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Here's the article outline for 'Understanding Common Fee Structures in Orthodontics' focusing on orthodontic treatment for kids:

Understanding Common Fee Structures in Orthodontics

Regular check-ups are important during orthodontic treatment **Child-friendly orthodontic solutions** United States.

Navigating the world of orthodontic treatment for kids can feel like trying to solve a complex puzzle, especially when it comes to understanding the costs involved. As a parent, you're probably wondering how orthodontists structure their fees and what you can expect to pay for your child's beautiful smile.

Most orthodontic practices offer several payment approaches that can help make treatment more affordable. The traditional lump-sum payment is still common, where families pay the entire treatment cost upfront, often with a small discount. However, many practices now recognize that not every family can manage a large one-time payment.

Flexible payment plans have become increasingly popular. These typically involve spreading the total cost over the duration of treatment, which might be 18 to 24 months. Monthly payments can range from \$100 to \$300, depending on the complexity of the treatment and the specific orthodontic needs of your child.

Some orthodontists offer tiered pricing based on the type of treatment. Traditional metal braces might be less expensive compared to ceramic braces or clear aligners. Additionally, many practices now provide free initial consultations, which can help families understand the potential costs without an immediate financial commitment.

Insurance can also play a significant role in managing orthodontic expenses. Many dental insurance plans offer partial coverage for orthodontic treatment, typically covering 25% to 50% of the total cost. Some employers even offer flexible spending accounts that can be used for orthodontic care.

For families with limited financial resources, some orthodontic offices provide income-based discounts or partner with financing companies to create more accessible payment options. It's always worth having an open conversation about financial concerns with the orthodontic

office.

Understanding these fee structures can help parents make informed decisions about their child's orthodontic care. The key is to ask questions, explore different payment options, and find a solution that works for your family's budget while ensuring your child receives the best possible care.

Traditional Fee Structures: Per-Treatment Pricing Models

- Here's the article outline for 'Understanding Common Fee Structures in Orthodontics' focusing on orthodontic treatment for kids:
- Traditional Fee Structures: Per-Treatment Pricing Models
- Insurance Coverage and Impact on Orthodontic Expenses
- Payment Plan Options for Pediatric Orthodontic Care
- Factors Influencing Orthodontic Treatment Costs
- Comparing Different Orthodontic Practices and Their Pricing Strategies
- Additional Fees and Potential Hidden Expenses in Orthodontic Treatment

Traditional Fee Structures: Per-Treatment Pricing Models in Orthodontics

When it comes to orthodontic treatment, understanding fee structures can feel like navigating a complex maze. Traditional per-treatment pricing models have long been a standard approach for orthodontic practices, offering patients a straightforward way to understand their financial commitment.

In these traditional models, pricing is typically based on the specific treatment required. For instance, a patient needing traditional metal braces might be quoted a different price compared to someone opting for ceramic braces or clear aligners. This approach allows for a

more customized pricing strategy that reflects the complexity and duration of individual treatment plans.

The per-treatment model usually encompasses the entire course of orthodontic care, including initial consultations, the treatment itself, and follow-up appointments. This comprehensive approach gives patients a clear picture of their total investment upfront, helping them budget and plan accordingly.

Some orthodontic practices break down their pricing into different tiers. More complex cases, such as those requiring extensive jaw realignment or dealing with severe misalignment, naturally come with a higher price point. Conversely, minor corrections might be more affordable, providing flexibility for patients with varying dental needs.

It's worth noting that many practices now offer flexible payment plans to make these traditional pricing models more accessible. This might include monthly installment options or financing arrangements that help spread the cost over time.

