

Expander Emergencies

Expander emergencies may occur occasionally. However, they are simple to manage.

COMMON EMERGENCY	MANAGEMENT
Sensation of pressure after getting the expander or after turning the key	It is normal for a patient to have discomfort for a day or two after having a plate fitted. This the discomfort is both normal and temporary. Encourage soft foods. If the patient is allowed to have over-the-counter pain relievers, these may be effective.
Gap appearing between two front teeth	A gap between the two front teeth can be expected after getting the expander fitted
Unable to turn expander	Firstly, ensure the key has been turned the whole way to allow the next hole to come through. If you are still unable to find the hole please contact us for an emergency appointment.
Can't find the turning hole	Firstly, ensure the key has been turned the whole way to allow the next turning hole to come through. If you are still unable to find the hole please contact us for an emergency appointment.
Expander loose	Contact us immediately to make an emergency appointment.
Lost key	Contact us immediately to make an emergency appointment.
Mouth sores	Some patients are susceptible to episodes of mouth sores. While the expander does not cause them, they may be precipitated by an irritation from the expander. One or several areas of ulceration of the cheeks, lips or tongue may appear. This is not emergency, but may be very uncomfortable for the patient. Prompt relief may be achieved by applying a small amount of topical anaesthetic (such as Orabase, Difflam Ora-Gel) directly to the ulcerated surface using a cotton swab. Reapply as needed. Warm Saline rinses daily can be helpful.
Food caught in expander	This is not an emergency, but can be a little uncomfortable or embarrassing. It is easily removed with an interdental brush (pikster).