

Two-Phase Treatment

What is the advantage of two-phase orthodontic treatment?

Two-phase orthodontic treatment is a specialized process combining tooth straightening and physical, facial changes.

The purpose of two-phase treatment is to make an early start to accomplish the ideal healthy, functional, aesthetic result that will remain stable throughout your life.

Phase — One

Your foundation for a lifetime of beautiful smiles

The goal of Phase-One treatment is to help the jaw develop in a way that will accommodate all of the permanent teeth and improve the way the upper and lower jaws fit together. Children often exhibit early signs of jaw problems as they grow and develop.

An upper that is forward or is too narrow can be recognized at an early age. If children over the age of six are found to have this jaw discrepancy, they are candidates for early orthodontic treatment.

Also, if children around the age of eight have crowded upper front teeth which are blocked behind the lower, early treatment can fix the crossbite and help avoid damage to the teeth.

- **Planning now can save your smile later**
- Children can benefit tremendously from an early phase treatment if their problem indicates this approach.
- **Making records to determine your unique treatment**
- Orthodontic records will be necessary to determine the type of appliances to be used, the duration of treatment time, and the frequency of visits. Records consist of models of the teeth, X-rays, and photographs. After your child's initial consultation, your doctor will take records to determine if early treatment is necessary.

Resting period

In this phase, the remaining permanent teeth are left alone as they erupt

- **Monitoring your teeth's progress**
- At the end of the first phase of treatment, teeth are not in their final positions. This will be determined and accomplished in the second phase of treatment. Selective removal of certain primary (baby) teeth may be in the best interest of enhancing eruption during this resting phase. Therefore, periodic recall appointments for observation are necessary, usually on a six or twelve month basis.



Phase — Two

Stay healthy and look attractive

The goal of the second phase is to make sure each tooth has an exact location in the mouth where it is in harmony with the lips, cheeks, tongue, and other teeth. When this equilibrium is established, the teeth will function together properly.

Phase-Two usually involves full upper and lower braces.

At the beginning of the first phase, orthodontic records were made and a diagnosis and treatment plan established. Certain types of appliances were used in the first phase to correct and realign the teeth and jaw. The second phase begins when most permanent teeth have erupted, and usually requires braces on all the teeth for an average of 18 - 24 months. Retainers are worn after this phase to ensure you retain your beautiful smile.