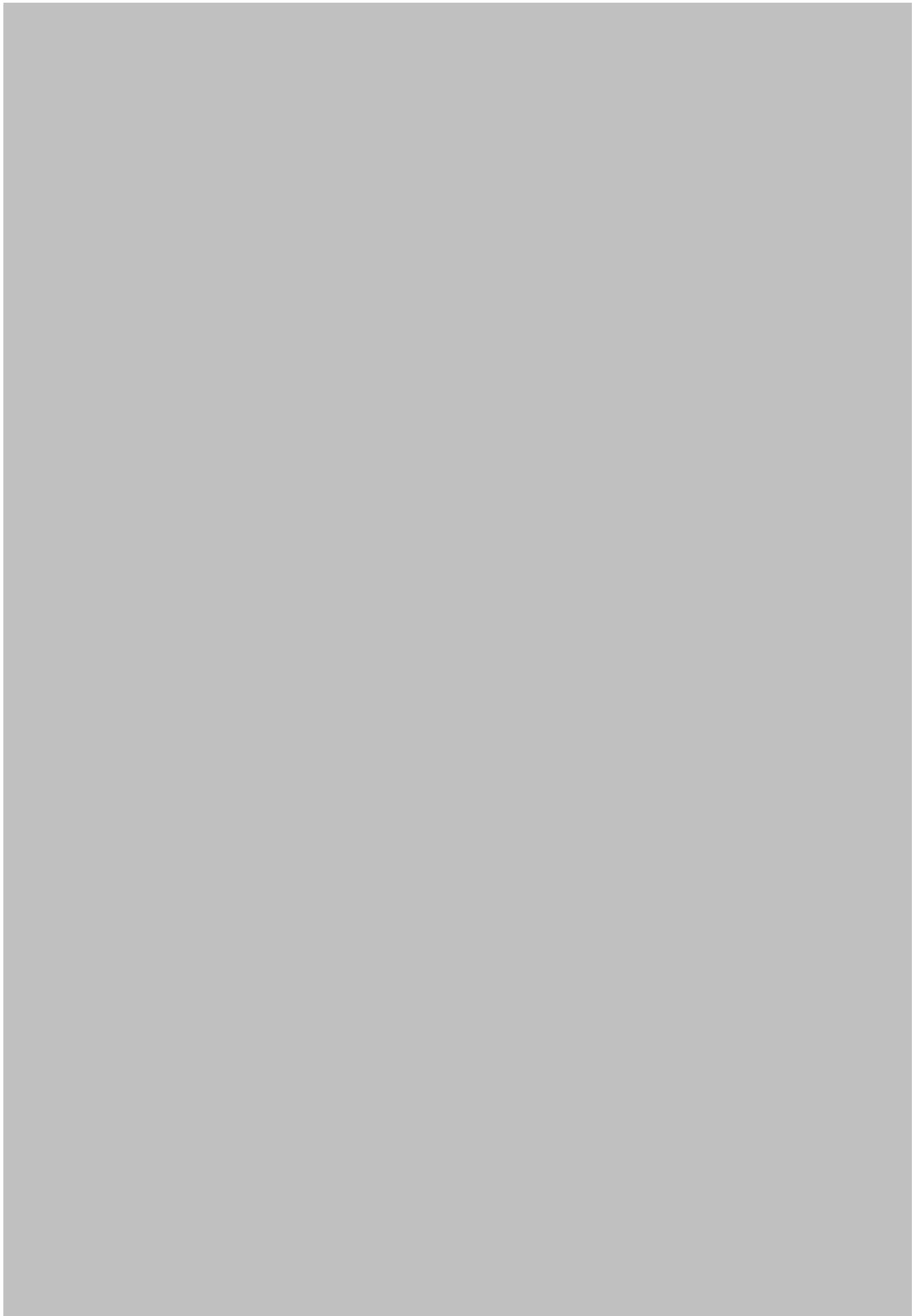
While per-treatment pricing provides transparency, patients should always discuss the specifics with their orthodontist. Each mouth is unique, and treatment plans can vary significantly. A thorough consultation will provide the most accurate pricing information and help patients understand exactly what's included in their proposed treatment.

