

Early Treatment

We recommend that children are seen by an orthodontist by the age of seven or eight. At this stage the permanent teeth have usually begun to erupt, and Dr Oliver can evaluate whether orthodontic treatment will be necessary, and when it would be most appropriate.

Seeing your child at a young age enables us to implement preventive measures if required, which may mean that treatment is simpler in the long term. Dr Oliver only recommends early treatment if it will significantly improve the outcome, or reduces the complexity of future treatment.

For a few children, a two-phase treatment may be recommended. This involves an interceptive phase, and a corrective phase.

During the first phase, the growth of the jaws and the path of incoming permanent teeth can be guided, preventing more serious problems from developing later on. It can help to correct facial problems, chewing or speech difficulties. This may also reduce the need for future extractions, by altering the width or length of the dental arches and creating space.

Habits such as thumb-sucking and tongue thrusting can be addressed before more damage occurs. The early phase can take as little as a few months. Some practitioners recommend early treatment for all individuals who have mild orthodontic problems. This treatment is not supported by peer reviewed scientific literature.

The second phase of treatment is then usually quite routine, and commonly involves the use of braces to fine-tune the alignment of the teeth.

Having your child's orthodontic needs evaluated early can help to prevent aesthetic and functional problems, and may help to avoid social and self-esteem issues as they get older.



Adolescent Treatment

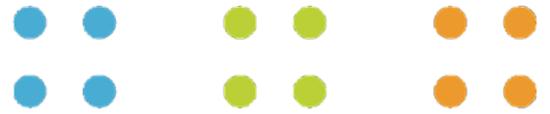
Orthodontic care is most common in adolescence, or between the ages of 10-15. It is during this stage that a child will acquire all their permanent teeth, which are the ones that Dr Oliver will manipulate and shape into a beautiful and long lasting healthy smile.

It is during the adolescent years where a child also undergoes significant skeletal growth, which is important for bite correction. Undertaking orthodontic treatment at the ideal time means the orthodontic treatment will be faster, the treatment will be more predictable and the result more stable after treatment. The duration of orthodontic treatment varies depending on the severity of the condition, but is usually between one and two years.

Orthodontic treatment in the adolescent years can be used to correct a multitude of conditions, including crowding or crooked teeth, protrusive (“buck”) teeth, and functional difficulties with speech and chewing. In many cases, braces may be all that is required; in others, supplementary treatment may be indicated.

Since most orthodontic treatment is undertaken in the adolescent years it is also more socially acceptable. It is easier for students to go through treatment alongside their peers. It is not uncommon for friends to choose the colours that will be placed on the braces at the next visit.

Other patients may prefer a less conspicuous option, so we offer clear/ceramic braces, which match the colour of the tooth. In appropriate cases, we may also provide lingual braces, which are attached to the back of the teeth instead of the front. The “Invisalign teen” aligner system is also an alternative.



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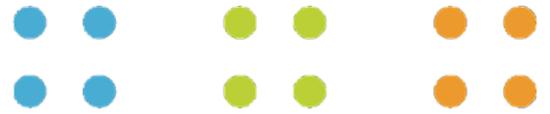
Orthodontic treatment during a person's adolescent years enables them to enter their early adult life with a beautiful and confident smile.

Giving a child a confident smile has been demonstrated to improve self-esteem. This not only helps with confidence in the playground but also sets them up for a successful adult life.

However, a beautiful smile is not the only thing that you will be giving your child. Straight teeth are easier to clean which reduces plaque accumulation and thus reduces the risk of decay and gum disease.

Properly aligned teeth and bites reduce unbalanced stresses on the gums and the bony supporting structures improving general dental health.





Adult Treatment

If you missed out on orthodontics when you were younger, or if your teeth have become more crooked over the years, there's no reason why you can't have treatment now.

Many adults see their smile as a fact of life and let it hold them back socially and professionally, but this doesn't have to be the case. In fact, about 30% of Dr Oliver's patients are adults. Many are parents who have seen the great changes that Dr Oliver has achieved with their children and would like to improve their own smile.

Orthodontic treatment is just as effective in adults as in children, and the biological principles of tooth movement are the same, regardless of age.

Having orthodontic treatment is not just a cosmetic decision. Crowded or crooked teeth can impact on your dental health, making cleaning more difficult, and in some cases leading to decay or periodontal disease. Function may also be compromised, affecting the way you speak and chew.

Orthodontic technology has come a long way in the past few decades. At Oliver Orthodontics, we offer not only conventional braces, but a range of other aesthetic options. These include clear/ceramic braces, which match the tooth colour; Incognito Lingual Braces, which are attached to the back of the teeth rather than the front; and Invisalign orthodontics, which is a clear, plastic aligner system that is virtually invisible.

Choosing an orthodontist who can offer a complete range of treatment alternatives is important to make sure that you receive the ideal treatment. Choosing the best treatment alternative for your mouth means you achieve the result you want in the shortest time possible.



Orthognathic Surgery

Some adult patients have skeletal irregularities that cannot be corrected with braces alone. Examples include patients with jaws that are too large, too small, or too narrow.

Since the teeth can only be moved within the existing framework of bone, surgical intervention may be required to correct the bite and facial profile.

Surgical orthodontics, often used in combination with braces, can vastly improve appearance and function, enabling you to speak, chew, and smile as you never have before.

This type of treatment involves a shared care approach from Dr Oliver, the surgeon, and your general dentist. Together, they will coordinate all aspects of your care, to ensure an excellent overall outcome.

In young children, early orthodontic assessment may help to prevent the need for surgery. In these patients, the natural growth spurts can often be used to manipulate skeletal development and guide the development of the jaws.