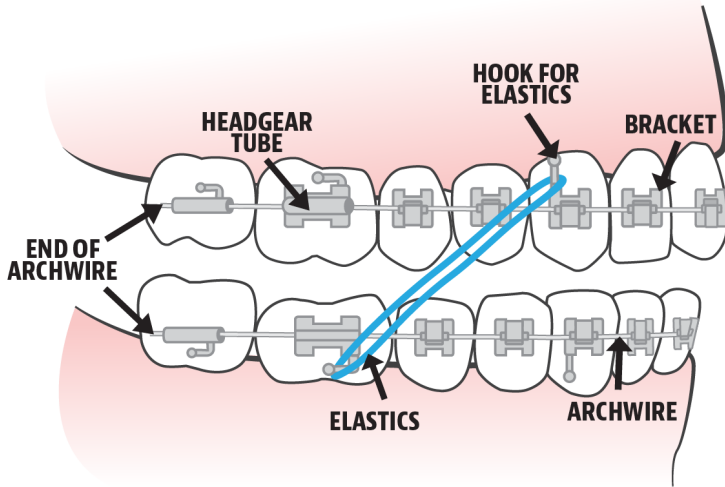


# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRACES



**BANDS:** These are thin bands of metal, carefully fitted to the tooth and then cemented into place. They carry brackets, tubes, or rotating levers (in other words, they become a handle on your tooth). They give us a way to grasp and control each individual tooth.

**BRACKETS:** Recently, methods and materials have been perfected that allow braces to be cemented or bonded directly to the tooth surface. In some cases, it is no longer necessary to cement a band around each tooth in order to hold the "handles" or brackets in place. Once treatment is finished the brackets are removed and the tooth surface is polished to remove the cement.

**ELASTICS:** These provide a force that helps teeth move, usually moving one arch or group of teeth against each other.

**ARCHWIRES:** These act as a guide or track along which the teeth are to be moved. They are changed through the treatment. Each change brings us closer to the ideal tooth position.

# ORTHODONTIC EMERGENCIES

Minor orthodontic problems may occur during treatment. Below are common solutions that should help until you can return to our office. If you have an emergency that requires IMMEDIATE attention, call the office. If it is after office hours there will be instructions on how to reach someone.

**LOOSE BAND OR BRACKET:** If the loose band or bracket is still attached to the wire, keep it clean. Call our office as soon as possible for a repair appointment. If the band or bracket is no longer attached to the wire, please put it in a sealed envelope and bring it with you to your appointment.

**LOOSE WIRE:** Try replacing the wire in the bracket or tube with tweezers. Place wax for comfort. Call our office so we may adjust the wire. ONLY if you are unable to make an appointment with our office, clip the wire with fingernail clippers behind the last tooth to which it is securely fastened.

**APPLIANCE DOES NOT FIT WELL:** If an appliance is not worn as prescribed, it may not fit or work properly. Call our office for an appointment. The appliance should be adjusted.

**ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE TEETH:** We will want to see you. Please schedule an appointment as soon as it is convenient.

**TIE-WIRE POKING:** Attempt to push it down with the eraser end of a pencil. If this is not possible, cover with wax and call for an appointment.

**SORENESS:** Soreness during orthodontic treatment is to be expected. Warm salt water rinses can help reduce irritation from the braces. An analgesic cream such as Orabase or headache medication such as Advil or Tylenol may be helpful.

**LOST ELASTIC TIE OR WIRE TIE:** This is not a real emergency but should be replaced whenever it is convenient to return to our office. Please call to schedule an appointment.



**GOLDREICH ORTHODONTICS**  
**972-618-6611 | [planobraces.com](http://planobraces.com)**