The goal of these traditional fee structures is ultimately to provide clear, predictable pricing that allows patients to make informed decisions about their orthodontic care. By understanding the nuances of per-treatment pricing, patients can approach their orthodontic journey with confidence and financial clarity.

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Insurance Coverage and Impact on Orthodontic Expenses

Insurance Coverage and Impact on Orthodontic Expenses

Navigating the world of orthodontic treatment can be financially challenging, and insurance coverage plays a crucial role in managing these expenses. Most dental insurance plans have varying levels of orthodontic coverage, which can significantly reduce the out-of-pocket costs for patients seeking braces or other corrective treatments.

Typically, dental insurance plans offer orthodontic coverage as a separate benefit, often with lifetime maximum limits. These limits usually range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for orthodontic treatment, which can make a substantial difference in overall treatment costs. However, it's important to note that not all plans are created equal. Some insurance providers cover only children under a certain age, while others extend coverage to adults as well.

Many patients are surprised to learn that insurance doesn't always cover the entire cost of orthodontic treatment. Most plans cover approximately 50% of the total expenses, leaving the patient responsible for the remaining balance. This means careful financial planning is essential. Some orthodontic offices offer payment plans or financing options to help make treatment more affordable.

Patients should take the time to carefully review their insurance policy details. Some plans have waiting periods before orthodontic coverage becomes active, while others may require pre-authorization or have specific network requirements. It's always wise to speak directly with your insurance provider and orthodontist to understand the exact extent of your coverage.

For those without comprehensive insurance, there are alternative ways to manage orthodontic expenses. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs), health savings accounts (HSAs), and payment plans can help spread out the cost of treatment. Some orthodontic practices also offer discounts for upfront payments or family treatment plans.

Understanding your insurance coverage can make a significant difference in managing orthodontic expenses. While the process might seem complicated, a little research and communication can help patients find affordable options for achieving their desired smile.

Payment Plan Options for Pediatric Orthodontic Care

When it comes to pediatric orthodontic care, navigating the financial landscape can feel overwhelming for many parents.

Understanding Common Fee Structures in Orthodontics - clear aligner

1. toothbrush
2. pediatric dentistry
3. physician

Understanding payment plan options can make the journey smoother and more manageable, helping

families invest in their child's dental health without breaking the bank.

Most orthodontic practices recognize that comprehensive treatment can be a significant expense, which is why they've developed flexible payment strategies. Typically, parents can choose from several approaches. Many offices offer monthly installment plans that spread the total cost over the duration of treatment, often ranging from 12 to 36 months. These plans usually involve a down payment followed by consistent monthly payments, making budgeting more predictable.

Some practices provide interest-free financing, which can be a game-changer for families watching their expenses. This option allows parents to pay for treatment without accruing additional interest charges, provided they meet specific payment timelines. Additionally, many orthodontists collaborate with third-party financing companies that specialize in healthcare payment solutions, offering customized plans with varying term lengths and interest rates.

Dental insurance can also play a crucial role in managing orthodontic expenses. While coverage varies, many plans offer partial reimbursement for pediatric orthodontic treatment, potentially reducing out-of-pocket costs. Some families also leverage health savings accounts (HSAs) or flexible spending accounts (FSAs) to help cover treatment expenses with pre-tax dollars.

Ultimately, the key is open communication with your orthodontic provider. Most practices are willing to work with families to find a payment strategy that fits their unique financial situation, ensuring that quality dental care remains accessible.

Factors Influencing Orthodontic Treatment Costs

When it comes to orthodontic treatment, the cost can vary widely, and understanding the factors that influence these expenses is crucial for patients considering braces or other corrective dental procedures. Let's break down the key elements that impact the overall price tag of getting that perfect smile.

First and foremost, the complexity of your specific dental issue plays a significant role. Simple alignment problems might require less intensive treatment, while more complicated cases involving severe misalignment, bite issues, or jaw discrepancies will naturally cost more.

