



Member
American Association of Orthodontists

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REMOVAL OF THE LOWER CUSPID TO CUSPID RETAINER

Your lower cuspid to cuspid retainer was placed because your lower incisors were originally malaligned. Its purpose was to hold your teeth in a straight alignment and prevent relapse to the original malocclusion. By far a cuspid to cuspid retainer glued directly to your teeth is the most hassle-free and effective retainer to do this job. If brushing is good, it can stay on for a long time. We usually recommend that a cuspid to cuspid retainer stay on at least until you are done growing and the 3rd molars are extracted if they are impacted or have insufficient room. In some severe cases, it is best to maintain the cuspid to cuspid retainer indefinitely as a little "crutch" to keep the teeth as cosmetically perfect as possible.

If you want your cuspid to cuspid retainer removed, please understand that there is a possibility of lower incisor relapse, even if it has been in place for a long time. The lower incisors are the smallest teeth with the smallest contact areas and therefore sometimes are inclined to want to move. Because of this reality, we recommend that a removable retainer be constructed and worn at bed time to guard against this possibility.

(CURRENT RETAINER COSTS WOULD APPLY)

If you elect not to have us construct a removable retainer for you but still want your cuspid to cuspid retainer removed, you must be aware of this relapse potential. Please call our office as soon as unwanted tooth movement is noticed.

If you elect not to have a removable retainer made, please sign this page.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

PATIENT NAME _____