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WILSON DISTALIZING ARCH

Patient Instructions

You are being given a special kind of orthodontic arch wire called a Wilson Distalizing Arch. The purpose of this arch is to move your upper molars and other back teeth posteriorly in your mouth, thus helping in the overall orthodontic correction of your bite.

The Wilson Arch is attached through the large tubes on the upper first molar bands, and tied into the upper anterior teeth only. The side teeth (cuspids and bicuspids) are not engaged in the archwire.

One of the components of the Wilson Arch is a small spring in front of the first molar on each side. This spring is compressed as the arch wire is tied into the anterior teeth. The force produced by the spring will either push the upper molars posteriorly or push forward the upper incisors. The movement of the upper incisors is prevented through the use of elastics, which are connected to the small hooks on the Wilson Arch and are also attached to the lower first or second molar bands. **THE ELASTICS MUST BE WORN 24 HOURS PER DAY IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE FLARING OF THE UPPER FRONT TEETH.** This includes wearing elastics during meals.

The Wilson Arch is usually worn for three to four months, and rapid changes occur if the patient wears elastics properly. If you notice a change in the position of the upper front teeth or if the appliance becomes loose in the mouth, please contact the office immediately.

In contrast to most other orthodontic wires that you may have had, it is necessary for the Wilson Arch to stick out of the molar bands posteriorly. This is necessary to allow for the posterior movement of these teeth as treatment progresses.

If you have any questions regarding the proper wear of the elastics, please contact the office.

