



Dr. Eckler • Dr. Black • Dr. Leung
— ORTHODONTISTS —
"SmileSolutions"

INFORMED CONSENT

In the vast majority of orthodontic cases significant improvements can be achieved. While the benefits of a pleasing smile, agreeable facial appearance and healthy teeth is widely appreciated, orthodontic treatment remains an elective procedure.

Orthodontics is similar to many other disciplines, in that a great deal of the result depends on factors over which the doctor has little or no control. Factors such as genetic growth patterns, tissue response, muscle forces, and patient cooperation are largely outside the control of the orthodontist providing the treatment.

Like any other treatment of the body there are some inherent risks and limitations. These are seldom serious enough to discourage treatment but should be considered before making the decision to begin orthodontics. You are urged to read the following information and ask us any questions you may have.

PATIENT COOPERATION – very important for finishing treatment on time

Insufficient and improper wear of appliances, breakages of appliances and missed appointments prevent us from obtaining the expected results and will significantly lengthen treatment time. Excellent cooperation greatly reduces any risks involved.

HEAD OR NECK GEAR – instructions must be followed carefully

Safety devices have been developed and are being used but there is no fool-proof device against carelessness. Never remove head gear from the mouth without first removing the elastic spring force. Never wear when playing contact sports or rough-housing. Failure to do this could result in a face or eye injury.

ORAL HYGIENE – the key to healthy teeth and gums

Excellent oral hygiene is essential. Poor hygiene may result in cavities, decalcification (white marks), discoloured teeth and gum disease. If poor hygiene continues, bone loss around the teeth can occur. We will provide you with an oral hygiene kit and instructions. If you need extra help please ask.

NON-VITAL TEETH

On rare occasions one or more teeth can become non-vital during orthodontic treatment. Generally this occurs owing to earlier trauma (i.e. hitting the tooth) to the teeth which may have occurred several years previously. Also it occurs on rare occasions for no known reason. The actual orthodontic movement has not been shown to cause non-vitality. The tooth involved usually turns darker in colour and may exhibit pain to hold and cold. Root canal treatment can generally save these teeth.

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ROOT RESORPTION – shortening of the roots

This can occur *with or without* orthodontic treatment. Under healthy conditions this is usually not a problem. Injury of the teeth, impacted teeth or glandular problems elsewhere can also cause shortening. We ask your dentist to regularly take periapical x-rays to identify and inform us if any resorption occurs.

TOOTH RECONTOURING

This may be done at various stages of orthodontic treatment. It may consist of narrowing the teeth in order to eliminate minor crowding or altering the edges of the teeth to facilitate the placement of the braces or improve the tooth's appearance.

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT (TMJ) DISORDERS

Problems in the jaw joint may occur before, during or after orthodontic treatment. Tooth position, bite and even personal stress can be a factor in this condition. Many individuals who have never had orthodontic treatment have TMJ symptoms. Slight adjustment of the bite may be recommended at some point during treatment.

GROWTH PATTERNS – facial growth during and after orthodontic treatment

Usual hereditary or developmental skeletal patterns can adversely affect the progress and results of orthodontic treatment. Facial changes, dental changes or both can occur due to these growth patterns. If there is significant change a surgical correction may be required and you will be referred to an appropriate specialist.

STABILITY – the movement of teeth following treatment

We expect a large portion of the correction to be retained. It is to be expected that there will be some adaptive changes in your mouth as the teeth function in their best manner. We do not expect them to stay exactly as we place them since changes will occur as function goes on. This individualization represents the natural changes in the dental arches and is similar to the changes which occur in other proportions of the body as we grow older. Lifetime retention is required to best maintain stability.

DENTAL CHECK-UPS – regular visits are extremely important

All necessary restorative dental work must be completed before orthodontic treatment. It is essential to maintain regular dental check-ups at least every 6 months at your general dentist throughout orthodontic treatment. Adults are advised to see their dentist for cleanings every 3 months during treatment. We do not check for cavities or diagnose gum disease.

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