



Clarity™ Fundamentals

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



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Core orthodontic concepts

Class I, II, III – Classification of bite relationships (angle classification)

Crowding – Insufficient space leading to overlapping teeth

Malocclusion – Misalignment of teeth or incorrect relationship between upper and lower arches

Midline discrepancy – Misalignment between upper and lower midlines

Occlusion – The way teeth come together when biting

Overbite – Vertical overlap of upper front teeth over lower teeth

Overjet – Horizontal overlap of upper front teeth over lower teeth

Spacing – Space between teeth

Appliances and Systems

Aligners (clear tray aligners, CTA) – Series of transparent, removable trays

Archwire – Wire guiding tooth movement

Brackets – Attachments bonded to teeth

Elastics (rubber bands) – Used to correct bite relationships

Fixed appliances (braces) – Brackets bonded to teeth with archwires

Ligature – Elastic/metal tie holding wire to bracket

Removable appliances – Can be taken in/out by the patient

Retainers – Devices to maintain results after treatment

Self-ligating brackets – Brackets that don't require ligatures

Tooth movement and biomechanics

Anchorage – Resistance to unwanted tooth movement

Anchorage loss – Unintended movement of anchor teeth

Center of resistance – Point at which a tooth moves bodily when force is applied

Force – Mechanical load applied to teeth

Moment – Rational force around a tooth

Rotation – Tooth spins around its long axis

Tipping – Crown moves more than root

Tooth movement – Biological response to orthodontic force

Torque – Root movement within bone

Translation (bodily movement) – Tooth moves without tipping

Digital Orthodontics

3D printing – Production of models or aligners

Attachment (engager) – Composite shape bonded to teeth for aligner grip

CAD/CAM – Computer-aided design and manufacturing

Clarity™ Portal – Platform for case submission and monitoring

Digital workflow – Full treatment process from scan to planning to appliance

Intraoral scan (IOS) – Digital impression of teeth

Interproximal reduction (IPR) – Enamel reduction to create space

Setup (digital setup) – Virtual final tooth position

Staging – Step-by-step tooth movement sequence

Treatment planning software – Platform to design tooth movement (e.g., aligners)