

SUN TIMES

All About

Orthodontics

Spring is near, and is the time of year when many people consider getting orthodontic treatment for their children or for themselves.

Braces and other alignment treatments not only improve the physical appearance of teeth, but also improve biting, chewing, speaking and overall dental health.

Dr. Sun has more than 14 years' experience in orthodontics and is always accepting new patients. We begin with a consultation to determine the extent of treatment needed, and how to proceed.

The next step is impressions to make a



Ortho treatment in progress, one year elapsed

"before" model of the teeth. We also take photos of the teeth and face from all angles. At the end of treatment, we'll repeat these steps to demonstrate all of the changes.

There are two phases of orthodontic treatment. Phase I is in-

terceptive, and adjusts the bone as it's still growing. This can correct an overbite, underbite or narrow jawbone or palate. Ideally, we begin this stage from age 6 to 9. Likelihood of success drops dramatically beginning at age 12. (See next page...)

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Select Thursdays &
Saturdays
By Appointment Only

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New
Patient
Special

Full exam, full X-rays
and regular cleaning

\$75

(a \$296 value)

The types of appliances used for phase I include expanders, limited braces and other devices for adjusting overbite or underbite. The average duration of phase I is from 1 to 1.5 years.

After phase I is completed, we'll wait until all permanent adult teeth have erupted to decide if more treatment is needed through phase II.

Phase II of orthodontic treatment is focused on straightening teeth and correcting the bite, and can be done at any age. We offer several styles of alignment based on the patient's aesthetic desires and how much adjustment is needed.

Most phase II treatments require braces. Traditional braces include a silver wire and silver-colored brackets with colored elastic bands. We have a wide variety of elastic colors to choose from, including clear elastics. We also offer



Clear brackets for braces



Clear alignment trays

"latch door"-style silver brackets that don't require elastic bands.

Clear-colored alignment options are increasingly popular, especially among adults. For braces, we offer clear brackets with a silver wire and colored or clear elastic bands.

For minor alignment, we create clear trays that fit over the teeth and don't require any

brackets or wires. The trays must be worn for at least 21 hours per day to be effective.

We also create clear tray retainers to maintain alignment after braces have been removed. The average duration of phase II treatment is from 1 to 2 years.

Cash offers for orthodontic treatment start at \$1,500 for

clear tray alignment for simple crowding or spacing. Full treatment including braces starts at \$3,000.

A consultation with Dr. Sun costs only \$30, and is waived if treatment is accepted. To schedule a consultation, call us at (760) 810-7297.