Understanding Common Fee Structures in Orthodontics - patient

1. patient
2. clear aligner
3. candy

Think of it like car repairs - a minor tune-up is way cheaper than a complete engine overhaul.

The type of orthodontic treatment you choose is another major factor. Traditional metal braces tend to be the most affordable option, while ceramic braces, lingual braces, and clear aligners like Invisalign can bump up the price considerably. These more advanced treatments offer aesthetic benefits but come with a higher price tag.

Your geographical location matters too. Orthodontic costs can differ dramatically between urban and rural areas, and even between different states or regions. Big cities with higher living costs typically have more expensive orthodontic services. It's kind of like how a cup of coffee costs more in New York City compared to a small town in the Midwest.

The experience and reputation of the orthodontist also impact pricing. A highly sought-after specialist with years of experience and a stellar reputation might charge more than a newer practitioner just starting out. It's similar to how a renowned chef's restaurant will be pricier than a local diner.

Age is another consideration. Treatment for children and teenagers might be slightly less expensive, as their bones are still growing and more responsive to correction. Adult orthodontic treatment can be more complex and potentially more costly due to less flexible bone structure.

Insurance coverage and payment plans can also significantly affect out-of-pocket expenses. Some dental insurance plans cover a portion of orthodontic treatment, while others might not cover it at all. Many orthodontic offices offer flexible payment plans that can help make the treatment more affordable.

Additional treatments like tooth extractions, preliminary dental work, or ongoing maintenance can also add to the total cost. It's like renovating a house - the initial quote is just the beginning, and unexpected issues can pop up along the way.

The duration of treatment is another key factor. Longer treatment times mean more adjustments, more materials, and more professional time, which all contribute to higher overall costs. A quick six-month alignment will naturally be less expensive than a two-year comprehensive treatment plan.

In conclusion, orthodontic treatment costs are influenced by a complex mix of personal, medical, and professional factors. While the price might seem daunting, many patients find the long-term benefits of a corrected smile well worth the investment. It's always best to consult with multiple orthodontists, understand your specific needs, and explore all available options to find the most suitable and affordable treatment plan.

Comparing Different Orthodontic Practices and Their Pricing Strategies

When it comes to orthodontic care, patients often find themselves navigating a complex landscape of pricing strategies and practice approaches. Understanding the nuanced fee structures in orthodontics can feel like deciphering a complicated puzzle, but it's crucial for making informed decisions about dental treatment.

Different orthodontic practices tend to develop unique pricing models that reflect their individual business philosophies and target patient demographics. Some clinics offer comprehensive treatment packages that include initial consultations, multiple sets of braces or aligners, and follow-up appointments within a single upfront fee. Others might break down costs more granularly, charging separately for initial assessments, treatment phases, and ongoing maintenance.

Pricing can vary significantly based on several key factors. Geographic location plays a substantial role, with urban practices typically charging more than rural clinics due to higher operational costs. The complexity of an individual's dental alignment needs also dramatically impacts pricing - more challenging cases requiring extensive intervention naturally come with higher price tags.

Many modern practices are becoming increasingly transparent about their fee structures, offering flexible payment plans and even financing options to make orthodontic care more accessible. Some clinics provide sliding scale fees or discounts for patients paying in full upfront, while others partner with insurance providers to help manage out-of-pocket expenses.

Technology and treatment approach also influence pricing strategies. Practices utilizing cutting-edge digital scanning and 3D imaging might charge premium rates, reflecting their investment in advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies. Conversely, more traditional practices might maintain more conservative pricing models.

Ultimately, patients should approach orthodontic care as an investment in their long-term health and confidence. While price is undoubtedly important, the quality of care, practitioner expertise, and potential treatment outcomes should equally factor into decision-making.

