



YOUR GUIDE TO
CHILDREN'S ORTHODONTICS

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WHY ARE MY CHILD'S TEETH CROOKED?

And what other problems should I look out for?

One of the most common questions we receive from parents is: "Why are my child's teeth crooked?" Unfortunately, there isn't one specific answer to this question.

Teeth can grow crooked for a number of different reasons, including:

- Genetic influences
- The child's habits (thumb sucking, chewing on one side)
- Jaw growth deformities
- Serious oral conditions

Common problems

The most common reasons children require orthodontic treatment, include:

Overcrowding – teeth may be too big or too close together resulting in poor alignment.

Spacing Issues – teeth may be too small or too far apart.

Buck Teeth – the upper jaw grows too much and sticks out, or the lower jaw does not grow enough.

Overbite – when the upper jaw bites down too far.

Underbite – when the lower jaw outgrows the upper jaw.

Openbite – when back teeth bite together but the front teeth do not.

Crossbite – where upper jaw is too narrow, this causes the lower jaw to swing to one side and the back teeth to mesh.

Crooked Teeth – teeth are not positioned properly, can further affect supporting teeth.

Missing Teeth – opposing and adjacent teeth can move into these spaces, this can cause further muscle, skeletal and jaw complications.

Impacted Teeth – where teeth do not have sufficient space to erupt.

Ectopic Teeth – where teeth have developed in the wrong position.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT?

Treatment at an early age can reduce:

- Risks of tooth decay and cavities
- Risk of gum disease
- Risk of tooth loss
- Tooth wear (having an incorrect bite can result in tooth wear)
- Gum damage (i.e. with a deep overbite, front teeth can bite into the gum)
- Jaw problems, which can cause damage and pain
- Alignment problems
- Speech difficulties (i.e. overbite, under bite)

Treating orthodontic problems now can be less costly than doing it later.

Not only will orthodontic treatment correct functional imbalances in the bite and facial structure, but it will also help shape a beautiful smile. By having early treatment, your child can minimise or eliminate serious skeletal, dental and muscular problems that can develop in later years. This can reduce the risks of having more complex and costly restorative dental care.



WHAT AGE SHOULD I BRING MY CHILD IN FOR AN ORTHODONTIC APPOINTMENT?

Our specialist orthodontists can usually identify the age or whether your child may need braces. Your child can have their first consultation at our orthodontic clinic as young as 6 or 7 years of age.

However, just because your child has an orthodontic assessment at an early age, it does not necessarily mean that treatment will take place immediately. Generally, orthodontic treatment will take place during adolescence. However, when problems are identified earlier, while your child's bones are still developing, there can be some major benefits to undergoing what's known as growth modification treatment.



WILL YOUR CHILD BENEFIT FROM GROWTH MODIFICATION TREATMENT?

While it sounds a little strange, growth modification could actually help reduce the likelihood of your child needing complex orthodontic treatment such as jaw surgeries later in their life.

Growth modification treatments involve the use of a functional appliance which can help correct issues, without necessarily needing to remove any teeth.

How does growth modification work?

As its name suggested, growth modification treatment modifies the growth of the bone. That's why it's more common for this technique to be used on younger patients who are still growing and have more pliable bone tissue. Although, it should be noted that it is possible for some adults to undergo this treatment.

A specially made appliance can modify the growth of the patient's bone and gradually move their teeth and jaw to a more ideal position. As we mentioned earlier, by correcting this during the patient's growth stage, it is often possible to avoid the need for tooth extraction and jaw surgeries. It can also work to improve a patient's overall profile.

What age should growth modification treatment begin?

The ideal time for a patient to undergo growth modification treatment is generally between the ages of 11 and 17. In other words, during adolescence, while the body is still growing and starting to move toward its final adult form.

Growth modification benefits include:

- Better facial symmetry and alignment
- Correction of a cross-bite, open bite, overbite, and underbite
- Re-adjusting crooked or crowded teeth
- Avoid the need for invasive treatment (tooth extraction or jaw surgeries)

Dr Larry Li and Dr Kyoko Hibino can identify if your child will benefit from growth modification treatment, and which appliance will be best suited to their unique needs.



WHAT TYPES OF ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT ARE AVAILABLE?

Metal Braces

Metal braces are the most commonly used and cost effective orthodontic treatment, able to address the overall function of your smile. While conventional braces are the most visible of orthodontic treatments, they have certainly come a long way over the years, and are now lighter and more efficient than ever before. Coloured elastic bands can also be added to the braces to make them a little more fun and fashionable for your child.

Ceramic Braces

Are you looking for a more discreet option to braces with equal benefits? While they are not invisible, ceramic tooth-coloured braces can address the same functional concerns as traditional braces in a more discreet manner.

Lingual Braces

The science behind lingual braces is nothing short of amazing. They can address almost the same concerns as traditional or ceramic braces, but they are attached to the back of your teeth. Many people undergo lingual braces without anyone ever noticing.

Eligibility for lingual braces is not a question of age as much as it is a question of tooth length; generally it's only suited to slightly older patients.

Invisalign and Invisalign Teen

Invisalign is a revolutionary orthodontic treatment which completely does away with the metal brackets and wires, instead utilising a series of clear removable aligners to shift the teeth.

Invisalign Teen is an option which accommodates partially erupted teeth, so your child's smile can continue to develop naturally whilst they undergo treatment. As they are removable, it's important children understand they must wear their aligners for the minimum time each day.

