



**WHITewater**  
ORAL SURGERY GROUP

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## ORTHOGNATHIC SURGERY

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Orthognathic surgery is needed when jaws do not meet correctly or the teeth cannot be aligned by orthodontics alone. Teeth are straightened with orthodontics and corrective jaw surgery repositions misaligned jaws. This not only improves facial appearance, but also ensures that teeth meet correctly and function properly.

### Who Needs Orthognathic Surgery?

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People who benefit from orthognathic surgery include those with an improper bite or jaws that are positioned incorrectly. Jaw growth is a gradual process and in some instances, the upper and lower jaws may grow at different rates. The result can result in problems that affect chewing, speech, long-term oral health and appearance. Injury to the face and birth defects can also affect jaw alignment. Orthodontics alone can correct bite problems when only the teeth are involved. Orthognathic surgery may be required to reposition the facial bones.

Difficulty in the following areas should be evaluated:

- Receding jaw
- Weak chin
- Protruding jaw
- Gummy smile
- Difficulty in chewing, biting or swallowing
- Speech problems
- Open bite
- Breathing problems

Some of these issues can exist at birth. Most are acquired after birth, during development as a result of genetic, environmental, or traumatic influences. Before any treatment begins, a consultation will be held to perform a complete examination with x-rays. During the pre-treatment consultation process, feel free to ask any questions that you have regarding your treatment. When you are fully informed about the aspects of your care, you and your dental team will make the decision to proceed with treatment together.

## Technology and Orthognathic Surgery

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Whitewater Oral Surgery Group and its surgeons use modern computer techniques and three-dimensional models to show you exactly how your surgery will be approached. Using comprehensive facial X-rays and computer video imaging, we can show you how your bite will be improved and even give you an idea of how you'll look after surgery. This helps you understand the surgical process and the extent of the treatment prescribed and to see the benefits of orthognathic surgery.

If you are a candidate for Corrective Jaw Surgery, Dr. Nelson and Dr. Kempers will work closely with your dentist and orthodontist during your treatment. The actual surgery can move your teeth and jaws into a new position that results in a more attractive, functional and healthy dental-facial relationship.