



## Getting It Straight

by Dr. Kirk Christensen,  
Woodstock's Orthodontic Specialist

**Q:** Orthodontic treatment seems very expensive. Am I the only one who thinks this?

**A:** Actually, many people who initially see an orthodontist feel that treatment seems pricy. Although fees vary widely nationally, due to area, provider, patient age, and case complexity, a range of \$3800 to \$6000 (median of around \$5000) can be expected for a comprehensive treatment. Here are some interesting facts that may change your perspective. 1) Most orthodontists offer at least some form of interest free financing over the 16-30 month treatment duration. I know of no other dental or medical providers that provide long term interest free financing. 2) Orthodontics is your best value in health care. Consider that I had braces in 1972 at a cost of \$1600. Thirty five years later the cost has only tripled! The average cost of a new home in 1972 was \$30,500, and today is \$232,000 (a 7 fold increase). Median household income in 1972 was \$9,700 and today is \$46,000 (a 5 fold increase). If orthodontics had kept pace with inflation, treatment would be about \$8000-\$11,000. 3) Few medical or dental procedures can boast the benefits of prevention, improved function, and improved esthetics in one single package the way orthodontics can. I think you might agree that the cost of this elective procedure now seems pretty reasonable, in view of these facts.

!Dr. Christensen's column appears weekly in the Northwest Herald. Questions to be answered and treatment inquiries may be directed to: **Woodstock Orthodontics, c/o Kirk H. Christensen, DDS, 226 West Judd Street, Woodstock, IL 60098, Phone: 815-337-5522**