



## ORTHODONTIC EMERGENCIES

The following brief outline describes how dental emergencies should be handled during orthodontic treatment. Dental emergencies while wearing braces or other orthodontic appliances usually fall into two categories (1) Direct injury to the mouth and teeth, or (2) Damage to orthodontic appliances.

### **DIRECT INJURIES TO THE MOUTH AND TEETH**

Following a direct injury to your mouth or teeth (being hit in the mouth with a ball, a fall, etc), **you should see your regular dentist as soon as possible**. Usually an x-ray of the involved tooth or teeth is needed to check the extent of the injury. Please call our office immediately after seeing your general dentist. If orthodontic appliances are loosened or displaced, we will need to replace or adjust them as soon as possible. If you are unable to reach your family dentist, call our office and we will be happy to assist you in the care of the injury.

### **DAMAGE TO ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCES**

Broken or disturbed appliances can occur from time to time during orthodontic care. If there is any disturbance, such as loose bands, brackets or poking wires, call our office as soon as possible so we can evaluate the urgency of the problem and schedule you to be seen accordingly. In the interim, the following are helpful hints to remedy some of the problems you may have.

- \* If a wire is irritating your mouth, cover it with wax or tuck it in using a blunt object like a pencil eraser or Q-tip. Use wax or bubble gum until next time you see us.
- \* A loose band or bracket can generally be left in place until seen in our office. Call us as soon as you notice a loose band or bracket so we can plan adequate time for the repair of the band or bracket.
- \* If a rubber band hook is lost or broken, stop wearing the rubber bands on the other side of the band or bracket.
- \* A bent headgear facebow or removable appliance that is not fitting well should not be worn until it can be properly adjusted in our office.

### **EMERGENCY APPOINTMENT TIMES**

Emergency appointment time is held open during each working day so that we can schedule you as soon as possible during clinic hours. Please understand, that although we try to keep a variety of emergency times available, we may not be able to offer you an **“ideal”** time for an emergency appointment. We will do our best to accommodate you in the soonest time slot possible. If the office is closed and you would like us to contact you when we reopen, please leave a message on our machine. If you are in pain and cannot wait, call our office for the emergency service.

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