

PROCEDURE FOR HYRAX EXPANDER

The hyrax expander is an orthodontic appliance that is used to correct a crossbite. A crossbite is described as an abnormal relationship of a tooth or teeth to the opposing teeth, in which normal teeth relationships are reversed. The hyrax expander allows the palate to expand by separating the two lateral halves of the bony palate over a period of time.

It takes three appointments that are scheduled approximately one week between each other in order to place the hyrax expander. Each appointment takes approximately 45 minutes and can be scheduled anytime of the day. The following are the descriptions of each appointment:

- (1) Orthodontic records and place separators.

Orthodontic records include x-rays and photos. We will also be placing separators between the back molars to create enough space for us to fit bands one week later.

- (2) Fit bands for hyrax expander.

At this appointment we will be fitting bands around the back molars. Once the bands are fitted, we will be taking an impression. The bands will be removed and separators will be placed again. Over the next week, our lab will be using this impression and bands to make the hyrax expander.

- (3) Band hyrax expander.

This is the appointment where we will be banding the hyrax expander. After the expander is placed, we will be going over instructions with the patient and parent/guardian on how to care for the expander. It is very important to have the parent/guardian that will be caring for the expander at this appointment.

Depending on the orthodontic treatment plan, the expander will stay in for approximately 3 - 1/2 months to 5 months. If you have any further questions regarding the hyrax expander, please do not hesitate to contact our office.