

Orthognathic surgery

Corrective Jaw surgery, known as Orthognathic surgery is used to correct a variety of defects that result in the malalignment of the jaw, causing issues with chewing, speaking, and breathing, as well as to enhance facial appearance. Symptoms often include, but may not be limited to:

- Chronic jaw pain
- Difficulty chewing or biting food
- Difficulty swallowing
- Excessive grinding/wearing of teeth
- Chronic mouth breathing
- Sleep apnea
- An open bite [a space between upper and lower teeth when mouth is closed]
- An overbite [a greater than normal overlap between upper and lower teeth]
- Unbalanced facial appearance
- A facial injury
- A birth defect

When the jaw is moved, the teeth also move so orthognathic surgery is performed in conjunction with orthodontic treatment to assure that teeth and jaws align correctly.

At birth, a condition where unequal growth of the jaws may exist; or after birth, environmental or hereditary factors, or an incident of facial trauma, may cause unequal development. To best evaluate a specific patient's condition and to maximize results, input from a team of specialists including an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, an orthodontist and a general dentist is necessary. This team effort produces the optimal result moving teeth and jaws into a balanced, healthy and functional position.