Dental Specialist

- 2-3 years academic specialty training.



# Orthodontist

**Works with  
your dentist.**



# Orthodontist

**Treats all ages**

- Children
- Teens
- Adults.





# 1880

**Dr. Edward Angle  
pioneered a system  
of categorizing  
dental irregularities.**



# 1900

**Dr. Edward Angle  
founded the AAO.**



American Association of **Orthodontists**

# Classifying Malocclusions

## Class I

Teeth are crowded, irregular or poorly spaced.



# Classifying Malocclusions



**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.

# Malocclusions

**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.

# Orthodontic Check-Up



- Immediate treatment may not be recommended
- May monitor your child's development.

# Early Treatment



**When advised, early orthodontic treatment may be beneficial.**

# Orthodontic Treatment





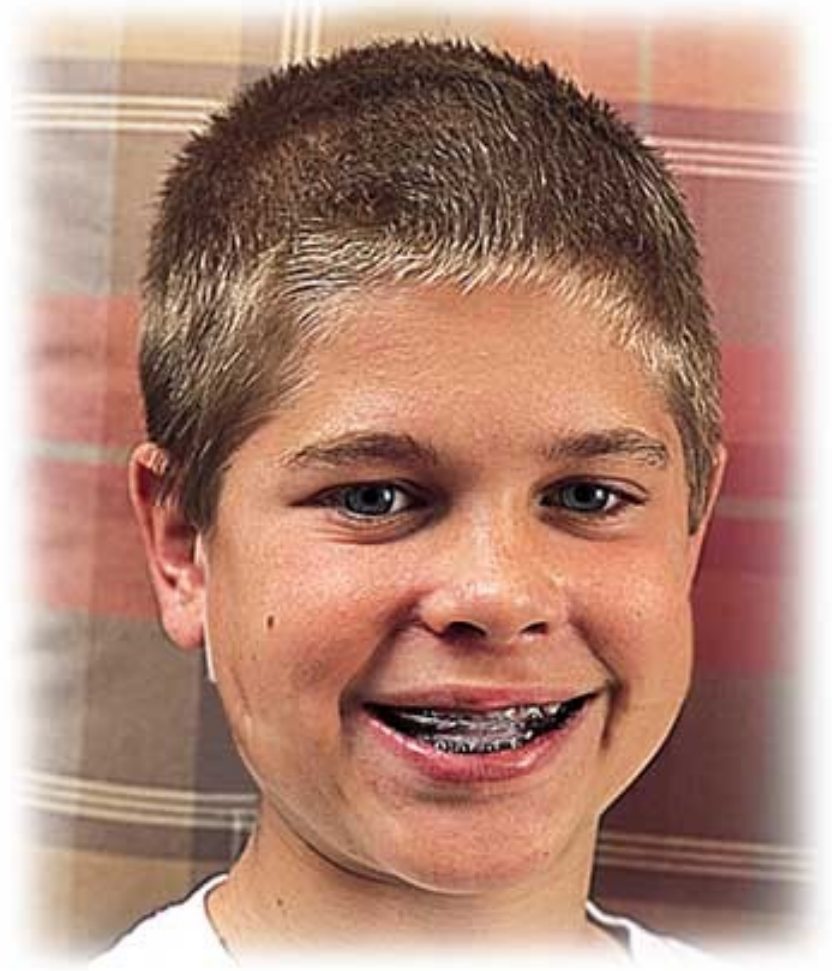
# Orthodontic Treatment

Guide the growth  
of young bones.



# Orthodontic Treatment

Removable or fixed.



# Orthodontic Treatment

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.



# Retainers

Keep the teeth in their new positions.



# After Care



**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.





# Age Is Not A Factor

**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.



# The Cost

## **Dependent upon**

- Type of problem
- Complexity of treatment
- Length of treatment.



# The Cost

**More affordable than ever**

- Lifetime benefits
- A great value!

