

Banding Letter

Dr. Snyder has determined that you are ready for placement of braces. This letter will explain your upcoming appointments.

The first appointment, which takes approximately 30 minutes, prepares your teeth for getting braces placement. Dr. Snyder will trim any rough edges of your front teeth and then an impression will be taken to create a working model which allows Dr. Snyder to determine proper bracket placement. If you are having bands as part of your orthodontic treatment, separators will be placed at this visit. Separators are small rubberbands that are placed between the molar teeth to create space for the orthodontic bands.

The second appointment, which is scheduled for 1-2 hours, involves the placement of the bands and brackets. First, we will polish the teeth and remove any separators that have been placed. If bands are being used, the assistant will fit the bands and prepare them to be cemented by Dr. Snyder. Then the assistant will place the brackets utilizing an indirect bonding method which consists of a tray containing your brackets that was created by Dr. Snyder from the impressions taken at your first appointment. This tray is placed into the mouth, much like a mouthguard, and the brackets cemented into place. The assistant then peels the tray away leaving the brackets in their proper positions. Arch wires are then fit into the brackets and secured using either elastic or wire ties. Depending on your treatment plan, lingual arches may be placed near the roof of the upper arch and on the inside of the lower teeth. These wires are used to control molar tooth movement. At the end of this appointment, oral hygiene will be reviewed. Good hygiene is critical during orthodontic treatment. We encourage parents to be present during this instructional time.

Tooth movement is initiated through the arch wires and these initial movements may cause tenderness for approximately 2-3 days. Most of our patients will have the newer shape memory transformation wires. Since these wires become soft at cool temperatures, drinking cold water when your teeth are tender softens the wire and eases the discomfort. Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions or concerns during this time.

