



## “The 9 Things You Must Know Before Choosing Your Family’s Orthodontist”



1. You enjoy many additional benefits and added peace of mind when you entrust your family’s orthodontic care to only a qualified orthodontic specialist. In some instances today, general dentists are performing orthodontic procedures that may better be left to an orthodontic specialist who has the experience and comprehensive orthodontic training to ensure favorable results. Just because a general dentist claims they do orthodontic procedures, such as Invisalign®, doesn’t automatically mean you should entrust your family’s orthodontic care to them.
2. Dr. Jim MacAlpine has personally completed over 6,000 orthodontic patients’ cases during his 32-year career. This is why many general dentists refer their patients to him for his expert opinion on difficult cases of tooth crowding and jaw realignment.
3. Did you know that legislation has been introduced in parts of the United States preventing dentists from conveying to the public that they are dental specialists if they have not completed the education for that dental specialty as defined by the American Dental Association? In some areas of the country, this has become common for general dentists to claim they are proficient at orthodontic procedures.

Protection of the public has driven this legislation, said Dr. Mark Blaisdell, immediate past president of the Utah Dental Association. “When the public cannot determine who is treating them, then there is a problem...the public needs to have a clear understanding.” Dr. MacAlpine completed his orthodontic training as a specialist in orthodontics at Loma Linda University.

4. The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children should have an orthodontic evaluation by age 7. In many instances, early detection of common orthodontic problems, such as teeth crowding, and the implementation of appropriate, corrective orthodontic treatment results in a shorter course

of therapy, which is less painful for the patient, and produces the most favorable results. It just doesn't make sense to let a small problem get worse and then have to fix a large problem later. Early treatment works.

5. At the time of their initial orthodontic evaluation, many children do not require orthodontic treatment, or do not require it yet. Eight percent of patients seen by Dr. MacAlpine were recommended to return at a later date to begin their orthodontic treatment. If your child does not require orthodontic treatment at the time of your initial visit, Dr. MacAlpine prefers to put them on recall and wait until treatment should be started (unfortunately, not all practices share this viewpoint that orthodontics should begin when it's best for the patient.)
6. Although orthodontic treatment is possible at any age, there is an ideal time when the most conservative techniques will produce the best results. And the orthodontist is specifically trained to determine this ideal time. Skeletal (jaw size) discrepancy treatment must be initiated while there is enough growth remaining, otherwise, compromises and compensations will be needed. Crowding is usually a result of narrow jaws and early orthopedic expansion can create more room for tooth alignment and a broader smile. Unfortunately, many offices take a shortcut and remove permanent teeth. This can result in straight teeth but a less than ideal facial profile. Quick solutions don't always result in the best long term results. Expansion has to be started at the right time and will not be successful if initiated too late. This is why early evaluation is advised.
7. Dr. MacAlpine makes orthodontic care affordable for your family. We offer NO COST initial orthodontic exams and evaluations. In addition, if Dr. MacAlpine recommends that you begin treatment at the time of your initial visit; we offer many options to make treatment affordable for you. We offer a No Money Down Payment Option (with approved credit), flexible Interest-Free payment plans, and discounts for up-front payments. In addition, we gladly accept most major credit cards—Visa, MasterCard and Discover.
8. An orthodontist is a dentist, who after graduating from dental school, completes additional full-time university-based education in an accredited orthodontic residency program supervised by orthodontists. This specialized training lasts at least 2-3 academic years, and sometimes longer. By learning about tooth movement (orthodontics) and guidance of facial development (dentofacial orthopedics), orthodontists are the specifically educated experts in dentistry to straighten teeth and align jaws.

Orthodontists limit their practices to orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics. This means that orthodontic treatment is what they do, and all they do. Selecting an orthodontist who is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) is your assurance that you have chosen an orthodontist: the dental specialist with at least 2-3 years of advanced specialty education in orthodontics in a university-based program accredited by the American Dental Association <sup>1</sup>.

9. To seek treatment from an orthodontic specialist, you do not need to be referred by a general dentist. In fact, 78 percent of patients that are treated by Dr. MacAlpine were not referred by a general dentist, but rather sought out his treatment based on his reputation for dedicated personal care.

**To schedule your exam, call TODAY at 828.253.2498.**

<sup>1</sup> American Association of Orthodontists website - [www.braces.org](http://www.braces.org).

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