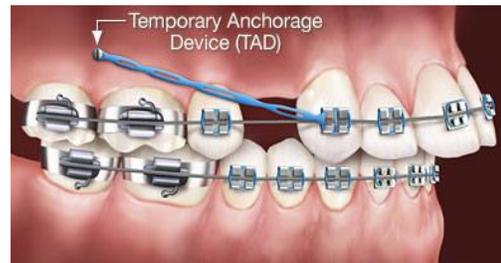


Temporary Anchorage Device (TAD) Patient Instructions

Temporary anchorage devices (TADs) are miniature screws that are positioned in the mouth to serve as anchors for moving specific teeth in the most controlled and predictable way possible. TADs are made of a sterile biologically compatible medical-grade titanium alloy.



- 1. Where are TADs placed and how long are they left in?** TADs are placed in the bone between the roots of the teeth and can be placed in the bone in the roof of the mouth as well. They may be required only for a few months, or it may be needed throughout your orthodontic treatment. TADs are versatile and may be used in different areas of the mouth during different parts of treatment.
- 2. How is a TAD placed and does it hurt?** Placement is minimally invasive and often completed using only topical anesthetic. TADs are inserted directly into the bone using a special instrument. There is little or no discomfort because there are no nerve endings in the bone tissue. Once placed, your orthodontist is able to use the TAD as orthodontic anchorage immediately.
- 3.** Your orthodontist may give you a special mouthwash and specific brushing techniques to use for the first few days you have your TAD. Afterwards, routine brushing will be a sufficient enough way to care for your TAD. Since TADs can come loose or fall out, it is advised to keep from picking at it, pulling at it, or playing with it in any way. In the case that it does fall out or come loose, contact us right away.

Mouthwash and Brushing Technique Instructions

- **Rinse with 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate 2-3 times per day for the first seven days**
 - **Dip a soft toothbrush in the chlorhexidine gluconate and brush lightly around the mini screw during the first week. After the first week brush the tad as if it were a tooth.**
 - **Contact the office ASAP if you experience any swelling, unusual redness or persistent pain**
- 4.** TADs are easily removed when no longer needed, and usually without the need for any anesthesia. The site where the TAD was placed heals painlessly within several days after removal.