

Ibenator

If the lower jaw is forward in relation to the upper jaw, an **underbite** develops. An underbite means that the upper teeth are behind the lower teeth (anterior crossbite).

An underbite can be unattractive and can cause uneven wear of the front teeth and jaw joint problems.



These cases are best treated at an early age because once the bone sutures have fully developed and the sutures have closed, the upper jaw cannot be moved forward easily.

In virtually all cases, **two phases of treatment are needed** to correct the jaw and dental problem. The first phase consists of the Ibenator on the upper jaw and a lower lingual arch on the lower jaw. During treatment we will evaluate if we need to add a reverse pull head gear for 1 to 2 years. The reverse pull headgear gently pulls on the upper teeth and jaw to encourage further forward growth and to bring the upper teeth forward of the lower teeth.

Later, when growth is complete, we do a second phase of treatment with braces, elastics and occasionally, the headgear again.

In more severe cases, despite all our efforts in an early orthodontic phase, jaw surgery may be required to correct the bite and to create a more harmonious facial profile.

Please feel free to call us with any questions you may have!