

TEMPORARY ANCHORAGE DEVICE

A Temporary Anchorage Device, or TAD is a device made of sterile medical-grade titanium alloy. The device is fixed to bone specifically for the purpose of providing orthodontic anchorage and is removed at the completion of treatment.



Orthodontics with TADs can...

- Reduce orthodontic treatment time by one third.
- Eliminate the need for headgear.
- Provide a more ideal finish.
- Allow limited tooth movement in preparation for a bridge, crown or implant without braces.
- Close most open bites without surgery.
- Eliminate the need for rubber bands.

What we do to place TADs

After numbing the area where the TAD is to be placed, we use gentle pressure to insert it through the gums and into the bone between your teeth. Some patients say they feel a little pressure for a short period of time afterward. Only a few patients have reported needing to use an over the counter medication such as ibuprofen. Minor aching associated with the new tooth movement is normal. However, if you have concerns you may call our office during our office hours.



Cleaning

To keep the TAD clean, brush it twice a day and use the medicated rinse that was given to you when the TADs were placed. If the TAD causes an irritation inside your cheek or lip, you may use wax over the top to protect the irritated area. A TAD can sometimes become loose. In most cases this is minor, but if you notice it becoming excessively loose please call our office to repair or reposition the TAD.

Removing the TAD

The anchorage device is temporary and is typically removed after a few months when it is no longer needed to assist in tooth movement. Before we remove the TAD, we place topical numbing gel around the area and then gently remove the device. The entire process of removing the TAD takes only a few seconds.

