

## BRACE PROBLEM SOLVING

### What do I do if I have a problem with my brace or it has broken?

While true orthodontic emergencies are rare, occasionally a minor problem can occur. Only the most severe emergencies may require immediate attention by an orthodontist, the majority of these are easily treated at your adjustment appointment. Below are examples of problems that may be encountered and the remedies you can try at home for them:

#### Poking wire

Early on in treatment as the teeth start to move, it is possible for the wire to protrude from the back bracket and irritate the mouth. To alleviate any soreness caused by this you can firstly try using a cotton bud or pencil eraser to push the wire so that it is flat against the tooth. If the wire cannot be moved into a comfortable position the problem can be solved by taking a nail clipper and snipping the wire as close as possible to the brace. If you are unable to cut the wire, place some orthodontic wax on it will help to keep you comfortable, see illustrations below.



#### Wire out of a Brace

Just as a wire may protrude from a brace early on in treatment it is possible for a wire to come out of a bracket. The solution to this problem is to simply reinsert the wire in the brace using a pair of tweezers.



#### Bracket off of tooth

If one of the brackets becomes comes off the tooth and is still attached to the wire, slip the bracket along the wire and butt up against another bracket.