

ADVANCE ORTHODONTICS

Introductory Information

Welcome to our office! We are honored that you have chosen us to provide your (or your child's) orthodontic care, and we look forward to serving you. It is our desire to address your concerns during the first visit, the **examination**. This appointment will last approximately one hour.

Orthodontics is the treatment of **malocclusion** (misalignment of the teeth and discrepancy of the bite) to achieve at least one and usually two goals:

1. Correction of the bite to improve the fit of the teeth, facilitate cleaning the teeth, chewing, digestion, and your general health.
2. Improvement of **facial appearance** — a more attractive smile and often an improvement in facial contour.

For children, the determination of when to treat depends on the nature and extent of the malocclusion. Usually a malocclusion is better treated in a single phase, when all the permanent teeth are present. Certain malocclusions, however, lend themselves best to beginning treatment while some baby teeth are still present, but these usually require a second phase of treatment later.

Some of the problems that can be helped by orthodontic treatment include spacing or crowding of the teeth, protruding or "buck" teeth, tilting of teeth into spaces created by tooth loss, abnormally positioned teeth, incorrect alignment of the jaws, and discrepancies in the way the upper and lower teeth fit together. Problems such as chronic headaches, soreness of the jaws and neck muscles, and nightly grinding of teeth may possibly be related to malocclusion, though not always.

No one is ever too old to begin orthodontic treatment! In general, tooth position can be improved at any age, even though there is a tendency to associate orthodontics with children and teens. As long as the gums and the bone supporting your teeth are healthy, then age is not a factor. When not healthy, the condition may be overcome by initial preparatory therapy. The detailed information that you have provided in the *Medical and Dental History*, the x-rays that will be taken, and the observations that Dr. Karotkin will note during the examination will allow for a general diagnosis. After he has completed the examination, he will address your concerns and answer the following questions:

1. Is there an orthodontic problem?
2. If so, what is it?
3. Can it be corrected?
4. When should it be corrected?
5. What will be involved in correcting it?
6. How long will it take to correct?

The next step is to collect diagnostic records, the data necessary for Dr. Karotkin to provide an accurate diagnosis and develop a precise course of treatment, or **Treatment Plan**, that will correct your malocclusion.

DIAGNOSTIC RECORDS

Each patient's malocclusion presents a unique set of problems that requires a diagnosis and a treatment plan that are specific to each individual patient. No two patients present with the exact same set of problems, and therefore, everyone is treated as an individual. The complete diagnosis will be based on records compiled from several sources. A photographic study of your face and teeth will be conducted. Impressions of upper and lower teeth (from which dental models will be fabricated) and head X-rays (from which a skeletal and dental analysis will be conducted) will also be done.

The fee for the compilation of records, the diagnostic study and treatment planning by Dr. Karotkin, and the treatment discussion is *usually* between \$295 and \$420. This fee is due on the day that the records are taken, but it will be deducted from your case fee once treatment begins. The records appointment will last approximately one hour. Some malocclusions are very complex and may require orthodontics combined with treatment from other specialists and/or your general dentist. If necessary, Dr. Karotkin will recommend appropriate consultations for you and coordinate a "team approach" to treatment.

TREATMENT DISCUSSION

If Dr. Karotkin considers treatment advisable after having analyzed the case carefully, he will explain his recommendations to you at the treatment discussion. If he recommends services by other dental professionals, those fees will be in addition to your quoted orthodontic case fee. This appointment will last approximately one hour. Arrangements for the payment of fees vary; however, there is no interest or handling charge on accounts if kept current.

Dr. Karotkin and the staff of Advance Orthodontics have made a commitment to provide exceptional care for you and your family. Thank you for giving us the privilege of serving you!