

SureSmile® Aligners

Quick Assessment Tool for Common Bite Problems

				
	Crowding	Spacing	Diastema	Crossbite
Description	Overlap of teeth caused by insufficient space within the dental arch (a.k.a. arch length discrepancy)	Excess space between teeth as a result of missing teeth, undersized teeth, oversized jaws or a combination of these conditions (a.k.a. arch length excess)	Space between upper central incisors that may occur for a variety of reasons including tongue pressure against teeth rather than the roof of the mouth.	A tooth or groups of teeth in the upper arch that sit inside of the lower arch. Typically, teeth in the upper arch sit outside of the teeth in the lower jaw.
Potential Problem(s)	Hard to clean teeth increases risk of periodontal disease, tooth and/or bone loss.	Food trapped in spaces and not easily removed with brushing increases risk for gum soreness and periodontal disease.	Same potential problems as spacing. Any spacing, including diastemas, may also be a symptom of gum disease because of the inflammation.	When teeth collide in an unprotected relationship, this increases the likelihood of occlusal trauma that can lead to premature wear, periodontal disease, bone and tooth loss.
				
	Deep Bite	Edge-to-Edge Bite	Open Bite	Under Bite
Description	Upper anterior teeth vertically overlap the lower anterior teeth an excessive amount.	Upper anterior teeth make incisal contact with lower incisors and there is no overjet or overbite.	Upper and lower teeth don't touch when the mouth is fully closed, showing an opening between the upper and lower teeth. Can occur in the anterior or in the posterior of the mouth, but anterior open bites are more common.	The lower anterior teeth or jaw sit ahead of the upper anterior teeth or jaw. Also known as a Class III malocclusion.
Potential Problem(s)	Deep bites may put joint and facial muscles in an unnatural position causing jaw soreness, stressed joints. Grinding and clenching can cause gum recession that can lead to periodontal disease. Over erupted lower teeth have increased risk for wear and chipping.	Tooth positions increase the risk of abnormal wear of anterior teeth. When the maxillary anterior teeth collide on the mandibular in an unprotected relationship, this increases the likelihood of occlusal trauma that can lead to periodontal disease, bone and tooth loss.	Untreated anterior open bite patients often experience pain/discomfort with chewing, biting and swallowing. Excessive pressure on posterior teeth increases risk of premature wear, gum recessions, loose teeth and bone loss.	When posterior teeth do not fit as they should (Class II/III malocclusions), the imbalance in the distribution of forces may increase the likelihood of bruxism, TMD, premature wear, gum recession, loose teeth and bone loss.

This assessment tool features general suggestion for evaluating malocclusions and is not absolute. You are responsible for conducting all necessary patient examinations and making the determination if each patient is an ideal candidate for SureSmile® clear aligner treatment.