

Department of  
**DENTAL SURGERY**

# Orthodontics



## What Is Orthodontics?

Orthodontics is the branch of dentistry that focuses on identifying, preventing and treating teeth misalignment and modification of facial growth. Fixing tools such as braces can move teeth into proper alignment, improve bite and re-establish good facial balance

## Who Needs Braces?

Below are some pictures of common teeth problems that can be treated by Orthodontists.



**Overjet –**  
Protruding upper front teeth



**Overbite –**  
Upper teeth cover too much of the lower teeth



**Underbite –**  
Lower front teeth protrude in front of upper front teeth



**Crossbite –**  
Upper teeth bite inside the lower teeth



**Crowding –**  
When there is too little space to fit all the teeth



**Open bite –**  
Front teeth not touching when back teeth are closed together



**Spacing –**  
When there is too much space in between teeth

## What are the Different Types of Braces?

There are two main types – (1) fixed braces and (2) removable braces.

(1) Fixed braces are

- usually made of metal
- also made of tooth-coloured (ceramic or plastic) braces

(2) Removable braces

- can be taken out when you brush your teeth

Your Orthodontist will advise which type of braces is best for you.



**Ceramic Bracket System**



**Lingual braces –**  
Fixed braces attached to the inside of the lower teeth



**Metal Bracket System**



**Aligners –**  
Clear removable braces



**Removable Braces –**  
Plastic plate with clips on teeth



**Space maintainers –**  
Used to keep spaces while waiting for adult teeth to come through

## During Your Visit

Your Orthodontist will go through your dental problems and explain how braces can help you.

Your diagnostic records will be used to suggest a treatment method suited for you. Examples of diagnostic records include digital X-rays, clinical photographs and dental impressions.

## Clinics 6B

TTSH Medical Centre, Level 6B

### Contact:

6357 7000 (Central Hotline)

#### TTSH Health Library



Scan the QR Code above  
to access the information  
on TTSH Health Library

#### TTSH Dental Services



Scan the QR Code above to  
access more information on  
TTSH Dental Services

Was this information helpful?  
Please feel free to email us if you have any  
feedback regarding what you have just read at  
[patienteducation@ttsh.com.sg](mailto:patienteducation@ttsh.com.sg)



© Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore 2021. All rights reserved. All information correct as of February 2021. No part of this document may be reproduced, copied, reverse compiled, adapted, distributed, commercially exploited, displayed or stored in a database, retrieval system or transmitted in any form without prior permission of Tan Tock Seng Hospital. All information and material found in this document are for purposes of information only and are not meant to substitute any advice provided by your own physician or other medical professionals.