Plates

Plates are a removable, hard plastic appliance which fits around the top teeth, the bottom teeth, or even both, and are usually recommended for younger children to fix minor crowding or bite issues. Springs and wires in the plate can either push the teeth into their desired position, or hold them in their current position as the adult teeth erupt. Because these wires and springs are not fixed to the teeth, the plate can be removed for eating and brushing. Due to their removable nature, the key to the success of this treatment course is ensuring your child does wear their plate.



WHAT IS THE TREATMENT PROCESS?

Initial Consultation

Your child's first visit at Modern Orthodontics involves a detailed examination of their facial form, jaw and oral structures, tooth alignment and bite relationships (occlusion).

We will address any concerns your child may be experiencing, including problems with swallowing chewing, speech, and jaw clicking/popping.

Where applicable, diagnostic records will be obtained to fully evaluate their jaw and teeth positioning; this can include X-Rays, photographs and mouth moulds.

Once this initial consultation is conducted, Dr Larry Li or Dr Kyoko Hibino will use this information to explore the various orthodontic treatment options suitable to your child's needs, time frame and associated costs. At Modern Orthodontics, we offer lingual braces, clear braces, Invisalign and Invisalign teen.

Traditional Orthodontic Treatment Procedure

Stage 1 (Alignment) – Most of the visible changes occur very quickly, particularly within the first 6 months of treatment. During this time, the irregular and incorrectly positioned teeth are brought into alignment by the highly flexible arch wires.

Stage 2 (Bite correction and space closure) - Bite correction and space closure is a slower stage which includes the use of elastics and stronger arch wires. To keep your child's treatment progression on track, it's important to follow your orthodontist's care instructions. This stage generally takes between 6 - 9 months.

Stage 3 (Detailing and finishing) – Elastic wear is continued to position individual teeth, producing an aesthetically pleasing smile and functional bite. This step usually takes between 3 - 6 months.

Stage 4 (Retention and retainers) – This is the final and arguably most important stage of the orthodontic procedure. Our teeth have a natural tendency to crowd and overlap as we age. Therefore, to prevent this from occurring, it is necessary to wear a retainer after the treatment process. This is typically only at night.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Our fees are related to the complexity and length of your orthodontic treatment.

As a general estimate, a complete treatment with full or partial braces can range from \$2500 to \$7000. Some patients do not require comprehensive treatment and a suitable alternative may be available that meets your requirements. In some cases, costs for very minor cases may be as little as \$800.

For Invisalign, minor cases can start from as low as \$2000 while our average Invisalign starts from \$6000, with payment plans available.

At your initial consultation we will give you a quote for the options discussed with you. We are completely transparent with our processes and ensure there are no hidden costs. We also offer payment plans to help make your required treatment fit within your budget.



OUR TECHNOLOGY

Self-ligating technology

At Modern Orthodontics, our metal, clear and lingual braces treatments all use self-ligating technology. Self-Ligating braces eliminate the need for elastic or metal ties, and instead use a permanently installed moveable component to entrap the wire.

Self-ligating braces present a range of benefits over traditional braces systems, benefits from appearance, feel and function, to maintenance and treatment time.

If you'd like to learn more about our self-ligating braces technology, please don't hesitate to contact our practice.

Acceleident® Melbourne

In addition to the range of orthodontic options we offer at Modern Orthodontics, we are proud to provide our patients access to the revolutionary Acceleident® treatment.

What is Acceleident®?

Acceleident® is a clinically proven, state-of-the-art technology, used to reduce orthodontic treatment time.

How does Acceleident® work?

Through the use of gentle micropulses, called SoftPulse Technology®, bone remodelling is accelerated, allowing teeth to move up to 50% faster. This is an innovative treatment which we are proud to offer our patients at Modern Orthodontics.

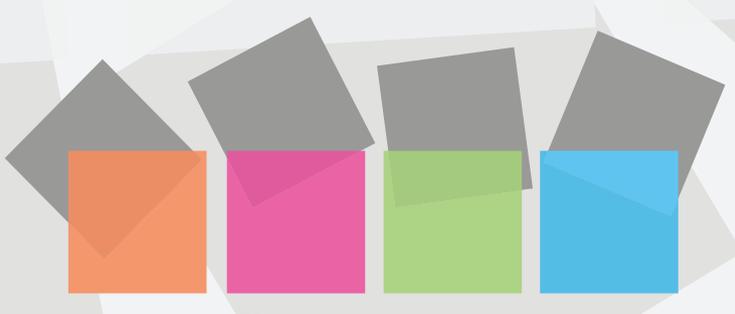
It is used for 20 minutes daily at home during your treatment.

Why do patients choose Acceleident®?

Many of our patients would like to straighten their teeth; however, they do not want to experience a lengthy treatment time. Acceleident® can be a great solution for these patients. Acceleident® has been known to cut a patient's treatment time in half. Some patients then only need braces for as little as six to eight months.

For interested patients, we can discuss combining Acceleident® with your orthodontic treatment during your consultation.





MODERN ORTHODONTICS

The team at Modern Orthodontics are excited to offer the full range of orthodontic treatments to patients living in Melbourne from our two convenient Preston and Mount Waverley locations.

WE PROVIDE A COMPLETELY
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR CONSULTATION](#)

During your initial consultation, our orthodontists will assess your child's teeth to determine which treatment would best suit their particular orthodontic concerns. During consultation we can also provide you with expected costs and treatment times.

If you'd like to make an appointment or book a free consultation, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.

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