

Status of orthodontic services in Kenya.

Abstract:

Orthodontics is one of the disciplines for specialisation in Dentistry. It concerns the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and certain facial irregularities that lead to malpositioning of teeth. The scientific term for these problems is malocclusion, which in lay terms means crooked or irregular teeth. The average treatment period necessary to treat malocclusion is 24 months. In a few instances, the treatment may be shorter (9-15 months), or it may be longer (>3 years). The duration of treatment will vary depending on the complexity of the problem, the type of treatment technique used, the experience of the doctor (Orthodontist) and the cooperation of the patient. Occasionally, a combination of orthodontics and surgery is necessary to position the teeth and jaws in correct alignment. Both children and adults can undergo the treatment.