

Lambertville Orthodontics offers the latest in orthodontics for great smiles and oral health

If the thought of having to get braces has you or your child cringing with the vision of bulky metal braces and the accompanying pain that comes with them, fear not – the practice of orthodontics has changed dramatically over the years.

Orthodontics is a specialized branch of dentistry that diagnoses, prevents, and treats dental and facial irregularities called malocclusions.

According to Wendy DeBord, public relations coordinator, and records technician for **Lambertville Orthodontics**, the art of straightening teeth is now more comfortable and efficient than ever. “Advances in technology have reduced the discomfort associated with braces and have allowed for longer intervals between visits. Improved flexible wires and clear brackets are just a few of the improvements that make orthodontics more desirable. In select cases, treatment can even be done without using braces. This can be accomplished through the use of a series of computer generated aligners called Invisalign,” DeBord said.

“Our high-tech, smaller brackets feature a ‘door’ instead of elastic ligatures to hold the wire in place,” she added. “Using ‘space age’ metals allow our wires to hold their shape for longer periods of time. With older style brackets and wires, the patient had to come back every four to six weeks for a wire change. Now, people can go 10 to 12 weeks between appointments and that translates to fewer total visits during the time of treatment.”

“The doctors at **Lambertville Orthodontics**, Andre Haerian, DDS, MS, PhD, Jennifer Ludwig, DDS, MS, and Eugene Simon, DDS, MS, look for the best options to achieve results for our patients,” DeBord explained. “The main thing is being able to give a patient a good, functional bite. After the process, the patient’s smile always looks more attractive.”

“The standard time a patient needs to wear braces is usually two years,” DeBord said, “but that depends on each person’s individual needs. Some of our patients only need 12 to 18 months of treatment, but they will all use some type of retainer afterwards.”

A retainer? Yes, this appliance is a much needed part of

the teeth straightening process. In fact, many adult patients are the very ones who did not wear their retainers when they were younger.

“Many people don’t realize that teeth shift throughout our lifetime,” DeBord noted. To keep those great results, Lambertville Orthodontics offers a lower lingual wire and a clear invisible upper retainer to help keep teeth straight. “Most of our patients opt for our lingual wire,” DeBord said. “It’s a good guarantee in keeping the bottom teeth straight. The lingual wire is glued inside so you don’t see it and it is expected to stay in place for a lifetime.”

“We usually have patients wear their upper invisible retainer for nine months full-time and after that just to bed. At the age of 21 and beyond, we tell them to try their retainer on once a week to make sure nothing has changed. If it feels tight, they will need to wear it for a few weeks. The retainer will pick up any minor shifts in the teeth and help move the teeth back into place,” DeBord said.

Orthodontics also includes dentofacial orthopedics, which is used to correct problems involving the growth of the jaw. “We believe that orthodontics is about more than straight teeth. It’s about building self-esteem, confidence, and giving young people something to smile about,” DeBord added. “In the past, orthodontic treatment was often post-poned until the adolescent years after all the permanent teeth were erupted. We know now that many orthodontic problems can be treated earlier, and much easier, by working with the jaw growth that takes place in younger children. The American Association of Orthodontics recommends an orthodontic evaluation at age seven because early detection can have a big impact on a young person’s dental health and emotional well being. It can significantly reduce the need to remove permanent teeth and can often allow correction of jaw growth imbalances that would not be possible later on. There is no charge for our exam and the patient receives x-rays, a set of photos, and a consultation with a treatment coordinator and one of the doctors. Also, if treatment is still in the future for the patient, we will moni-



Smile pretty! Andre Haerian, DDS, MS, PhD, of Lambertville Orthodontics, with one of his patients, Zachary Kunkel, 14, a student at Bedford High School. In the background, staff members Leah Oloughlin and Deana Butler look on.

tor development on a yearly basis at no cost,” DeBord said.

“Even though braces are usually associated with children, about 20 percent of our patients are adults,” DeBord added. “In today’s world, more people keep their teeth a lifetime. At one time, dentures were a part of the aging process but with the advances in dentistry and good oral hygiene, you can now keep your teeth a lifetime. If your teeth are not aligned correctly, however, you can have trouble eating or experience problems with the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). If an adult’s bite is not correct or if they just don’t like the way their teeth look, orthodontics can certainly help. At a new patient exam, we will discuss what it will take to correct the teeth/bite, how much it will cost, and also how long it will take,” DeBord said.

“We do try to go above and beyond in our practice because we have a passion for what we do. We also try to make orthodontics as much fun as possible by providing contests, a waiting room with video games, and television sets to watch during treat-



ment,” DeBord explained. “Our mission is to provide patients with exceptional care in an entertaining and enjoyable environment.”

The orthodontic practice in Lambertville was founded many years ago by Dr. Dennis DeMuth. In 2003, as Dr. DeMuth approached retirement, Sylvania Orthodontics, located at 6711 Monroe Street decided to open an office in

Lambertville to make it more convenient for patients in Southeast Michigan and West Toledo to attain orthodontic treatment.

“It is definitely ‘word of mouth’ that brings patients to see us,” DeBord said. “Dentists do refer many patients here but our best referral is someone who has already been here and is pleased with their results.”

Lambertville Orthodontics is located at 7928 Secor Road in Lambertville. The practice is open Mondays from 1-7 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and also some Saturday mornings. Please call (734) 854-6221 to make an appointment to see if you or someone you love could use some “straightening out.”