

# ORTHODONTICS: 3 METHODS TO BECOMING A GOOD ORTHODONTIC CONSUMER



PRESENTED BY



**Center for Dentistry**  
and orthodontics

# Choosing an orthodontic provider is an important decision. How do you know you're making the right choice?

Become a savvy orthodontic shopper by following these three methods:

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## 1) You are ready to schedule an orthodontic evaluation appointment. Now what?

To get the most out of your appointment, consider this:

- ➔ Think about and be ready to express why you are considering orthodontic treatment. **What would you like to change?**
- ➔ If your dentist recommended evaluation, do you understand why? **Ask your dentist** to convey the information to the orthodontic provider.
- ➔ How will orthodontic treatment **fit into your overall dental health/cosmetic dentistry plan?** If you don't know, ask your orthodontic provider during the evaluation.
- ➔ **Do you have orthodontic insurance** and/or a medical savings/flexible spending account? If so, be sure to provide the information to your orthodontic treatment coordinator.
- ➔ Do you have a night guard, retainer, or other dental device? If so, **bring it along.**
- ➔ If you have a child, **consider having an orthodontic evaluation by age eight.** This will allow you to learn about your child's developing bite and prepare for future treatment.

## 2) Your appointment is scheduled. What do you do?

During your orthodontic exam visit:

- ➔ **EXPRESS** your goals and concerns.
- ➔ **ASK** questions—are your orthodontic provider and their staff thorough and patient with your questions? Did you understand what might be needed before some questions can be answered (such as x-rays, consultation with your dentist)?
- ➔ **ASSESS** the culture of the orthodontic provider and staff. Are they present with you and interested? Did they ask questions and listen to you? Did they seem interested in communicating and getting to know you or simply in getting you to move forward toward treatment or sign a financial agreement? Were they prepared for your visit, i.e. did they have any current x-rays or oral health information from your dentist or any other dental specialist that you informed them of? Did they exhibit a culture of great customer service? Did they seem sincere or scripted?
- ➔ **OBSERVE**—does the practice run on time or does it seem to rely upon distractions such as video games, etc? Does it seem organized or chaotic? Is it clean? Do the staff members appear to work well with one another? Does the practice appear to be focused on quality or volume? Will you/your child be under the care of one doctor or is the responsibility shared?



## 2) Parents: Does your child need orthodontics?

When your child sits in the chair, consider this:

- ➔ Did the staff and orthodontic provider **relate well with your child** and make him/her feel comfortable?
- ➔ Did they want to **take an x-ray** before the doctor even evaluated your child?
- ➔ If **two-phase treatment was recommended**, is there a compelling reason that you understood?
- ➔ If **your child has special needs**, please inform the orthodontic provider.
- ➔ Understand that orthodontic treatment should be **based upon individual needs**. Your child's needs may be quite different from those of siblings or classmates.



ALRIGHT, IT'S TIME TO  
**GET STARTED**

Schedule an appointment with Dr. Walczak  
and put us to the test!

Print out our Ebook and take it with you  
to your next appointment.

**SCHEDULE AWAY!**



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and orthodontics

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