

History of Orthodontics

History of Orthodontics – Quick Reference Notes

1. Early Beginnings (Ancient Times – 18th?c.)

Period	Key Developments	Representative Figures / Sources
Ancient Egypt & Mesopotamia (?? 3000?BC)	Depictions of “straightened” teeth on tomb reliefs; crude dental appliances made of gold wires.	Archaeological artifacts; medical papyri.
Classical Greece & Rome (??500?BC – 400?AD)	Philosophical writings on facial aesthetics; early attempts to correct malocclusion using finger pressure and crude metal bands.	Hippocrates, Celsus.
Middle Ages (5?15? c.)	Little progress; dental care focused on extraction.	—
Renaissance (15?16 ?c.)	Renewed interest in anatomy; early texts describe “tooth?moving” techniques.	Ambroise Paré (1510?1590) – mentions forced tooth movement.
18th?Century	First systematic description of “malocclusion” and the need for correction.	Pierre Fauchard (1708?1778) – <i>The Surgeon Dentist</i> (1728) describes using a “bandeau” (metallic band) to expand the arch.

2. Foundations of Modern Orthodontics (19th?c.)

Year	Milestone	Significance
1819	Pierre Fauchard publishes <i>Le Chirurgien Dentiste</i> , introducing the concept of “orthodontic appliances.”	Sets the stage for later scientific work.
1840	Charles H. Tweed (later) notes the importance of facial aesthetics (though his major work is later).	Early link between function and appearance.
1855	Norman William Kingsley (American) publishes <i>A Treatise on Oral Deformities</i> – first textbook dedicated to orthodontic problems.	First comprehensive orthodontic text; describes “Kingsley appliances.”

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Year	Milestone	Significance
1860s? 1870s	Development of removable appliances (e.g., “expansion plates”) and the first use of gold wires for tooth movement.	Introduces the idea of controlled, continuous forces.
1880	Edward H. Angle (born 1855) begins experiments with tooth?movement mechanics while still a medical student.	Future “father of modern orthodontics.”

3. The Angle Era – Birth of Scientific Orthodontics (Late 19th ?c. – Early 20th?c.)

Date	Event	Contribution
1899	Angle publishes <i>Classification of Malocclusion</i> (first systematic classification).	Provides a universal language for diagnosis.
1900	Establishment of Angle’s School of Orthodontia in St. Louis, MO.	First dedicated orthodontic training program.
1907	Invention of the Edgewise Appliance (Angle’s “standard” bracket with rectangular slot).	Basis for most modern fixed appliances.
1910	Formation of the American Society of Orthodontists (ASO) – later the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).	Professional organization to promote standards and research.
1915	Publication of “ The Orthodontic Principles ” (Angle).	Consolidates his philosophy: “the straightening of teeth, the