



GORTON & SCHMOHL ORTHODONTICS

Troubleshooting

Poking Wire or Band

Use the wax we have provided to cover the irritating part and call the office for an immediate appointment. Please remember to dry off the area first so the wax will stick better. If you do not have wax with you, use cotton, tissue, or gauze until we can take care of the problem. Moldable silicon ear plugs, available at any pharmacy, work very well. Sometimes the eraser end of a pencil can be used to push a small poking wire back into place.

Loose Band or Bracket

Please do not wait until your next scheduled appointment, but call us immediately - even if you have an appointment that day - so we can set aside the necessary time for the repair. Decay can develop under a loose band if it is left in disrepair for too long.

Broken Wires

If it is a small tie wire, you may remove it and call the office. If it is the main arch wire (which connects all the teeth), try to move it so it is comfortable and phone the office for an appointment. If it is not possible to make it comfortable and you are unable to come to the office immediately, please cut the wire as close as possible to the nearest bracket it is secured to (use a small wire cutter or fingernail clipper. Use wax over the area if necessary.

Discomfort

When pressure is applied to the teeth, you may feel some tenderness which usually persists for 2-3 days. The intensity and duration of the discomfort will vary with each patient. If you feel an unusual amount of pain or discomfort, please call the office immediately. For after hour emergencies, a recorded message will tell you how to reach Dr. Gorton, Dr. Schmohl, or another orthodontist if neither is in town. If no one is reachable, please call your general dentist or the Marin County Dental Society Emergency Service at 415-459-7385.