

# TOP 10 THINGS

YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE CHOOSING

YOUR FAMILY'S ORTHODONTIST



## 1. Is The Doctor A Specialist?

Orthodontists receive an additional 2-3 years of specialized education, beyond dental school, to learn the proper way to straighten and align teeth. Orthodontists practice orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics exclusively. All orthodontists are dentists, but only 6% of dentists are orthodontists. Look for the seal of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). Only orthodontic specialists can belong to the AAO.



## 2. When Should I Have An Evaluation?

Children should be evaluated early (age 7) to determine the best time to start treatment. If treatment is prescribed for a later time, the child should be periodically evaluated in a pre-orthodontic guidance program. These patients should have periodic visits to check on tooth eruption and jaw relationships. Most parents are shocked that their first or second-grader has been referred to the orthodontist. Although the overwhelming majority of patients this age do not require early treatment, the American Association of Orthodontists recommends a screening by the age of 7 in order to rule out possible problems that can be much harder to correct in later years.

## 3. Am I Too Old For Orthodontics?

Orthodontic treatment is possible at any age, but there is an ideal time when the most conservative techniques will produce the best results. The orthodontic specialist is specifically trained to determine this ideal time. Skeletal (jaw size) discrepancy treatment must be initiated while there is enough growth remaining, otherwise, compromises and compensations will be needed.





#### 4. Is The First Visit Free Of Charge?

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#### 5. Do You Treat Adults?

Orthodontics is not just for kids! In fact 20% of orthodontic patients in the United States are adults. Many adults are finding out how a healthy and attractive smile is important to their health and the way they feel about themselves. Others choose to avoid a lifetime of crooked teeth for health concerns or problems with their bite.



#### 6. How Has Technology Improved Braces?

Orthodontics isn't what it used to be. Computer-designed braces and wires can dramatically increase the precision of tooth movement and shorten treatment time. Tie-free braces systems promote more comfort and more efficient treatment. Clear braces offer a cosmetically pleasing alternative while Invisalign offers the patient a brace-free option! Invisalign now has a special treatment system just for teens. Orthodontists can even place braces behind your teeth, providing another esthetic option for adults and teens. When talking about Invisalign, ask your orthodontist if he/she is an Elite Invisalign provider that can correct complex issues with Invisalign.



## 7. Does The Quoted Fee Include retainers?

The most important part to achieving a straight smile is keeping it that way. There is an option to get retainers in pairs. Should you lose or break one, you have a backup retainer that can be worn.



## 8. Does The Practice Charge For Emergency Appointments?

Very little discomfort can be anticipated with braces. Adjustments for poking wires and loose appliances are typically provided free of charge. Damaged or broken appliances due to less than optimal compliance with dietary restrictions may result in repair charges, however. Please do your best to avoid breaking your braces. Broken braces can result in delayed treatment and compromised results.

## 9. Does The Practice Offer Flexible Financing?

We can offer a number of affordable payment options. Zero-down, no-interest payment plans are available to help those patients who really want braces, but cannot afford a large down payment. For your convenience, look for an office that accepts most insurance and will work hard to help you receive the maximum benefit from your dental insurance.



## 10. Does The Office Make My Child Feel Special?

Let's face it, orthodontics is largely an elective procedure with no shortage of providers to deliver what you need. Your orthodontist should strive to make each visit to the office something to smile about!