# Teamwork



**Successful orthodontic treatment  
is the result of TEAMWORK.**

Orthodontist

Family Dentist

Patient

Orthodontic Staff

Patient's Parents

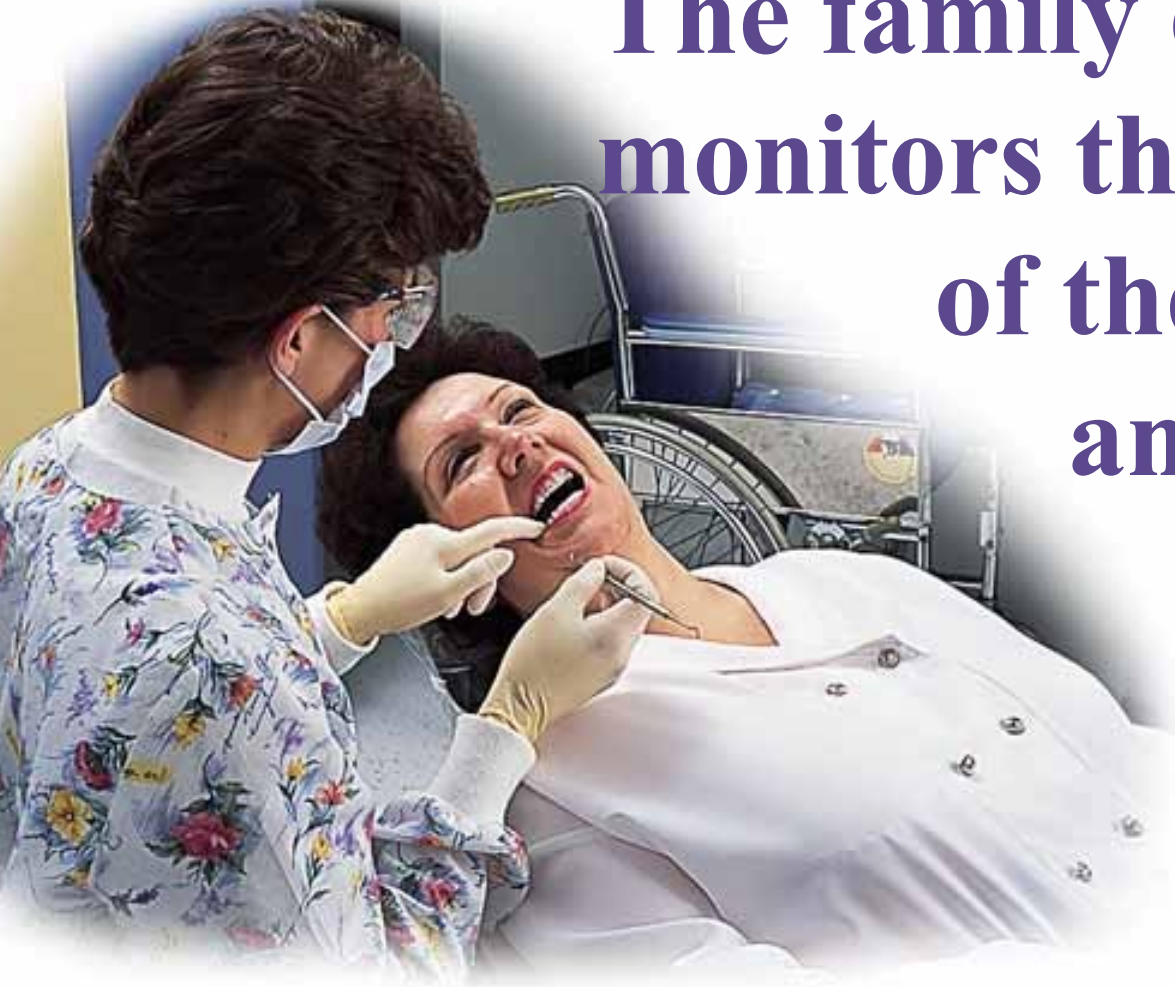
# Teamwork

**The orthodontist provides the expertise.**



# Teamwork

**The family dentist  
monitors the health  
of the teeth  
and gums.**



# Teamwork

**The patient carefully follows instructions.**







**Before**



**During**



**After**

**The results can be dramatic.**



**Before**

**After**

*A new smile.*



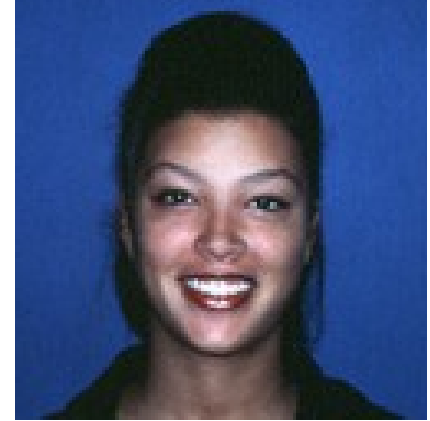
Before



After



Before



After

*New confidence.*



**Before**



**After**



**Before**



**After**

***Better oral health.***

# See Your Orthodontist



American Association of Orthodontists



# Any Questions?



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*Visit us at*  
[www.braces.org](http://www.braces.org)



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