

# instructions for temporary anchorage implants (TAD, mini-screw & anchorage plate)

## what is a mini-screw?

A temporary anchorage implant is a small sterile titanium metal screw which is inserted through the gum into the jaw bone to act as an anchor to help move poorly positioned teeth

## why do we use temporary anchorage implants?

In order to move poorly positioned teeth, the other surrounding teeth usually provide a stable support for the force applied by the braces.

However, it is not always possible to use the surrounding teeth and sometimes the forces may cause unwanted movement of the other teeth. It is in these cases that temporary anchorage implant can be used, to act as an anchor to help with straightening teeth and closing spaces.

## how long will the temporary anchorage implant be in place?

The temporary anchorage implant may be used to move the teeth for several months depending on the amount of movement required. Once the movement is completed, the orthodontist will remove the temporary anchorage implant and the gum and bone underneath will heal up completely within a few days with no discomfort.

## how is the temporary anchorage implant placed?

1. The hygienist will numb the area using a local anaesthetic.
2. The orthodontist will then insert the temporary anchorage implant using a special screwdriver. During this time no pain should be felt due to the local anaesthetic, however a sensation of pressure may be present.
3. The orthodontist may then attach elastic chain, spring or elastic thread to the temporary anchorage implant in order to begin the teeth moving.

## what to expect

The following 24 hours can be a little uncomfortable once the anaesthetic wears off. If you experience any discomfort, Panadol or Nurofen can be used to provide relief. Over the next three to five days your teeth may remain a little tender.

## cleaning and caring for your temporary anchorage implant

Gently brush around your temporary anchorage implant at least twice daily using a soft toothbrush. This will keep the surrounding gum and tissue healthy.

Try not to play with the temporary anchorage implant with your tongue or fingers.

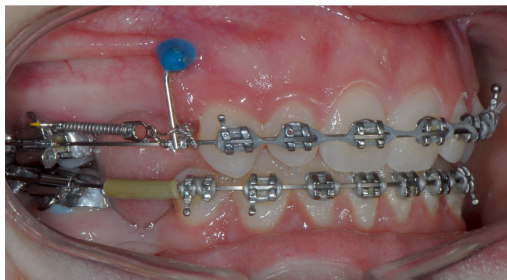
Savacol mouth rinse can be used for the first five days to promote good healing. Do not use for more than 2 weeks. If you notice the temporary anchorage implant becomes loose, falls out or there is any swelling or pain, contact The Ortho Practice immediately.



Temporary anchorage implants can be placed in the roof of the mouth, to aid in bringing the molars forward.



The photo above shows how the orthodontist may attach metal spring to help close a space



The orthodontist may cover the temporary anchorage implant with a smooth glue to help prevent irritation.