e-ISSN: 2320-7949 p-ISSN: 2322-0090

## The Importance of Early Orthodontic Evaluation: 6 Advices for Prevention

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## **Opinion Article**

Received: 28-Feb-2022,

Manuscript No. JDS-23-94061;

Editor assigned: 03-Mar-2022,

PreQC No. JDS-23-94061 (PQ);

Reviewed: 17-Mar-2022, QC No.

JDS-23-94061;

Revised: 24-Mar-2022, Manuscript

No. JDS-23-94061 (R);

Published: 31-Mar-2022, DOI:

10.4172/2320-7949.11.1.007

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**Citation**: Nagay EB. The Importance of Early Orthodontic Evaluation: 6 Advices for Prevention. RRJ Dent Sci. 2023;11:007.

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## **ABOUT THE STUDY**

Orthodontics is a specialized field in dentistry that deals with the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of dental and facial irregularities. Orthodontic problems include issues with the alignment, spacing, and bite of teeth. These problems can be caused by genetics, injury, or habits such as thumb-sucking or mouth-breathing. Orthodontic treatment can help reduce these issues and improve the appearance, function and health of the teeth and jaw.

However, prevention is always better than cure. In order to prevent orthodontic problems, it is important to take care of your teeth and oral health from an early age. Here are some advices on how to prevent orthodontic problems:

**Research & Reviews: Journal of Dental Sciences** 

e-ISSN: 2320-7949 p-ISSN: 2322-0090

Practice good oral hygiene

Maintaining good oral hygiene is the first step in preventing orthodontic problems. Brush your teeth twice a day with

a fluoride toothpaste to remove food particles and plaque from between your teeth, and use an antiseptic mouthwash

to kill bacteria that can cause tooth decay and gum disease. Regular dental check-ups and cleanings are also

important to detect and treat any dental problems early on.

Avoid bad oral habits

Habits such as thumb-sucking, nail-biting, and mouth-breathing can affect the alignment and development of teeth

and jaw. Children should be encouraged to break these habits early on to avoid orthodontic problems later in life.

Using a pacifier or bottle for too long can also cause dental problems, so it is important to wean children off them at

an appropriate age.

Wearing a mouth guard

Sports injuries can cause damage to teeth and jaw, leading to orthodontic problems. Wearing a mouth guard during

sports activities can help protect your teeth and jaw from injury. Mouth guards are available in different types and

sizes, so choose one that fits well and provides adequate protection.

Limit sugary, acidic foods and drinks

Consuming too much sugar and acid can erode the enamel of teeth, leading to tooth decay and other dental problems.

Limit your intake of sugary and acidic foods and drinks such as soda, candy, and fruit juice. If you do consume these

foods and drinks, rinse your mouth with water afterwards to help neutralize the acid and prevent damage to your

teeth.

Visit an orthodontist for early evaluation

Early detection and treatment of orthodontic problems can prevent more serious problems from developing later on.

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that children have their first orthodontic evaluation by age

7. An orthodontist can detect and treat any problems with the alignment and development of teeth and jaw at an

early stage, which can save time, money, and discomfort in the long run.

Follow your orthodontist's instructions

If you do need orthodontic treatment, it is important to follow your orthodontist's instructions carefully. This includes  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

wearing any appliances or braces as directed, avoiding certain foods that can damage the braces, and attending all

scheduled appointments for adjustments and check-ups. Failure to follow these instructions can prolong the

treatment time and increase the risk of complications. Preventing orthodontic problems requires good oral hygiene,

avoiding bad habits, wearing a mouth guard during sports, limiting sugary and acidic foods and drinks, early

evaluation by an orthodontist, and following your orthodontist's instructions during treatment. By following these

advices, you can help maintain good oral health and prevent orthodontic problems from developing.