

# Sun Times

## THE EVOLUTION OF DENTISTRY PART 3: ORTHODONTICS

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*Dentistry has come a long way since the days of knocking out a rotten tooth with a rock. As humankind's knowledge of dental care advances with each passing day, patient care gets more effective, accessible, comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. This month, we'll set the facts straight on orthodontics as part three in a series.*

In the selfie age, a straight smile is more important than ever. But correctly-aligned teeth serve more than an aesthetic purpose - they also improve chewing, speaking and hygiene - and humans have striven to improve these qualities since the days of ancient Egypt.

Archaeologists found mummies with metal bands on their teeth, and believe they were secured with intestinal fibers.

Around 400 B.C., the famous Greek physician Hippocrates wrote about tooth irregularities, and around 0 A.D. a Roman writer named Celsus recommended pushing on new teeth so that they grow in straight.

Fast forward to the 1700s in France, where the "Father of Dentistry," Pierre Fauchard, created a bandeau device that tied teeth along a metal strip. He also manually moved teeth using forceps and then tied them to adjacent teeth until they healed in the correct position.

In the early 1800s, another Frenchman, Christophe-François Delabarre, pushed apart crowded teeth by wedging wood or threads in between.

Stateside, J.S. Gunnell invented headgear in 1822. In the 1840s, dentists began to take advantage of a newly-discovered material called rubber, and Chapin A. Harris wrote about adding knobs to bands to rotate teeth, among other innovations.

Beginning in the late 1800s, Edward Angle emerged as the "Father of Orthodontics." He created the I, II, and III classifications of malocclusion still used today, and founded the first school of orthodontics and the American Association of Orthodontists.

In the 1970s, or-

thodontics started to resemble what we know today, as dentists began cementing brackets directly to teeth instead of wrapping them onto teeth with wire.

Stainless steel also emerged as the standard material for wires, dramatically reducing costs compared to gold and silver.



More recent innovations include lingual braces, which are placed on the inner side of teeth, and a variety of clear alignment trays that offer the most aesthetically-attractive form of treatment.

Besides braces, dentists and orthodontists have implemented a variety of other appliances to form the underlying bone structure, and retainers to keep teeth in place after completing treatment.

The field of ortho-

The field of orthodontics has gone from rudimentary wrapping to a carefully calculated process with intricate parts, and continues to evolve each day to help more patients achieve a perfect smile.

**Tao Sun DDS provides a variety of orthodontic services. Call us at (760) 810-7297 for more information and to make an appointment.**

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