Comparing different orthodontic practices requires careful research, multiple consultations, and a comprehensive understanding of individual dental needs. By approaching the process systematically and asking detailed questions about fee structures, patients can find high-quality orthodontic care that aligns with both their dental requirements and financial constraints.

Understanding Common Fee Structures in Orthodontics - candy

1. Clinton Township
2. Dental emergency
3. dentist

Additional Fees and Potential Hidden Expenses in Orthodontic Treatment

When diving into the world of orthodontic treatment, patients often find themselves navigating a complex landscape of fees that extend far beyond the initial quote. While many people assume the price they're initially given covers everything, the reality can be quite different.

Additional fees can pop up in unexpected ways throughout your orthodontic journey. For instance, diagnostic procedures like detailed x-rays, 3D imaging, and comprehensive dental scans might not be included in the base treatment cost. These preliminary assessments can add hundreds of dollars to your total expense.

Emergencies and unexpected adjustments are another potential financial pitfall. Breaking a bracket, needing extra alignment corrections, or requiring specialized attachments can quickly increase your out-of-pocket expenses. Some orthodontic practices charge per-visit fees or have specific rates for emergency repairs that aren't part of the original treatment plan.

Maintenance costs are another area where patients can be caught off guard. Retainers, which are crucial after braces or aligners, can be surprisingly expensive. Custom-fitted retainers can cost anywhere from \$100 to \$500, and they often need replacement every few years due to wear and tear.

Insurance coverage can be maddeningly complex, with many plans offering only partial orthodontic coverage. Patients might find themselves responsible for a significant percentage of treatment costs,

with annual caps that limit reimbursement.

Consultation fees, potential sedation costs for complex procedures, and even specialized cleaning tools can all contribute to a much higher total investment than initially anticipated. It's crucial for patients to have transparent conversations with their orthodontist about potential additional expenses and to get a comprehensive breakdown of all potential costs upfront.

By understanding these potential hidden expenses, patients can better prepare financially and avoid unexpected financial stress during their orthodontic treatment journey.

Long-Term Financial Considerations for Pediatric Orthodontic Care

When parents first learn about potential orthodontic treatment for their children, the initial price tag can feel overwhelming. However, understanding the long-term financial landscape is crucial for making informed decisions about dental healthcare.

Orthodontic treatment isn't just a single expense, but an investment in a child's future health and confidence. While upfront costs might range from \$3,000 to \$7,000, the potential long-term benefits can far outweigh these initial expenses. Properly aligned teeth can prevent more costly dental interventions later in life, such as complex jaw surgeries or extensive dental repairs.

Many orthodontic practices offer flexible payment plans that can help spread the financial burden over several years. Some options include monthly installment plans, zero-interest financing, and even sliding scale fees based on family income. Dental insurance can also play a significant role, with many plans covering a portion of orthodontic treatment for children.

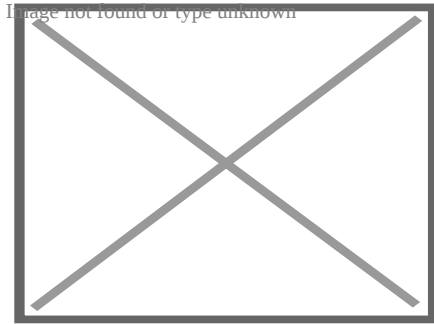
Parents should also consider the potential psychological benefits. Correcting dental alignment can boost a child's self-esteem and potentially reduce future mental health expenses related to self-image issues. It's not just about straight teeth, but about supporting a child's overall emotional well-being.

Additionally, some orthodontists offer sibling discounts or comprehensive family treatment packages, which can help families manage multiple children's dental needs more affordably. Proactive financial planning and early consultations can help parents navigate these complex considerations more effectively.

Ultimately, viewing orthodontic care as a long-term health investment rather than a short-term expense can help families make more strategic financial decisions.

