



TECHNICAL GUIDE



Gordon Expander

Description:

The Gordon Expander is a fixed-removable appliance that is built on bands placed on the 6-year molars. It consists of an anterior pad of acrylic that rests against the lingual of the incisors and the first bicuspid. This pad of acrylic houses a lateral expansion screw and supports lingual arms and occlusal rests. The lingual arms insert into horizontal lingual tubes (Mia tubes) that are soldered to the lingual of the bands. The rests are placed on the occlusal of the first bicuspid and enhance the stability of the appliance.

The Gordon Expander is designed to expand the intercanine width of the lower arch. Because the appliance is more tissue-borne and less tooth borne, it is especially effective at remodeling the width of the anterior alveolus. It also provides some molar expansion and buccal torque.

Indications:

- Mandibular anterior crowding.
- Narrow intercanine width on the lower arch.
- Rotated and crowded incisors.

Contraindications:

- Non- or partially erupted 6-year molars.

Alternate Appliances:

- Mandibular Williams appliance.
- Removable Schwartz appliance.
- Mandibular Sim Fixed Expander.



Clinical Procedures:

1. One week prior to taking impressions place separators for the 6-year molars. Separators need not always be placed before impressions and this step can be eliminated if the bands are going to be sized at the laboratory.
2. One week later size bands for the 6-year molars, or, indicate on the lab slip if you want us to do it for you. Remove the bands and place them in a bag or envelope to be stapled to the lab slip later.
3. Complete a mandibular impression.
4. Pour impression with lab stone. Do not pour bands up in impression.
5. Staple the bag/envelope with the bands in it to the lab slip. Send the case to the laboratory with a completed *Orthodontic Technologies* prescription form. Indicate the type of buccal attachment desired. We will provide the lingual attachments (horizontal Mia tubes).

Delivery Suggestions:

1. Trial fit the appliance and the bands. Check that the rests are adapted well.
2. Separate then cement the bands onto the 6-year molars.
3. Insert the Gordon Expander on one side of the arch first. Insert the other side of the appliance into the opposite lingual sheath.
4. Demonstrate activating the screw. Have the patient practice one turn.
5. Demonstrate cleaning under the acrylic with floss. Have the patient practice threading the floss under the acrylic and cleaning as directed.
6. Give instructions to the patient on the wear and care of the appliance.

Adjustment Suggestions:

Other than activating the screw, very few adjustments are required of this appliance. If needed, you can control molar torque and rotation by removing the appliance from the lingual sheaths and “adjusting the wire near the insertion points” (Bonacord Analysis, Dr. Galella, 2000).

Length of treatment time and results expected:

Treatment time generally lasts from 3 to 4 months.

Hard and Soft Tissue responses to wear of the Gordon Expander:

The hard tissue response to this appliance is a remodeling of the anterior alveolus bone.

Some inflammatory response of the soft tissue, especially the gingival tissues, is normal and to be expected. Much of that can be prevented if the proper hygiene routine is followed (i.e., threading floss under the acrylic to clean on a daily basis). Any redness that remains after removal of the Gordon Expander should clear up within a week of removing the appliance.

Stabilization of teeth and bone following removal of the Gordon Expander:

Prior to removing the Gordon Expander, Dr. Galella recommends placing brackets on the mandibular teeth and using controlled arch mechanics to align the incisors. After the incisors are aligned and the expansion is complete an FRLA (fixed-removable lingual arch) should be inserted and left in place for 6 to 8 months.

For Additional Information Call **ORTHODONTIC TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** 1-800-346-5133

Email: techassist@orthodontictechnologies.com