

For smiles that sparkle

BY DR DEBORAH SYKES

I WOULD like to tell you more about orthodontics and what orthodontic treatment is, so that you can decide whether you might need it.

This article is the first part on a series of informative orthodontic articles to answer some commonly asked questions about orthodontics – so, here we go.

Why orthodontic treatment?

The three main reasons for orthodontics are:

- Straight teeth are easier to keep healthy
- Your bite will be better so you can eat your food easily and
- Straight teeth improve confidence and you smile more.

What is orthodontic treatment?

There are many different types of orthodontic treatment:

- Removable plates to correct minor tooth crowding and some jaw problems
- Growth plates to correct the alignment of

the jaws

- Fixed braces to straighten crooked, crowded teeth or close spaced teeth
- Rarely surgery is required to correct jaw problems in adult patients
- Treatment time for braces may vary between six months and 24 months, depending on the problem being corrected.

What age should you see the orthodontist?

Children for their first visit can be aged from seven years and up. Lots of adults have treatment too, you are never too old!

When should treatment start?

Many treatments (plates) start while children are growing – around the seven to nine-year-old mark.

Fixed braces start when most of the second teeth have erupted 11-14 years old.

Some treatments (surgery of jaws), start when the face has stopped growing.

What will happen at my first visit?

We will look at your teeth to see whether they

are crooked, gappy, missing etc., whether your jaws match up properly and if your bite is correct. There are many different types of treatment depending on the problem with your teeth.

What happens if I need to start orthodontic treatment?

An examination, photographs, x-rays and moulds of your teeth are recorded so we can recommend the best treatment for you.

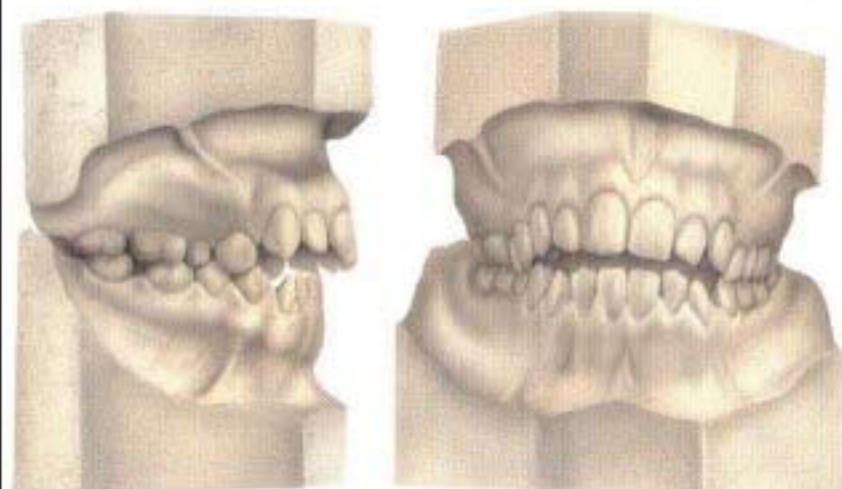
How much will orthodontic treatment cost?

Many people think that orthodontic treatment is too expensive, but we can arrange a payment plan so that you can afford to smile.

What do I do if I want orthodontic treatment and a beautiful smile?

You can ask your dentist to refer you or you can ring the surgery direct for an exam on 5331 9489 as no referral is necessary for health fund purposes.

We would love to give you something to smile about.



Models made from moulds



X-ray of the teeth and jaws

