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REASONS

YOU DON'T NEED

PERMANENT TOOTH

EXTRACTIONS

5 REASONS

YOU MAY NOT NEED PERMANENT TOOTH EXTRACTIONS

JUST LIKE ALL OTHER SCIENCES, ORTHODONTICS HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS. HISTORICALLY IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO REMOVE SOME PERMANENT TEETH IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR STRAIGHTENING THE REST OF THE TEETH WITH BRACES. ONE OF THE COMMON QUESTIONS ORTHODONTISTS GET ASKED BY PATIENTS IS IF THEY NEED TO HAVE SOME TEETH REMOVED TO MAKE ROOM. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL RARE CASES WHERE EXTRACTIONS ARE NECESSARY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF PATIENTS DON'T NEED THIS. HAVING A FULL COMPLIMENT OF PERMANENT TEETH AFTER BRACES IS MOST OFTEN, THE BEST TREATMENT OPTION

*SO WHAT HAS CHANGED THAT HAS ALLOWED
ORTHODONTISTS TO EXTRACT FEWER PERMANENT TEETH?*

1

STARTING AND FINISHING BRACES AT A YOUNGER AGE

MANY PEOPLE ERRONIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THE PERMANENT TEETH MUST BE PRESENT FOR ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT TO TAKE PLACE. THE IDEAL TIME TO START BRACES IS JUST PRIOR TO THE LAST BABY MOLAR TEETH IN THE BACK FALLING OUT. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THERE IS EXTRA SPACE IN THAT AREA (CALLED "LEEWAY SPACE") THAT CAN BE USED TO STRAIGHTEN THE TEETH WITHOUT EXTRACTIONS. USING THIS SPACE, THE ORTHODONTIST CAN GENTLY GUIDE ERUPTING TEETH INTO THAT SPACE--BEFORE THE TEETH HAVE FULLY ERUPTED INTO A CROOKED POSITION.

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USING BRACES AND OTHER APPLIANCES TO CREATE MORE SPACE

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ORTHODONTISTS ARE SMART AND CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS. THEY SHARE IDEAS AND BRAINSTORM WITH EACH OTHER TO FIND BETTER WAYS TO DO THEIR JOB. OVER THE 100 YEARS OF OUR SPECIALTY (ORTHODONTICS IS THE OLDEST OF ALL DENTAL SPECIALTIES) SOME REALLY COOL AND VERY EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR CREATING SPACE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED. JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE MANY AVAILABLE IS A PROCESS CALLED "PALATAL EXPANSION". OFTEN TIMES, A COMBINATION OF APPROACHES CAN CREATE THE SPACE NEEDED TO STRAIGHTEN THE TEETH WITHOUT THE NEED FOR PERMANENT TOOTH REMOVAL.

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BONDING VERSUS BANDING

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SOME PARENTS ARE OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHEN BRACES WERE SILVER RINGS THAT WRAPPED AROUND THE TEETH. THEY ARE CALLED "BANDS". BECAUSE THEY WRAPPED AROUND THE TEETH, SPACE WAS NEEDED FOR EACH ONE OF THEM—UP TO 24 TEETH IN EACH JAW! FREQUENTLY IT WAS NECESSARY TO EXTRACT PERMANENT TEETH TO MAKE ROOM FOR ALL OF THESE BRACES. NOW, THE BRACES ARE VERY TINY THINGS CALLED "BRACKETS" AND ARE BONDED TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE TEETH AND DON'T TAKE UP ANY SPACE IN THE MOUTH WHERE THE TEETH BELONG.

4

EXTRACTIONS DON'T MEAN THE TEETH WILL STAY STRAIGHT

ORTHODONTISTS USED TO BELIEVE THAT PERMANENT TEETH NEEDED TO BE REMOVED TO MAKE ROOM TO STRAIGHTEN THE TEETH, OTHERWISE, THE TEETH WOULD GO CROOKED AGAIN. RESEARCH OVER MANY DECADES HAS SHOWN THAT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, OUR TEETH WILL MOVE OVER TIME—EVEN IN PEOPLE THAT HAVE STRAIGHT TEETH AND DIDN'T HAVE BRACES! THAT TELLS US THAT EXTRACTIONS DON'T GUARANTEE TEETH WON'T MOVE. IT ALSO MAKES HAVING RETAINERS THAT MUCH MORE IMPORTANT!

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BETTER BRACES AND WIRES

BRACES ARE NOW MADE FROM COMPUTER OPERATED AUTOMATIC MACHINES THAT CONSTRUCT THEM TO VERY PRECISE SIZES AND SHAPES. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE NOW USING WIRES MADE FROM MATERIALS THAT CAME FROM NASA SPACE RESEARCH. THESE WIRES ARE "SHAPE MEMORY" WIRES AND USE LIGHT AND GENTLE FORCES TO MOVE THE TEETH INTO THEIR NEW POSITION. A COMBINATION OF BETTER BRACES AND WIRES ALLOWS THE ORTHODONTIST TO MOVE THE TEETH IN WAYS THAT WEREN'T POSSIBLE BEFORE.



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Orthodontics For Children, Adolescents & Adults