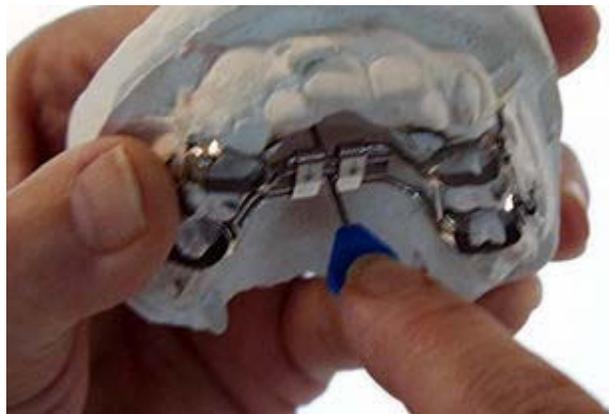


Rapid Palatal Expander (RPE) Works

The key is placed in a hole at the center of the screw. You should be careful not to insert the key too far into the screw. If this happens, you could pinch the roof of your mouth as you turn the screw. I always shorten the length of the metal key before I give it to you to minimize this possibility. You can see arrows on the screw indicating the direction that the screw needs to be turned to activate it (towards the back of your mouth). (the number 13 on this screw means that it can be opened a maximum of 13mm).



The key is then pushed as far back towards the throat as possible. You will feel resistance when the screw cannot be turned any more. You will also be able to see a new hole appear in front of the key for the next activation. To remove the key, you need to push down and back until the key falls out of the hole (its a good thing the safety strap is attached to your middle finger). It is very important that you do not un-turn the screw while you are removing the key. If you do turn back the screw, the next hole at the front of the screw will be obstructed, and you will not be able to insert the key for the next activation.



I will turn the screw once while demonstrating how to activate the appliance. I will also have a parent practice activating the appliance in case the patient is either unable or unwilling to participate in this action. My staff will give you a personalized schedule to help ensure the appliance is activated the correct number of times and at the correct frequency.

While the screw is being turned, I may ask to see the patient during the activation schedule (within 1-4 weeks). This short appointment serves to ensure everything is proceeding properly (no loose bands, the space is opening symmetrically, etc.). After we are done turning the screw, I will seal the screw so it can not change. The appliance will be maintained in the mouth for at least three months so as to ensure stability. Braces will then be placed on the teeth, and the space between the front teeth will soon begin to close on its own and with the assistance of the braces.

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. OUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS FOUND ON THE BACK OF OUR BUSINESS CARDS.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK WITH THE FIRST PHASE OF YOUR ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT!!!!