

## **Dr. Ron Greenspan Utilizes Revolutionary Anchorage Devices to Allow Patients to Avoid Surgery**

*By Ron Greenspan*

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*Dr. Ron Greenspan Utilizes Revolutionary Temporary Anchorage Devices to Allow Patients to Avoid Surgery.*

Severe disharmony of the upper and lower jaw often requires surgical correction (orthognathic surgery) in addition to orthodontic treatment, to correct malocclusions. The risks associated with this or any type of surgery are numerous.

The latest technology in orthodontics, incorporating the use of temporary anchorage devices (TADs) in treatment, are changing the way orthodontists treat patients' malocclusions, often eliminating the need for orthodontic surgery.

TADs are titanium-alloy mini-screws, ranging from 6 to 12 millimeters in length and 1.2 to 2 millimeters in diameter. They are fixed to bone temporarily to enhance orthodontic anchorage. TADs allow orthodontists to overcome the previous limitations and perform difficult tooth movements, such as intrusion of the back teeth (moving them up). This tooth movement duplicates a surgical procedure known as "maxillary (upper jaw) impaction" which is used to reduce the excessive facial height typically seen in open bite situations or an excessive gingival display "gummy smiles".

TADs can also provide a point of anchorage for patients with missing teeth. Orthodontists are often called upon to open or close space to allow for an ideal dental implant to be placed. TADs have proven to be a great adjunct in this situation, as well. Their use may also contribute to shorter treatment times.

Placement of the TAD is customized for each patient and they can be placed in many different sites in the mouth.

There is little if any discomfort when a TAD is placed because there are no nerve endings in the bone tissue and they can be removed easily when no longer needed. Caring for a TAD generally requires only routine brushing.

TADs are placed on patients who have permanent teeth, although patients with active periodontal disease may not be candidates for TADs.

Although small, the TAD does a huge job of helping orthodontists move teeth predictably into their optimal position. Their use is rapidly becoming the standard of care in orthodontics.

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Dr. Ron Greenspan has published articles in the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and the Journal of Dental Research and has been a member of the American Association of Orthodontists for over 25 years. Ron Greenspan also serves on the Board of Fellows at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Ron Greenspan truly understands the importance of being an ongoing student of his profession.

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