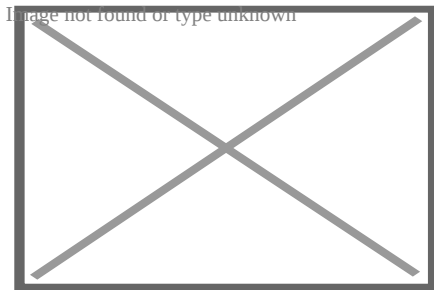
About thumb sucking

For other uses, see Thumbsucker (disambiguation).



Infants may use pacifiers or their thumb or fingers to soothe themselves

Newborn baby thumb sucking



A bonnet macaque thumb sucking

Thumb sucking is a behavior found in humans, chimpanzees, captive ring-tailed lemurs,^[1] and other primates.^[2] It usually involves placing the thumb into the mouth and rhythmically repeating sucking contact for a prolonged duration. It can also be accomplished with any organ within reach (such as other fingers and toes) and is considered to be soothing and therapeutic for the person. As a child develops the habit, it will usually develop a "favourite" finger to suck on.

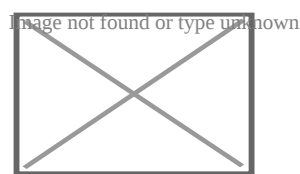
At birth, a baby will reflexively suck any object placed in its mouth; this is the sucking reflex responsible for breastfeeding. From the first time they engage in nutritive feeding, infants learn that the habit can not only provide valuable nourishment, but also a great deal of pleasure, comfort, and warmth. Whether from a mother, bottle, or pacifier, this behavior, over time, begins to become associated with a very strong, self-soothing, and pleasurable oral sensation. As the child grows older, and is eventually weaned off the nutritional sucking, they can either develop alternative means for receiving those same feelings of physical and emotional fulfillment, or they can continue experiencing those pleasantly soothing experiences by beginning to suck their thumbs or fingers.^[3] This reflex disappears at about 4 months of age;

thumb sucking is not purely an instinctive behavior and therefore can last much longer.^[4] Moreover, ultrasound scans have revealed that thumb sucking can start before birth, as early as 15 weeks from conception; whether this behavior is voluntary or due to random movements of the fetus in the womb is not conclusively known.

Thumb sucking generally stops by the age of 4 years. Some older children will retain the habit, which can cause severe dental problems.^[5] While most dentists would recommend breaking the habit as early as possible, it has been shown that as long as the habit is broken before the onset of permanent teeth, at around 5 years old, the damage is reversible.^[6] Thumb sucking is sometimes retained into adulthood and may be due to simply habit continuation. Using anatomical and neurophysiological data a study has found that sucking the thumb is said to stimulate receptors within the brain which cause the release of mental and physical tension.^[7]

Dental problems and prevention

[edit]



Alveolar prognathism, caused by thumb sucking and tongue thrusting in a 7-year-old girl.

Percentage of children who suck their thumbs (data from two researchers)

Age	Kantorowicz ^[4]	Brückl ^[8]
0–1	92%	
1–2	93%	66%
2–3	87%	—
3–4	86%	
4–5	85%	25%
5–6	76%	
Over 6	—	9%

Most children stop sucking on thumbs, pacifiers or other objects on their own between 2 and 4 years of age. No harm is done to their teeth or jaws until permanent teeth start to erupt. The only time it might cause concern is if it goes on beyond 6 to 8 years of age. At this time, it may affect the shape of the oral cavity or dentition.^[9] During thumbsucking the tongue sits in a lowered position and so no longer balances the forces from the buccal group of musculature.

