

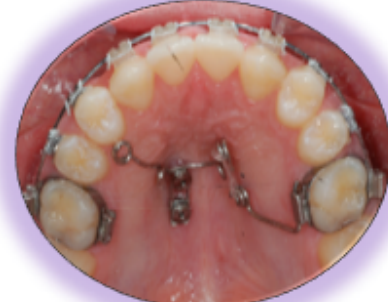
TAD'S

TEMPORARY ANCHORAGE DEVICES

WHAT ARE TADS (TEMPORARY ANCHORAGE DEVICES)?

TAD's are titanium-alloy mini-screws, range in size from 6 to 12 millimetres in length and 1.2 to 2 millimetres in diameter. They are fixed to bone temporarily to allow movement of teeth without unwanted side effects. Titanium alloys have been used as joint replacements and for dental implants for many years. These alloys will very rarely be rejected by the body, but some may become loose and may need to be replaced.

In many cases TAD's provide a point of anchorage to patients with missing teeth. The TAD is inserted and allow the orthodontist to close spaces by anchoring the teeth in front of the space and maintaining their position, and by moving the back teeth forward to close the space. The TAD's prevent the front teeth from moving back or shifting to one side when closing space.



WHERE ARE TADS PLACED?

TADs are placed in the bone between the roots of the teeth, or in the roof of the mouth.

HOW IS A TAD PLACED AND DOES IT HURT?

Placement is minimally invasive and is completed using both a topical anaesthetic as well as local anaesthetic. This allows to orthodontist to insert the TAD directly into the bone using a special instrument. There is often very little to no discomfort during the insertion of the TAD because there are no nerve endings in the bone tissue.

WHEN DOES THE TAD GET INSERTED AND HOW LONG WILL IT BE LEFT IN?

The orthodontist will usually insert the TAD 6 months into treatment, and will advise how long it is needed. It can range from a few months to the entire length of treatment. TADs are not left in long term and are not needed as a permanent anchor after the treatment has been completed. TADs are visible and may be used in different areas of the mouth during different parts of treatment.