

Informed Consent for Orthodontics

Congratulations on your decision to pursue orthodontic treatment for your child (or yourself). We are confident that the outcome will be well worth your investment. We look forward to working with you to achieve the best results possible. Success depends on keeping your appointments, maintaining oral hygiene and faithfully wearing all appliances as directed by your dentist.

First you'll see a hygienist or certified dental assistant to have a clean, photos and impressions made. Your dentist uses three diagnostic records to formulate your treatment plan, a custom model plan that incorporates the available techniques and technology to treat your case in the most efficient way. The rest of the case study is done. When the case study is done we set up a visit or talk by phone to inform you how we would treat your case. If you are uncomfortable with our treatment plan, this would be the time to ask another provider for a second opinion. It's important that you understand the treatment plan and have confidence in your provider from the start. In orthodontics there is more than one way to treat a case and different providers will vary in their treatment methods.

We can treat about 90% of the cases that come to us here at Eastford Dental Clinic. A smaller number of cases are complex and require an orthodontist. It's important for you to understand that Dr. Ed Thomas is not an orthodontist, a dentist who specializes in orthodontics, but a general dentist. However, he has completed many hours of extra study and study in orthodontics techniques. You treated about 200 children and adults and has 10 years of experience. If you would rather be treated by an orthodontist we would be glad to refer you to a nearby one right. All you have to do is ask us and we will refer you to one of the two excellent orthodontists in Grand Falls. Also, if we study your case and discover it is too complex to treat here, your records will be forwarded to the Orthodontist of your choice.

If you decide to undergo treatment at our clinic, we will schedule your first visit to place appliances and/or extract teeth if necessary. At this visit we require you to pay one third of the estimated cost of your treatment. The balance will be divided up into monthly payments spread over the estimated treatment time, so that your treatment is paid off at about the same time it's completed. If you have dental insurance that covers orthodontic services we will process your claim.

After active treatment is complete, appliances are removed and fixed retainers are placed on the upper and lower teeth. A removable retainer will be made as well. These are included in the original cost. However, retainers do wear out and need maintenance or replacement for which there is an additional fee. Removable appliances used in the course of treatment are included but there is added fee of \$100 if lost or damaged due to misuse.

Orthodontic treatment has some inherent risks and limitations. There are various causes but most be acknowledged before starting treatment. The following are the risks and the main issues affecting treatment.

Oral Hygiene

Taking care of your teeth at home while wearing braces is very important. If you eat a lot of sweets, drink a lot of pop and don't brush while in braces you will develop cavities around the brackets and bands. Cavities are generally caught while you're in braces at deactivation. We reserve the right to resume the braces and discontinue treatment if your oral hygiene begins to cause decay and/or infection.

Loss of Vitality

The moving of a tooth can degenerate from a number of causes, one of these being the force applied to certain teeth movement. Usually these teeth may require a root canal procedure to treat the degenerated area.

Headgear

Head gear straps can snap back and cause injury. Although they have safety release switches, injury is still possible. Be careful and follow instructions.

Root Damage

Fixed tooth movement is one of the several causes of root resorption, which is a shortening and blunting of the root tips. These teeth usually do not cause symptoms and function normally. There is also the rare possibility of moving teeth off the supporting bone which may result in loss of the teeth.

Temporary Anchorage Devices (TADs)

TADs are tiny screws placed in the jaw bone that serve as anchors to move teeth. They are placed in the office under local anesthesia by your dentist as an oral surgery. TADs greatly increase the efficiency and precision of tooth movement and decrease the amount of time needed. TADs have come into wide use in orthodontics. These dimensional models and images of your mouth are carefully studied to determine the exact position of the TADs in order to avoid damage to the teeth roots, and to remove and fixed records during placement. These complications are possible but rarely occur. TADs occasionally become loose during treatment and need replacement. Usually the cause breaks during placement, in which case the broken fragment is returned or left in place.

