



## **INVISALIGN® AND INVISALIGN TEEN® QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **Q: WHY IS INVISALIGN AND/OR INVISALIGN TEEN BETTER THAN REGULAR BRACES?**

A: Not only does Invisalign effectively straighten teeth, it also offers many other benefits that make it an ideal choice for adult or teen's active lifestyles.

#### **It fits busy lifestyles.**

- Since Invisalign Aligners are comfortable and durable, it is easy for patients undergoing treatment to continue their favorite activities such as participating in sports and playing musical instruments – activities that can be challenging or uncomfortable with traditional metal braces.
- It looks great.
- Invisalign's near-invisibility is still one of the most popular features for teens and adults alike; treatment is very inconspicuous, making it easier to "fit in" rather than call attention to treatment.

#### **It's removable.**

- Since aligners can be taken out to brush and floss, patients can maintain normal, healthy hygiene during treatment.
- Invisalign can be removed for eating. Anytime is a good time to eat, and there are no forbidden foods.

#### **It's comfortable.**

- Invisalign Aligners are made of lightweight plastic that is custom-fitted to each patient's teeth.
- There are no wires or uncomfortable metal brackets poking or tearing into the mouths or gums of patients.

### **Q: HOW DOES INVISALIGN/INVISALIGN TEEN WORK?**

A: Invisalign uses a series of clear, removable aligners to gradually straighten teeth, without metal or wires. After detailed impressions are taken of the patient's teeth, Align utilizes proprietary 3D computer imaging technology to map the complete treatment from start to finish. Teens wear each aligner for about two weeks. During this time, the aligners gradually move their teeth until they achieve the prescribed final position.

### **Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INVISALIGN AND INVISALIGN TEEN?**

A: Although treatment benefits and the underlying technology are the same, Invisalign Teen was developed with leading orthodontists to meet the unique clinical and social needs of teenagers. Some of the new features, found only on the teen product, include blue Compliance Indicators that are designed to gradually fade as the patient wears the aligner, Eruption Tabs that accommodate the growth of secondary molars in young adults, and other specific features that address clinical needs common to teen patients.

**Q: HOW LONG HAS THE INVISALIGN/INVISALIGN TEEN PRODUCT BEEN AVAILABLE? WHAT IS THE SUCCESS RATE?**

A: Invisalign has been available to adults since 1998 and Invisalign Teen was introduced in the summer of 2008. Overall, Invisalign has been the orthodontic treatment of choice for nearly two million patients.

**Q: TEENS TEND TO BE FORGETFUL, WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY LOSE ALIGNERS?**

A: For teen patients, Invisalign provides up to six individual replacement aligners. If an aligner is lost or broken, the doctor will probably tell the teen to start wearing their last set or next set of aligners right away. Replacement aligners usually arrive within a week.

**Q: Is INVISALIGN/INVISALIGN TEEN AS EFFECTIVE AS TRADITIONAL METAL BRACES?**

A: Yes. Like braces, Invisalign effectively straightens teeth. Invisalign has been the orthodontic treatment of choice for nearly two million patients.

**Q: ONCE THE TREATMENT IS COMPLETE, ARE THE RESULTS OF INVISALIGN PERMANENT?**

A: Just as with traditional wire and bracket braces, most practitioners recommend that patients use retainers after completing treatment to fight relapse. Align's Viverra retainers, similar in look and feel to aligners, are designed to help maintain a beautiful smile.

**Q: WHEN IS A TEEN ELIGIBLE FOR INVISALIGN TEEN? IS THERE A MINIMAL AGE (12 & UP – ONCE ALL ADULT TEETH ARE IN)?**

A: Invisalign Teen is designed for patients who have lost all their baby teeth and have second molars at least partially erupted (growing in). This includes most teens. We recommend that parents contact an Invisalign Teen Provider to see if their teen is a candidate.

**Q: HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE A CANDIDATE FOR INVISALIGN/INVISALIGN TEEN?**

A: Invisalign AND Invisalign Teen are appropriate for adults, teens and young adults, respectively. We recommend that parents contact an Invisalign Teen Provider to see if their teen is a candidate. Just like with any medical procedure, if you are told you are not a candidate, we encourage you to seek another opinion as many orthodontists and dentists are not Invisalign providers.

**Q: HOW LONG DOES TREATMENT USING INVISALIGN TAKE?**

A: The length of treatment depends on the severity of each case and can only be determined by the treating doctor; however, most Invisalign cases are completed withing about one year.

**Q: DOES INVISALIGN TEEN COST MORE THAN METAL BRACES?**

A: The cost of treatment depends on the severity of the case and is determined by the treating doctor. That being said, Invisalign is often similar in price to traditional braces. Additionally, like metal braces for teens, Invisalign is often covered by insurance.

**Q: ARE THERE ANY HYGIENE BENEFITS WITH INVISALIGN? FOR EXAMPLE, IS IT EASIER TO FLOSS PROPERLY?**

A: Yes! Unlike traditional braces, patients can remove aligners for brushing and flossing. This enables teens to maintain normal, healthy oral hygiene during treatment.

**Q: WHAT MATERIAL ARE THE ALIGNERS MADE OF? ARE THEY COMFORTABLE?**

A: Invisalign aligners are made from a lightweight, BPA-free plastic material that is designed to fit precisely in the patient's mouth. Although there may be occasional discomfort due to the snug fit of starting with a new set of aligners, patients don't have to worry about the constant irritation and inconvenience of metal and brackets.

**Q: WHAT TYPES OF CASES CAN INVISALIGN OR INVISALIGN TEEN TREAT?**

A: Invisalign has been effectively used to treat a wide array of malocclusions from very simple to severe, including crowding, spacing, over jet, under bite, deep bite, open bite, midline shift, cross bite. The only way to really answer this question is to have a patient evaluated by an Invisalign designated Provider.

**Q: HOW CAN A PARENT BE SURE THAT THEIR TEEN IS GOING TO WEAR THE ALIGNER AS THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO?**

A: Patient compliance is key to success with any type of orthodontic treatment – braces and aligners alike. Invisalign recommends aligners be worn 20 to 22 hours a day for effective treatment or as prescribed by the doctor. With the teen product, a new feature was added called a Compliance Indicator (also known as "the blue dot"). As the teen wears the aligner, the dot is designed to fade from blue to clear. This enables the teen, the parent and the doctor to have a visual cue of approximate duration of wear.

**Q: HOW DO PATIENTS FIND ORTHODONTISTS THAT OFFER INVISALIGN TEEN?**

A: Patients can find Invisalign and Invisalign Teen designated Providers by going to the Invisalign website [www.invisalign.com](http://www.invisalign.com) and using the doctor locator.