

# the ortho guide<sup>©</sup>

## The summary table of common orthodontic problems

By Dr. Shaun Goh

| Problem                                   | Ages to refer or treat (years)         | Early treatment indications   | Comprehensive treatment indications   | Treatment options   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Malocclusion</b>                       |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Increased overjet (Class II)</b>       | 8-10 (early tx), 12+                   | Bullying, lip trap, habit-induced, deep bite on palate, incisor trauma  | Overjet >3.5mm, aesthetics, >2mm Class II, skeletal Class II, all early tx indications                                | Growth modification orthopaedics, interceptive tx, comprehensive orthodontics, molar intrusion, surgery   |
| <b>Anterior crossbite (Class III)</b>     | 7-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Edge-to-edge, reverse overjet, functional shift, skeletal Class III   | Aesthetics, functional difficulties, dental wear, >2mm Class III, all early tx indications                            | Growth modification orthopaedics, interceptive tx, comprehensive orthodontics, surgery  |
| <b>Open bite</b>                          | 7-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Habit-induced, ectopic incisor, pathologies   | Functional difficulties, appearance, >2mm open bite   | Habit correction, comprehensive orthodontics, molar intrusion, surgery  |
| <b>Deep bite</b>                          | 8-10 (early tx), 12+                   | Traumatic deep bite on palate or opposing incisors  | Increased gingival display, >3.5mm overbite, all early tx indications   | Growth modification orthopaedics, comprehensive orthodontics, surgery   |
| <b>Posterior crossbite</b>                | 8-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Functional shift, unilateral & bilateral crossbite  | Dental wear, TMD*, all early tx indications   | Occlusal interference removal, orthopaedic maxillary expansion, orthodontics, surgery   |
| <b>Dental anomalies</b>                   |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Crowding</b>                           | 7-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Moderate crowding, early loss of deciduous teeth, impacted teeth  | Aesthetics, prevention of proper occlusion/oral health, >2mm crowding   | Extractions, IPR, arch expansion, distalisation, comprehensive orthodontics, holding Leeway space   |
| <b>Spacing</b>                            | 8-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Soft tissue interference, ectopic/impacted teeth, missing teeth   | Aesthetics, missing teeth, microdontia, all early tx indications  | Removal of interference, ectopic teeth retrieval, space closing orthodontics, space opening orthodontics +/- pros   |
| <b>Early loss of deciduous teeth</b>      | <10                                    | Early loss of Cs, Ds, Es; existing crowding   |   | Balancing extractions (Cs), space maintainers, space regaining, delay for comprehensive orthodontics  |
| <b>Compromised first permanent molars</b> | 8 to 10 (spontaneous replacement), 11+ | Moderate-severe MIH*, caries, pulpitis, no deep bite, no malocclusion/crowding present unless with prior consultation with orthodontist, presence of third molars, <1/3 root formation of permanent second molars (for spontaneous replacement)   |   | Extraction of the first permanent molar with spontaneous replacement, upper compensating extraction, orthodontics, space maintaining +/- prosthetics  |
| <b>Missing teeth (Hypodontia)</b>         | 7-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Agenesis of deciduous or permanent teeth, ankylosis of primary tooth, other ectopic teeth   | Retained deciduous tooth, malocclusion associated with hypodontia (e.g. deep bite), spacing, all early tx indications | Interceptive tx, space closure, space maintaining/opening +/- prosthetics   |
| <b>Supernumerary teeth</b>                | 7-11 (early tx), 12+                   | Obstruction of dental eruption, pathologies   | Crowding, prevention of proper occlusion/oral health  | Interceptive tx (extraction for normal dental development), comprehensive orthodontics, extraction  |
| <b>Eruption problems</b>                  |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Ectopic/impacted permanent teeth</b>   | 7+                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ectopic incisor (no mobility of primary incisor, &gt;6mths of asymmetric/delayed eruption, lack of space)</li> <li>- Canine (no canine bulge, asymmetric/delayed eruption or radiographic signs)</li> <li>- Premolars (asymmetric/delayed eruption, radiographic signs)</li> <li>- First molars (clinical or radiographic impaction)</li> <li>- Second molars and third molars (clinical or radiographic impaction)</li> </ul> |   | Interceptive tx (removal of Cs for ectopic canines, space creation, expansion, removal of obstructions), comprehensive treatment (surgical exposure of tooth and orthodontics), extraction, monitor |
| <b>Infraocclusion/Ankylosis</b>           | Any age                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sinking/infraoccluded primary or permanent tooth</li> <li>- Obstruction of permanent successor</li> <li>- Tipping of adjacent teeth and over-eruption of opposing teeth</li> <li>- Primary failure of eruption</li> </ul>  |   | Extraction of ankylosed tooth and orthodontics, maintenance of ankylosed tooth for prosthetic replacement later (alveolar development compromise), surgery  |

No treatment is always an available option. The patient/parent needs to understand the risks and benefits of nil intervention.

\*TMD = temporomandibular disorder    MIH = molar-incisor hypomineralisation

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