

## THE TRANS PALATAL DISTRACTOR (TPD)

Often a too narrow upper jaw creates problems such as tooth crowding, a cross-bite and mouth breathing. Tooth extractions can make place for the remaining teeth, but may lead to a dishd-in, prematurely aged face. A smile showing a wide dental arch, with little space between the cheek and the teeth, is more attractive.



Before treatment



After orthodontic alignment

1



Before treatment

2



During distraction

“Trans Palatal Distraction” is a technique by which the upper jaw is surgically weakened at the buttress areas and widened by an expansion device that is fixed in the palate. As a result of this bone-borne technique, the maxilla regains its initial strength after the widening. In this way, the cross-bite is corrected and the space that is created between the central incisors is used to align other teeth.

It is recommended to inform the patient that a space between the incisors will occur (between 4mm and 10mm). After bone regeneration, due to distraction osteogenesis, all teeth will be gently aligned by orthodontic treatment.

3



Patient wrench

One week after the intervention the patient receives a wrench by which the distraction module is daily activated, by turning it downwards until the next color code appears. The activation lasts a few weeks, according to the amount of expansion that is necessary.

4



6 months after surgery

Extra attention for proper mouth hygiene is necessary during the treatment. The device is removed under local anaesthesia, 4 to 6 months after its placement.