



WAZ UP DOC?

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New Concepts in Orthodontics

Dentofacial Orthopedics, the non-surgical method of achieving facial improvements

Unlike dentistry, which is thousands of years old, orthodontics is a relatively new field. The first generation of braces was introduced to the profession by Dr. Edward Angle in 1930s. It took half a century for orthodontic treatment to become affordable for ordinary people. In the beginning, orthodontics was concerned only with straightening teeth. During the 1980s, we started to learn more about facial growth and its application to orthodontic treatment. Understanding the normal versus the abnormal growth heralded the birth of dentofacial orthopedics, the science of modifying facial growth to achieve a more balanced face. Through the use of light but steady forces, one could now change the form of a long and narrow face to a short and wide one. Likewise, a protrusive profile could be altered into a straight one.

Obviously, genetics play a large role and the inherited traits are resistant to mechanical manipulations. The good news is that genetics provide only half of the information. Hereditary factors provide the framework in which the facial form can be modified. Orthodontic forces become one of many environmental influences which when added together mold the facial form within a person's built-in genetic parameters.

Effective dentofacial orthopedics is age dependant. One can only modify the parts that have not fully developed. Once a large amount of growth is reached, the chances for its reversal are lost. The most effective time to influence the growth of a bone is when the rate of growth in that area is at its maximum.

Early mixed-dentition (7-9 years of age) is the best age to influence facial growth and achieve optimal facial balance. Any age is good for straightening teeth, but adding that 10% improvement to facial esthetics becomes harder after the age of ten.



Improvement in facial appearance through application of dentofacial orthopedics.



Anterior open-bite was closed by upward swing of the lower jaw.

Staff News



Our office attended the nuptials of our assistant Nayeli. Pictured here with husband Mark on June 13th.



Dr. Kouvaris and his wife, Erin, welcomed Sophia into the world April 29th.

KIDS KORNER

Complete our Harry Potter trivia questions and send it to our office or email it to info@drmashouf.com by September 17, 2009 and you may be the lucky winner in our drawing for \$30 cash!

So You Think You Know Harry Potter? We'll see....

- 1) Who is Harry's godfather? _____
- 2) What do wizards call non-wizards? _____
- 3) Who is the headmaster of Hogwarts? _____
- 4) What sport does Harry play at Hogwarts? _____
- 5) What position does he play on the team? _____
- 6) Who teaches Potions class at Hogwarts? _____
- 7) What animal did Professor Lupin, the Defense the Dark Arts teacher, turn out to be?

- 8) What is the name of Harry's owl? _____
- 9) Who dies at the end of the Goblet of Fire tournament? _____
- 10) What is Lord Voldemort's real name? _____

Please email your comments to cameron@drmashouf.com