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## **Appliance therapy parent education and consent**

**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age** \_\_\_\_\_

Before we embark on any orthodontic or orthopedic appliance therapy we conduct a detailed orthodontic and craniofacial evaluation including photographic and cephalometric X-ray analysis of the head, tooth space and TMJ (Jaw-joint) analysis. This will enable us to formulate a treatment plan based on individual needs.

### **Interceptive therapy: (age 4 & above)**

This is an urgent phase to address conditions which if left untreated, result in a deviated and detrimental craniofacial growth pattern, or an orthodontic complication. Examples are abnormal thumb-sucking or other habits, a wrong swallowing pattern such as tongue thrust, premature baby tooth loss, anterior or posterior crossbites, mouth breathing, etc. In such cases therapy is initiated as early as age 4.

### **Phase I: (age 6 & above)**

The main purpose of this phase is to restore adequate arch length by influencing or accelerating natural jaw growth tendencies in the pre-puberty and puberty years, to ultimately accommodate the full set of adult teeth, and also to create an esthetic convex facial profile, along with a wide smile. Simple tooth movements, rotations and alignments may also be achieved in this phase. If therapy begins as early as age 6, most cases will successfully be concluded in time to avoid fixed braces altogether.

### **Phase II: (age 6-12)**

In some children with a retruded (positioned backwards in relation to the skull) mandible or pre-maxilla (The front part of the upper jaw located under the nose), an accelerated forward growth of the involved jaw will become necessary to align the upper and lower jaws in a more favorable position relative to each other, and to achieve an esthetic convex profile with proper lip support. This type of therapy, called **functional appliance** therapy, should commence at the beginning of the pre-pubertal growth phase, and sometimes as early as 6. This has been shown to reduce the chances of future upper airway obstruction, recurrent earaches, behavioral problems, TMJ problems, bruxism and premature tooth wear, sleep apnea, and snoring.

### **Phase III: (age 10 and above)**

This phase picks up on unresolved problems after phase II. It may involve further arch expansion, tooth alignment, rotation, or simply retention of what has been achieved. Fixed braces are usually indicated during this phase. We mainly use "straight wire" technique with titanium wires, which is gentler on the teeth.

To find out more about appliance therapy, visit [www.iaortho.org](http://www.iaortho.org) and [www.ortho-TMJ.com](http://www.ortho-TMJ.com)

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## Functional orthopedic therapy informed consent

**I understand that:**

\_\_\_\_ Dr Sarkissian is a general dentist with experience and training in functional orthopedic therapy and craniofacial orthopedics, as well as straight wire fixed braces. I have been given the option to seek therapy or second opinion with a specialist orthodontist before I commit to any treatment.

\_\_\_\_ At any time during the treatment, if Dr. Sarkissian feels that there is a complication regarding the child's treatment, an aggravation of the jaw-joint, or a lack of compliance, the treatment will be suspended. The patient may be referred to a specialist orthodontist. In such a case, if within 6 months after treatment initiation, 35% of the original fee will be retained, and the rest refunded. In rare cases fixed braces may become necessary even after therapy conclusion, in order to achieve a result that would be impossible to achieve by removable braces.

\_\_\_\_ **DURATION OF TREATMENT** may be anywhere between 6 months and 5 years.

\_\_\_\_ Appliance therapy will straighten individual teeth which are out of position. However, teeth may not align perfectly, especially if rotated, if jaw growth has not achieved the desired dimension, or if the child has not complied with the treatment. In such cases fixed braces will be required to finish the case.

\_\_\_\_ **ORAL HYGIENE:** Every child undergoing appliance therapy will have to follow a 4-month hygiene recall plan to assure proper oral hygiene and to prevent the development of cavities and gum disease.

\_\_\_\_ **FEES:** Each phase of therapy may include anywhere between one and three appliances per arch. The lab cost of appliances is NOT included in the orthodontics fee, and will be charged to your account as incurred. Additional procedures such as fillings, extractions and frenectomies are NOT included in the orthodontics fee. If fixed braces are required, there will be an additional fee.

\_\_\_\_ **PAYMENT POLICY** for orthodontic treatment involves a down-payment of 25% of the total fee before treatment commencement.

\_\_\_\_ The delivery appointment for removable appliances should follow within 3 weeks of taking impressions, otherwise the device may not fit in the mouth, as the child is growing at a faster rate at this age. In such a case, the parents are responsible for the additional lab fees in remaking the case.

\_\_\_\_ I have been informed of the pros and cons of removable orthodontic treatment, and have been given the option of seeking treatment or a second opinion by a specialist orthodontist.

**I have read and understood the above explanations and hereby authorize Dr. Sarkissian to commence orthopedic appliance treatment on my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date