ORTHODONTIC ANCHORAGE DEVICES - MINI-IMPLANTS OR TADS

Mini-implants or temporary anchorage devices (TADs) are simple, small screws that are placed in the jaws to facilitate tooth movements during orthodontics. Often this tooth movement occurs in a manner that could not be accomplished with only traditional orthodontic mechanisms, or would require alternative treatments (headgear, extractions, surgery, etc.), and longer, more complex treatment mechanics. The placement of a mini-implant is a brief, minimally-invasive process that has three parts: anesthesia, placement, and attachment of orthodontic forces. Patients have reported minimal discomfort or problems with mini-implants, but their orthodontic treatments and results have been significantly enhanced; making TADs exceptionally helpful little tools.

PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

To prepare for mini-implant (TAD) placement, we recommend that you take an over-the-counter analgesic (e.g., Ibuprofen or Motrin) about an hour prior to your appointment.

We use a very strong topical anesthetic called TAC alternate gel. This material is simply swabbed with a cotton tip onto your gum tissue just in the location where your mini-implant will be placed. This gel will provide numbness to your gum tissue in about 5 minutes and lasts about 30 minutes. Remember, the mini-screw is very small, so the area to be numb does not have to be very large either (it is not like having a dental filling or extraction of a tooth).

In some situations, we may also place a drop of anesthetic, just under the gum tissue, with a typical dental syringe and then the mini-screw will be placed into that same exact spot.

We will swab the gum tissue with a disinfecting material before the sterile mini-implant is inserted. The entire process of actually placing each mini-screw typically takes about 2-3 minutes. During placement, you will feel pressure from the implant, but no pain is expected.

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

We recommend that you take Ibuprofen, as needed, for any discomfort.

Please rinse with a capful of Peridex (Chlorhexidine Gluconate) for 30 seconds, specifically in the area of the mini-implants, twice each day for one week. If you notice any gum-tissue swelling around the mini-screw, you may continue to rinse once each day to help reduce it.

You must keep the mini-implant clean to avoid failure or loosening of the device. A soft bristle toothbrush or even a cotton swab (Q-tip) can be dipped into a capful of Peridex to massage debris, food, and plaque away from the mini-implant along with regular oral hygiene.

Avoid hard, chewy, or sticky foods around the implant. The same list of foods to avoid with braces is applicable for mini-implants.