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TRANSPALATAL ARCH OR LOWER LINGUAL ARCH

Mixed Dentition

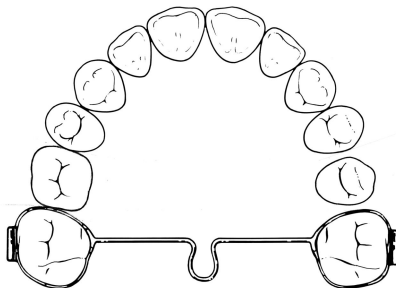
Your child has either been given an orthodontic appliance called a transpalatal arch (TPA), or a lower lingual arch (LLA). The purpose of these appliances is to hold the molars into their current position or to rotate the molars into a correct orientation. Both arches are cemented in place and cannot be removed by the patient.

The most common time to use a TPA or LLA during early treatment is at the end of the "mixed dentition period", a time at which the remaining baby teeth are about to be lost. Either appliance (or both) may be used to hold the permanent molars in their current positions so that these teeth will not move forward after the baby teeth in front of them are lost. Occasionally, a TPA is needed immediately after the removal of a bonded expander, particularly in patients in whom some of the baby teeth are lost when the expander is removed.

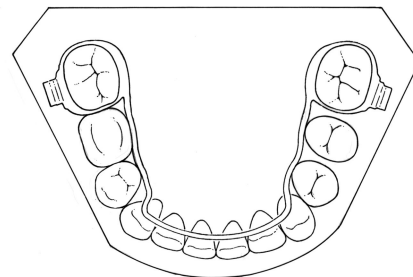
These types of arches are usually tolerated quite well by patients. Initially, your child's teeth may feel a bit tender and perhaps a bit mobile. If the cheeks adjacent to the appliance become sore, application of wax on the appliance is helpful. Patients may also feel some tenderness in the area of the tongue next to the appliance, and may actually see the imprint of the appliance on the tongue. If these symptoms do not resolve themselves within three to five days, or seem to be worsening after that time, a call should be made to the office.

One problem that many patients encounter is food getting trapped under the appliances. Your child should be told not to "suck" the food out, because this can result in the particles of food can be carried into the lung. Instead, your child should be instructed to "swish and swallow" using water or some other type of liquid.

If either the TPA or LLA ever becomes loose (even if just on one side), an immediate call to the office is indicated.



TPA



LLA