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Perfecting smiles with braces

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The Ministry of Health, Malaysia

In this new challenging world that we live in today, a smile may not necessarily imply happiness or satisfaction as it may physically suggest. Perfecting smiles with braces is about going the extra mile to ensure orthodontic expectations are met, by providing a life changing experience before, during and after orthodontic treatment. This is similar to the concept of emotional dentistry which is widely used today. Over time, many new findings about malocclusions and their implications together with the role of orthodontic treatments are being published. A recent systematic review conducted in the UK found that orthodontic treatment provided to patients below the age of 18 years leads to moderate improvements in oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) following treatment. Keeping up with current updates on OHRQoL and psychological wellbeing enables a holistic approach to planning an orthodontic treatment. Moreover, various aesthetic appliances are now available to maintain smiles during treatment. Orthodontics has significantly evolved since its inception, allowing the quality of treatment to be improved. Eventually, following active orthodontic treatment, it is essential to retain the perfect smile in terms of appearance, health and function. This include the use of clear overlay retainers, allowing night time retainer wear instead of full time wear and new methods on managing the unaesthetic appearance of decalcifications. Aiming for a perfect smile will certainly lead to a high standard of care which should be the ultimate goal in every orthodontic practice.

Biography

Nik Mukhriz Nik Mustapha is a specialist orthodontist at the Ministry of Health Malaysia. He studied Dentistry at University of Malaya graduating with a bachelor of dental surgery in 2010. Following qualification, he spent 6 months in Oral and Maxillofacial Department, Selayang Hospital before 3 years in general dental practice and about 18 months in Orthodontics department. He then undertook a postgraduate training in Orthodontics at the University of Glasgow. He was the only recipient of MARA scholarship worth over GBP200000. In 2017, he was awarded his Doctorate in Clinical Dentistry (Orthodontics), the memberships from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) and the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (Australia). He has been elected as the executive committee member of the Malaysian Association of Orthodontists. He is interested in holistic approach to treating various malocclusions and he has presented at several international conferences.

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