



Handling Of Minor Orthodontic Emergencies

1. Cheek and lip irritation from new braces or appliances.

- a) Usually occurs within the first 3-7 days.
- b) Place wax over brace to smooth over rough edges.
- c) The problem normally disappears in a short time.

2. Loose Teeth/Sore Teeth

- a) It's normal for teeth to loosen as they change position, this happens as a result of the ligament space around the tooth widening.
- b) When tooth movement is complete, the teeth will tighten up.
- c) Mild tooth soreness can occur when separators or new wires are placed. Our practice uses technologically advanced, very light wires to eliminate or minimize any discomfort. If it occurs, the discomfort normally lasts 24-48 hours and we suggest taking Tylenol if it becomes bothersome. If you anticipate soreness, take Tylenol prior to your appointment or within 6 hours of a new wire or wire change. This will help eliminate or minimize your discomfort.

3. Loose or irritating wire

- a) If a wire is irritating the cheek or gums, take a blunt instrument (pencil eraser) and bend the irritating wire toward the tooth.
- b) If a wire is loose or broken and is poking, cover it with wax. If it is uncomfortable then call the office to have it repaired or replaced.
- c) A nail clipper can be used to clip a large segment of wire if necessary. Use caution to avoid clipping the lip!

4. Loose braces

- a) Call the office if you have a loose brace. This normally is not an emergency unless it is causing discomfort. The staff will schedule enough time during your next visit to reattach the brace or have you in sooner if it is causing discomfort.
- b) Leave the brace on the tooth if possible. Brush and rinse the area well until your office visit.
- c) If a headgear or rubber band is attached to the loose brace, discontinue wear until the brace is recemented.

Thank you!

