



ASHBURN  
PEDIATRIC DENTAL CENTER  
(703) 726-4333

## ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCE FACT SHEET

### Lower Lingual Holding Arch

The lower lingual holding arch (LLHA) is a space maintaining appliance. It consists of two metal bands attached to the lower first molars connected by a wire that runs along the inside of your lower teeth. The purpose of this appliance is to prevent your lower molars from moving. The LLHA is not removable.

### Things to Know

- Avoid sticky foods such as taffy, caramels, gummy candies, starburst, skittles, and gum as they might loosen the appliance. Also, avoid hard foods such as ice, nuts, and hard candy as these might break the LLHA.
- Thorough, but careful, brushing around the appliance is important to keep it and your teeth clean and free from cavities.
- Initially, your teeth might feel sore after placement of this appliance. Also, you might notice extra saliva in your mouth and slight speech impairment. This is expected and should go back to normal after a few days.
- Speak out loud as much as possible during the first couple of days to allow your tongue to get used to this appliance.
- Certain areas of the LLHA or bands to which it attaches might bother your cheeks and tongue at first. This usually goes away after a few days, but the use of wax or wet cotton balls will help to minimize the discomfort while your mouth is adjusting. Rinsing with warm salt water or Peroxyl and the use of Benzodent will help bothered areas feel better and return to normal.
- Please call us immediately if anything feels loose or broken.

### Emergencies

If you have an after-hours emergency that cannot be resolved after following the instructions provided, please call Dr. Joe on his cell phone at (703) 597-8558.