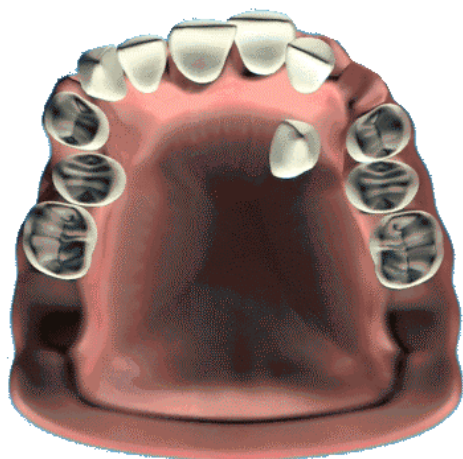


CANINE IN THE PALATE



Q Where is the upper canine?

A This tooth forms high up in the mouth to the side of the nose.

Q What is a canine in the palate?

A The upper canine can fail to grow into its proper place in the mouth. It can often end up in the palate behind the front teeth.

Q Why has this occurred?

A The canine forms high up under the eye ("eye-tooth"). As it grows down it can lose its way!

Q Will the tooth need to be removed?

A The canine will only need to be removed if it is way off course or damaging the other teeth.

Q How will the tooth be treated?

A Firstly the tooth needs to be exposed (uncovered). This usually involves a trip to the hospital. Once exposed the tooth can then be brought into line with a fixed 'traintrack' brace. This is complicated and can take up to two years.

Q Will I still need a retainer?

A When the fixed brace is removed a retainer will be constructed which will need to be worn at night.

Q How long will the retainer need to be in place?

A The retainer will normally be worn at night for a year. Without the retainer the canine can move back a little bit.

Q Will there be any permanent damage?

A No damage will occur due to moving the tooth. However, poor cleaning and too many fizzy drinks can cause permanent decay marks around the fixings of the 'traintrack' brace. **The importance of thorough brushing and the use of a fluoride mouthwash cannot be emphasised enough.**

Q Is the treatment permanent, or will I need additional future treatment?

A Once the canine has settled into its proper place the result will be stable.

