



Mini-screws for Orthodontic Temporary Anchorage



Good anchorage is the key to success in the orthodontic movement of teeth. Typically, the other teeth are used for anchorage when teeth are moved in orthodontic treatment. Sometimes the situation is such that the adjacent teeth do not provide enough anchorage to facilitate the proper movement of the teeth. In these cases, temporary anchorage devices consisting of small titanium screws can be placed in strategic locations between the teeth to be used as orthodontic anchorage devices.

The small mini-screws can be easily placed and most often this simple procedure can be done under local anesthesia. Other sedation options such as intravenous conscious sedation and general anesthesia are available if the patient so desires. The procedure is usually minimally invasive and there is fairly minimal discomfort after completion of the procedure.

In the illustrated case, the upper 12-year molar had severe decay, necessitating removal of the tooth (see arrow). The orthodontist needed good anchorage to close the large space of this missing tooth. The mini-screw was placed into the bone between her teeth further forward in her mouth and then the elastic devices used to close the space were attached to the mini-screw, providing solid anchorage to move the tooth. After the space is closed, the mini-screw is simply unscrewed from the jaw.

The exact number and position of the mini-screws is different for each case and this decision is made in consultation with your orthodontist. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this treatment, please do not hesitate to contact the office.