

Getting Started

Should I have my teeth cleaned before beginning treatment?

- 1) Patients entering into orthodontic treatment should have a current (within the last 6 months) complete dental exam and professional cleaning.
- 2) Dental cleanings and check-ups should be maintained at least every 6 months or as recommended by your general dentist or periodontist.

What do I need to do next?

The normal appointment sequence is as follows:

1) Initial Exam

This forty-five minute appointment allows you the opportunity to visit our office and become acquainted with Dr. O'Donnell and our staff. Since this is a very informative appointment, it is most beneficial if all parties involved in the treatment decision can be present. Complimentary digital photographs and a panoramic x-ray will be taken. Dr. O'Donnell will utilize this diagnostic information to most effectively communicate any orthodontic problems that may exist and to provide the most accurate answers to your questions and concerns.

Our treatment coordinator will be available to discuss the financial investment including maximizing any insurance benefits. Since most of our patients lead busy lives, time has been allotted in our schedule to complete the diagnostic records and to place separators if you should wish to reduce the number of office visits before braces. Your second visit could be braces on!

2) Records/ Separators

For your convenience this visit can be combined with your initial consultation. A cephalometric x-ray and impressions of the teeth will be taken. Separators will be placed to create the space needed to fit bands on the back teeth. The initial investment and finances will be completed when orthodontic records are performed.

3) Second Consultation

Dr. O'Donnell treats a variety of orthodontic problems ranging from routine braces to complex situations involving jaw surgery that require a team of dental specialists. In these unique circumstances Dr. O'Donnell recommends a second consultation to review the specifics of the treatment plan. The most successful results are obtained with active participation and communication between the patient, the parents, Dr. O'Donnell, and your general dentist. Please ask questions. If the removal of teeth is necessary an extraction letter and a copy of your x-ray will be available for your dentist or oral surgeon.

4) Appliance Placement

The length of this appointment varies between thirty to ninety minutes depending on the treatment specifics discussed. Responsible parties should accompany children in order to receive instructions regarding the maintenance of the braces or other orthodontic appliances.