

### Any Questions?

If you have any questions or worries, please contact us on telephone **020 8725 1629** or **020 8725 0429**.

*We hope that your child's dental health will be assured in the future.*

### What will happen after?

After the operation your child's mouth is likely to feel sore and tender for a few days; you will be advised to administer painkillers. It is important that your child keeps cleaning their teeth as usual but to take care around the operation site. We advise rinsing with hot salt water mouth washes.

You should arrange for your child to see your orthodontist one or two weeks after the operation.

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### Paediatric Department

#### Department Consultants

Ms J Johnson  
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## Expose and Bonding of Teeth

Information for Patients or Carers

This information is for parents or carers of children having surgical treatment at St George's Hospital. It explains what expose and bond involves and what happens afterwards. It also tells you about any risks.

### Why is this necessary?

Teeth can often develop in the wrong position and fail to erupt (break through) into the mouth. The orthodontist therefore needs to move the tooth into the mouth with braces. To do this it is necessary to expose the tooth surgically and bond a small metal bracket and chain to the tooth. The orthodontist will then attach the chain to the brace and slowly pull the tooth into position.

### How is this done?

This procedure is usually carried out under general anaesthetic. This means that your child will be "asleep" for the operation. Local anaesthetic will be used whilst your child is asleep, so this area will feel numb and swollen to them when they wake up.

The Paediatric surgeon (Ms J Johnson) will make an incision (a cut) into your gum. Any bone lying over the top of the tooth will be removed to expose the tooth.

A small metal bracket and chain will be attached to your child's tooth with a special type of glue. The gum will be repositioned over your tooth and secured with dissolvable stitches (these fade away naturally so do not need to be removed later).

The chain (which hangs down from the metal bracket) will be secured to the gum with a black stitch. This stitch will be removed by your Orthodontist two weeks later.

### What are the risks?

As with any type of surgery certain problems can occur. The risks associated with this procedure are:

- Infection – the area around the exposed tooth may become swollen and tender. This would usually be an indication of infection and you should contact the department for advice. It may be necessary to take a course of antibiotics.
- It is possible that the metal bracket may fall off the tooth. If this were to happen, it may be necessary to repeat the surgical procedure.
- The teeth on either side of the exposed tooth may be slightly loose following the operation. If this happens, it is important not to bite/chew hard foods with these teeth. It may take several weeks for them to firm up again.
- Very occasionally the blood supply to the teeth on either side may be disrupted during the surgery. This means that the nerves inside these teeth may die and the tooth become discoloured and/or infected some time after the operation. If this happened, it would be necessary for your child to have these teeth root filled by your dentist.

**A general anaesthetic requires that your child is starved for 6 hours before the operation and therefore will not be able to eat any food on the morning of the date you are given. Only a sip of water can be given at 6.30. Unfortunately if this is not adhered to your child's operation will be cancelled.**