This results in narrowing of the upper arch and a posterior crossbite. Thumbsucking can also cause the maxillary central incisors to tip labially and the mandibular incisors to tip lingually, resulting in an increased overjet and anterior open bite malocclusion, as the thumb rests on them during the course of sucking. In addition to proclination of the maxillary incisors, mandibular incisors retrusion will also happen. Transverse maxillary deficiency gives rise to posterior crossbite, ultimately leading to a Class II malocclusion.^[10]

Children may experience difficulty in swallowing and speech patterns due to the adverse changes. Aside from the damaging physical aspects of thumb sucking, there are also additional risks, which unfortunately, are present at all ages. These include increased risk of infection from communicable diseases, due to the simple fact that non-sterile thumbs are covered with infectious agents, as well as many social implications. Some children experience social difficulties, as often children are taunted by their peers for engaging in what they can consider to be an “immature” habit. This taunting often results the child being rejected by the group or being subjected to ridicule by their peers, which can cause understandable psychological stress.^[11]

Methods to stop sucking habits are divided into 2 categories: Preventive Therapy and Appliance Therapy.^[10]

Examples to prevent their children from sucking their thumbs include the use of bitterants or piquant substances on their child's hands—although this is not a procedure encouraged by the American Dental Association^[9] or the Association of Pediatric Dentists. Some suggest that positive reinforcements or calendar rewards be given to encourage the child to stop sucking their thumb.

The American Dental Association recommends:

- Praise children for not sucking, instead of scolding them when they do.
- If a child is sucking their thumb when feeling insecure or needing comfort, focus instead on correcting the cause of the anxiety and provide comfort to your child.
- If a child is sucking on their thumb because of boredom, try getting the child's attention with a fun activity.
- Involve older children in the selection of a means to cease thumb sucking.
- The pediatric dentist can offer encouragement to the child and explain what could happen to the child's teeth if he/she does not stop sucking.
- Only if these tips are ineffective, remind the child of the habit by bandaging the thumb or putting a sock/glove on the hand at night.
- Other orthodontics^[12] for appliances are available.

The British Orthodontic Society recommends the same advice as ADA.^[13]

A Cochrane review was conducted to review the effectiveness of a variety of clinical interventions for stopping thumb-sucking. The study showed that orthodontic appliances and psychological interventions (positive and negative reinforcement) were successful at

preventing thumb sucking in both the short and long term, compared to no treatment.^[14] Psychological interventions such as habit reversal training and decoupling have also proven useful in body focused repetitive behaviors.^[15]

Clinical studies have shown that appliances such as TGuards can be 90% effective in breaking the thumb or finger sucking habit. Rather than use bitterants or piquants, which are not endorsed by the ADA due to their causing of discomfort or pain, TGuards break the habit simply by removing the suction responsible for generating the feelings of comfort and nurture.^[16] Other appliances are available, such as fabric thumb guards, each having their own benefits and features depending on the child's age, willpower and motivation. Fixed intraoral appliances have been known to create problems during eating as children when removing their appliances may have a risk of breaking them. Children with mental illness may have reduced compliance.^[10]

Some studies mention the use of extra-oral habit reminder appliance to treat thumb sucking. An alarm is triggered when the child tries to suck the thumb to stop the child from this habit.^[10] ^[17] However, more studies are required to prove the effectiveness of external devices on thumb sucking.

Children's books

[edit]

- In Heinrich Hoffmann's *Struwwelpeter*, the "thumb-sucker" Konrad is punished by having both of his thumbs cut off.
- There are several children's books on the market with the intention to help the child break the habit of thumb sucking. Most of them provide a story the child can relate to and some coping strategies.^[18] Experts recommend to use only books in which the topic of thumb sucking is shown in a positive and respectful way.^[19]

See also

[edit]

- Stereotypic movement disorder
- Prognathism

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[edit]

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Frequently Asked Questions

When is the most cost-effective age to start orthodontic treatment?

Between ages 9-14 is typically most cost-effective, as early intervention can prevent more complex and expensive treatments later.

IQDENT - Ortodontska Klinika

Phone : +385953817015

City : Zagreb

State : Hrvatska

Zip : 10000

Address : IQDENT - Ortodontska Klinika

Company Website : <https://iqdent.hr/>

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