



ORTHOGNATHIC (CORRECTIVE JAW) SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for allowing Atlanta Oral & Facial Surgery to participate in your care. ***Corrective jaw surgery*** is a commonly performed surgical procedure by our team and typically involves an orthodontist and an oral & maxillofacial surgeon (OMS). There are several important steps along the way after being evaluated by an orthodontist.

1. Initial Consultation

Your first visit with us (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) involves a discussion regarding your current facial esthetics and jaw position. During this visit, we will review the benefits and risks of orthognathic surgery. We will also obtain radiographs (if not provided by your orthodontist) and photographs.

2. Referral from Orthodontist or Primary Care Physician

Depending on the type of medical insurance, we (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons) may require a referral from your orthodontist and/or your primary care physician. Often, this process is rather seamless and easy. At times, you may have to be seen by your orthodontist AND your primary care physician before seeing us. Again, this is dependent on the type of medical insurance that you may have and is a requirement by your insurance plan.

3. Insurance Authorization

We will write a letter to obtain insurance authorization for your proposed surgery from your medical insurance. This process can take up to **two months** to obtain. Please note that ALL of your photos and x-rays will be sent to your insurance company along with a detailed letter from us. At times, your insurance company will automatically generate a denial letter stating that **“no clinical notes or photographs were sent”**. Please note this is a standard answer from many plans and our office will follow up to make sure all documents have been received by your insurance company. Some plans have an **exclusion** on “jaw surgery”; assuming your plan does not contain this exclusion, we are typically able to obtain authorization for your jaw surgery. Once a decision has been made by your insurance company, we will inform you, and your orthodontist, of the authorization status.

4. Pre-Surgery Orthodontics

These procedures are done in conjunction with your orthodontist. Your orthodontist will treat you with braces to prepare you for surgery, this process can take 6-18 months or longer. Once your orthodontist feels you are ready to proceed with surgery, they will refer you back to our office for a pre-surgical visit.

5. Wisdom Teeth

Our general recommendation is that you have your wisdom teeth, or third molars, extracted 6-9 months before your jaw surgery.

6. Pre-Surgery Visit

Updated radiographs, pictures and digital impressions will be taken during this visit. A detailed explanation of your planned surgery, along with discussion of risks and complications, will take place during this visit as well. Virtual planning of your surgery will also occur during this time.

7. Out of Pocket Expenses

Your out-of-pocket expenses prior to surgery depend on your type of insurance plan as well as your deductible. The timing of your surgery will also have an impact on your out-of-pocket expenses. Our hospital coordinator can provide you with an estimate for your out-of-pocket expenses; however, please note that the amount might change depending on when the estimate has been obtained (close vs. far from the actual surgery date).

8. Surgery

If your surgery is performed in the office, this will be scheduled during your pre-op visit. If being performed at the hospital, the hospital will contact you with instructions on when and where to arrive on your surgery day. You may be admitted to the hospital for one-night post-surgery.

9. Post-Surgery Orthodontics

4-6 weeks following surgery, you will be referred back to your orthodontist. The orthodontist will then work to finalize your dental occlusion with braces. This process can take anywhere from 6-18 months.