

# orthodontics ALERT

In the Winter 2000 issue of the orthodontics ALERT publication, there was an interesting study published on how missed appointments and broken appliances/brackets can **ADVERSELY** affect your length of treatment.

We would like to share excerpts from this article with you...

## “How Long Will I Need to Wear My Braces?”

Accurately estimating the duration of a patient’s orthodontic treatment is very important to the success of the treatment. Beckwith et al from the University of Missouri-Kansas City performed a retrospective study to determine and measure the factors that **MOST** affect duration of orthodontic treatment.

The two most important patient factors in accounting for variation in treatment time were **MISSED APPOINTMENTS** and the number of replaced **BROKEN BANDS/BRACKETS!**

Here are the surprising statistics:

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF TIME <u>ADDED</u> TO TREATMENT</b>
<b>1 Missed Appointment</b>	<b>1.1 Months of Treatment Time</b>
<b>1 Broken Band/Bracket/Appliance</b>	<b>0.5 Months of Treatment Time</b>

### **Q. What do I do when I have to miss an appointment?**

A. Call our office immediately when you find that you need to reschedule your appointment! We need to get you rescheduled as quickly as possible, and the sooner you call, the quicker we can get you back in!

### **Q. What do I do when I have something broken?**

A. Call our office immediately if you think something is broken. Our office policy is to see a patient on a same-day basis if they are in any pain, or as soon as possible if they are not in pain. It may be necessary for us to set a quick appointment to alleviate any painful situations, and when our schedule and time permits, we will schedule another time to do the actual repair. We are unable to schedule repair appointments at the beginning or at the end of a day, therefore, repair appointments will be at mid-morning or mid-afternoon times.