

*A beautiful **smile**
is something to be
treasured.*



COSMETICS / IMPLANTS / ORTHODONTICS

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CALM**

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DENTAL WELLNESS

Orthognathic (Jaw) Surgery

Orthognathic Surgery

Why might I need surgery?

In order to correct the position of the teeth and provide a functioning bite, the supporting bones of the jaws must be in the correct position. If this is not the case, orthodontics alone will not correct the bite. Surgery will be required to move the jaws into the proper position so the teeth then meet correctly.

If I need jaw surgery, why do I also require orthodontics?

If the jaws are to be moved into the correct position, it is important your teeth are moved so that they meet properly after surgery.

What type of brace will I need to wear?

Fixed braces (preferably the ones attached to the front of the teeth) are used prior to jaw surgery because they permit the most accurate positioning of the teeth prior to the operation.

Are the braces removed just before the operation?

No, the braces remain attached to the teeth before, during and after the operation. During the operation they help the surgeon position the jaws correctly. After the operation they help the orthodontist fine tune the bite with elastics.

How will the operation be done?

The majority of operations will be done from inside your mouth.

Will my jaws be wired together?

This is fairly unusual. Small metal plates are used to hold the fracture sites together. These are beneath the gums and skin and remain in place forever.

How long will I be in hospital for?

This varies between 1-5 days.

Can I eat normally?

Yes, up until the operation you should be able to eat normally. In order to prevent damage to both your teeth and the brace you should avoid the following:

- Toffees, boiled sweets, chocolate, chewing gum etc
- Fizzy drinks including diet and fruit juices
- Hard food such as crunchy apples, crusty bread rolls etc.
- After the operation you will have a more soft diet for the first few weeks.

Are there any side effects?

You will have some swelling and bruising after the operation. They will rapidly begin to subside over the first 2-3 weeks. For operations on the lower jaw it is fairly common to have some numbness of the lower lip. In a very small number of cases a residual area of numbness may remain. This does not affect the movement of the lips, only the feeling in it, in a similar way to an injection at the dentist.

After the operation you will have to take it easy for 2-3 weeks. You should therefore expect to be off college/work for at least that length of time.

Will I look different after the operation?

Yes you will to a certain degree. It depends on the amount of movement of the jaws required.

How long will the overall treatment take?

It usually takes 18-24 months, but will vary on how severe your case is.

Failed or cancelled appointments or repeated breakages will add to the overall treatment time.

How often will I need an appointment?

You will need frequent and regular appointments (every 4-8 weeks) with the orthodontist for the brace to be adjusted

After the operation you will be seen every week for a number of weeks.

Do I still need to see my regular dentist?

Yes. It is important you still have checkups and hygiene (every 6 months) with your regular dentist throughout the treatment. Your orthodontist will not be checking your teeth for decay or gum disease.