

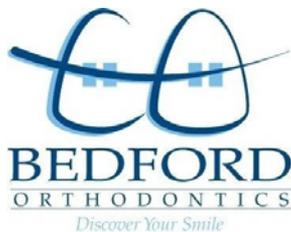
EXPERT ADVICE

Braces and Technology - Can We Speed Up Orthodontic Treatment?



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Technology in the orthodontics field is rapidly changing and advancing. We are able to straighten teeth with greater comfort for our patients, usually without removing permanent teeth, and with braces that are much less visible. The next orthodontic frontier involves reducing the duration of treatment with braces or Invisalign aligners. Orthodontic treatment takes anywhere from six to 36 months, depending on the severity of the bite issues and the degree of tooth misalignment.



Wouldn't it be nice to reduce this time by 30 to 50 per cent? The technology to do so is here!

Meet AcceleDent. AcceleDent Aura is a handheld, light, portable unit. It is FDA cleared, available by prescription from your orthodontist, and clinically proven to speed up tooth movement by up to 50 per cent. AcceleDent consists of a mouthpiece, resembling a small mouth guard, which is attached to a small handle. The appliance is very lightweight and can be used "hands-free." When a patient gently bites down on the mouthpiece, the gentle pulsing is transmitted from the handle through the mouthpiece to the teeth and the surrounding bone. These gentle micro-pulses accelerate the bone cells responsible for bone remodeling and tooth movement. Essentially, it is like putting your orthodontic treatment on fast forward!

This technology is new to orthodontics, but not new to medicine. Micro-pulse technology may be used to help heal complex bone fractures and is being investigated in the treatment of bone loss. Medical studies show that low level, high frequency vibrations can inhibit bone loss in the hips and the spines of some patient cohorts. Today, NASA uses vibration

technology to prevent loss of bone mass in astronauts.

So how is the AcceleDent used in orthodontics? AcceleDent Aura is easily charged through a USB extension cable and power adapter. Once charged, the device is turned on and the patient closes his or her teeth gently onto the mouthpiece for 20 minutes per day while wearing orthodontics or Invisalign aligners. The mouthpiece is very light and is held in place simply by gentle biting pressure. It can be used during daily activities such as watching television, computer use, and reading. The micro-pulses are very gentle and exert up to eight times less force than an electric toothbrush, so the AcceleDent is very comfortable to use. Most patients report that the pulsing sensation can actually reduce discomfort that can sometimes be associated with braces. The AcceleDent is quiet and totally safe, and no adverse side effects have been reported by patients in clinical and randomized controlled trials.

The technology is here to speed up your braces or Invisalign aligners in a safe and risk-free way. Ask us today about adding AcceleDent to your orthodontic treatment! ■