



## Dental Procedure Information

### Orthodontic Mini-Screw

#### Introduction

An orthodontic mini-screw is a small titanium screw which is inserted through the gum into the jaw bone to act as an anchor helping to move poorly positioned teeth. Orthodontic mini-screws are also called micro-screws, mini-implants or temporary anchorage devices (TADs).

#### Outcomes

The purpose of this procedure is to provide anchorage in order to help moving poorly positioned teeth. It can help to close the space left over from the extraction of teeth, intrude or extrude teeth and pull teeth that are impacted or to upright teeth that are severely tipped etc.

#### Procedures

1. An orthodontic mini-screw is usually inserted during treatment with braces.
2. Local anaesthesia is used to numb the gum before insertion.
3. A hole may be drilled into the jaw first to insert the screw or it may be gently inserted directly into the bone.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. There are no major safety worries for the procedure. Success rates are greater than 80%.
2. The screw may touch a tooth root during placement but the root should heal with no problems.
3. The screw may become loose but it can usually be replaced in the same position at a later visit.
4. The screw may fail early and need to be replaced or removed.
5. There is a chance that screws may break during insertion.
6. Infection is very unlikely to happen if the area of insertion is kept clean as advised.

\*\* It is impossible to mention all the possible complications that may happen and the above is only a few important complications which may occur. Before agreeing for the procedure, you must acknowledge and accept the fact that no matter how ideal the situation may be, these events may occur. Another procedure may be required to deal with the complications.

#### Pre-procedure Preparations

The doctor will explain the reason, procedure and possible complications to you.

#### Points to note after insertion of mini-screw

1. You may have a mild ache from the area for 24 hours after the anaesthetic wears off.
2. Your teeth may feel slightly tender for the following 3 – 5 days.
3. Gently brush around the mini-screw twice daily using a fluoride toothpaste and a small-headed toothbrush. Do not use an electronic toothbrush around the mini-screw.
4. Use chlorhexidine mouthwash to rinse around the mini-screw twice daily for the first 5 days.
5. Do not “fiddle” the screw with fingers or tongue.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the dentist.

Under the professional care of the dentist, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the dentist to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

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