

ORTHODONTIC EXTRUSION

Orthodontic extrusion is a procedure that draws a tooth, or multiple teeth, into a position farther out of the surrounding bone or gum tissue. This treatment may allow some teeth to be saved rather than extracted, or allow a less invasive treatment to be performed.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why would my dentist recommend extruding my tooth?

- Sometimes extracting a tooth in its current position results in a defect in the bone and gum tissue. This can make treatment to replace your tooth more difficult or unaesthetic. If a tooth is extruded before the extraction, your body will grow additional bone around the tooth as it is moved. Then when the tooth is extracted, more bone remains to support an implant and minimize an unsightly bone or gum defect.
- In some cases, orthodontic extrusion can save a tooth from extraction. Successful restorations require a solid band of tooth structure to seal a crown or filling. If your tooth is damaged deeply under the gum tissue, bringing the tooth out of the bone may expose enough solid tooth structure to repair and save the tooth.
- Since the gum tissue will move along with the tooth, orthodontic extrusion can change the gum tissue height. This technique can create a significant aesthetic improvement by creating a symmetrical gum line or improving the shape of the gum papillae between the teeth.
- When bone grafting procedures are necessary for implant placement, gum grafts, or bony ridge augmentation, orthodontic extrusion can stimulate bone growth to either eliminate or reduce the amount of bone grafting surgery needed.
- Gum disease can result in bony craters near the edge of some teeth. As orthodontic extrusion moves teeth farther out of the bone, new bone will form and may be effective in filling in some bone defects caused by periodontal disease.



Before Extrusion



After Extrusion



Bone Growth From Extrusion

2. How is orthodontic extrusion accomplished?

- Braces are placed on the teeth to be extracted. The technique and treatment time will differ depending on whether the goal is to move only the tooth, or to move the tooth and the accompanying bone. The procedure is usually painless. The average treatment is one to three months for moving the tooth, followed by three to six months for the tooth and bone to stabilize.



Beginning of Extrusion



End of Extrusion

3. Are there disadvantages to orthodontic extrusion?

- Some people find that wearing braces, even for a short time, is a disadvantage because the braces are visible, require multiple visits to the dental office, and make keeping the area clean more difficult. Some hard, crunchy foods may need to be avoided during the treatment period.

4. What if I choose to do nothing?

Your dentist can advise you of the risks of no treatment in your particular case.