Rubber band wear after your jaw surgery

Tips for success

- Always carry a pack of elastics with you
- Part-time wear will not work in correcting the bite. The longer you wear the elastics, the quicker the braces come off...
- Replace them every morning
- If an elastic hook breaks or comes loose, call us so that we can fix the problem.

Dr. Marco Caminiti

The purpose of rubber bands

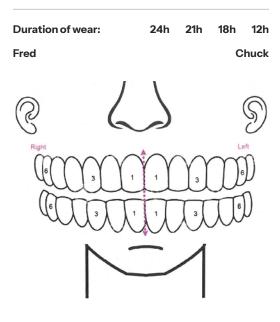
Rubber bands (aka elastics) allow for upper and lower teeth to move into alignment. After surgery the teeth and bone will shift a small amount, and the muscles will pull the jaws into different positions. A shift in the bite is to be expected and the use of elastics, connected to specific teeth, will help prevent unwanted changes.

- Elastics are worn 24hrs PER DAY for the first two weeks after surgery.
- From 2 to 6 weeks after surgery, they are worn 18-21 hours per day.
- After 6 weeks they are worn at least overnight unless directed by your orthodontist.

At your appointments you will be given elastics and shown the pattern to be worn. (Take a selfie to aid in placement)

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Elastic Patterns



When you wake up from surgery you will have 2 elastics on either side in a box pattern. These may stay in place until your first postoperative visit in the clinic.

If any break during this first period — do not panic, it is not an emergency.

At the first post operative visit, new elastics and a change in the pattern and timing may be applied. You will be given a bag of them to use for the next 4 weeks.

At the second post operative visit, expect a new set of elastics and another change in type and duration.

Expect your orthodontist to take over elastic instructions once you resume post operative orthodontic finishing.

Use the plastic tool or a clean set of tweezers to place the elastics.