



6Elements™
orthodontic science



6Elements of Orofacial Harmony

the **Andrews™**
Foundation
orthodontic science

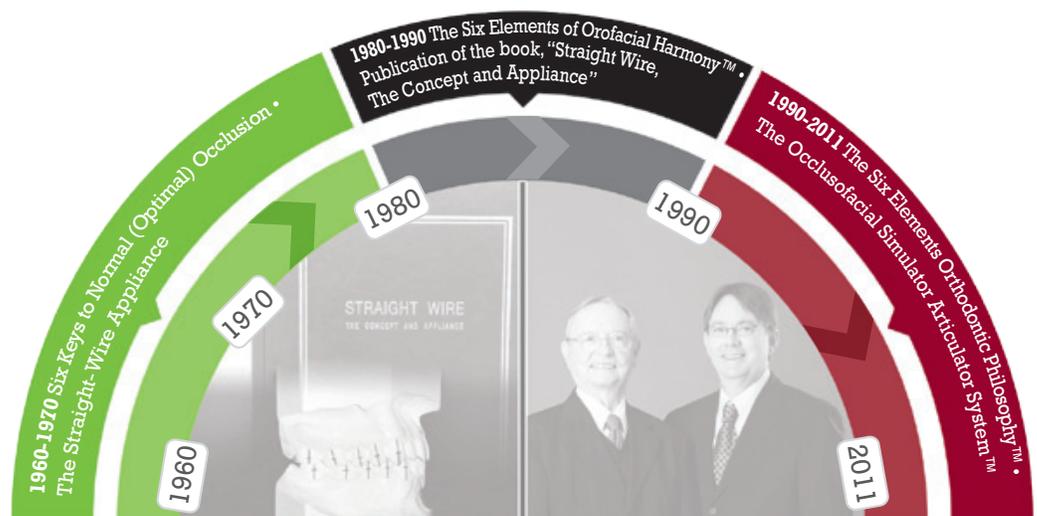


The Andrews Foundation

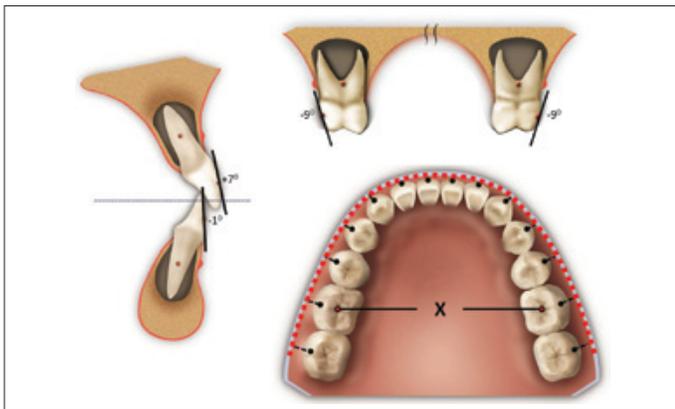
The **Andrews Foundation** has been a leader in orthodontic research and education since its formation in the 1960's. Findings at the foundation, which include the **Six Keys™ to Optimal Occlusion** and the **Straight-Wire Appliance**, have had a profound influence on the specialty of orthodontics. The founder, Dr. Larry Andrews, along with his son and co-director Dr. Will Andrews, have more recently been dedicated to research which has led to finding the **Six Elements of Orofacial Harmony™**; the Six Elements are three-dimensional goals for the jaws and teeth.

The Six Elements Orthodontic Philosophy is a comprehensive approach to orthodontics which includes diagnosis, positionally-correct classification, and treatment. This body of work has been presented in meetings and courses in the Americas, Europe, and Asia, is being taught in a growing number of universities around the world, and will soon be published in a book. The **Andrews Foundation**, now 50 years strong, continues to conduct research aimed at improving orthodontic treatment and offers courses on the Six Elements Philosophy.

Andrews Foundation Timeline



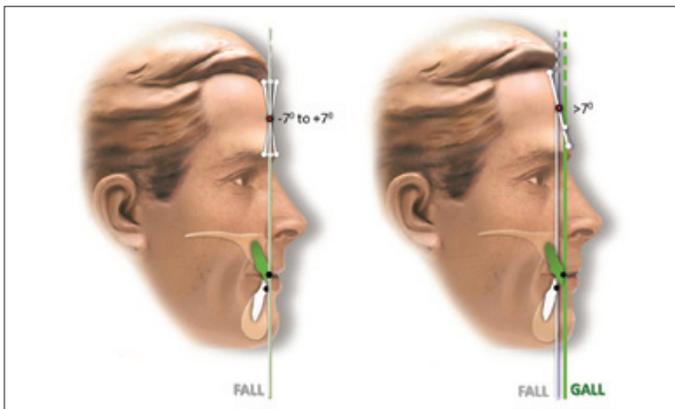
The 6 Elements Orthodontic Philosophy



ELEMENT I

Optimal Tooth and Arch Characteristics

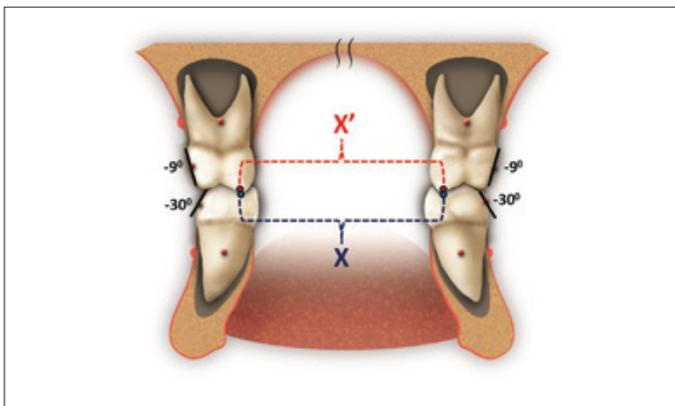
An arch is optimal when: the roots are centered over basal bone, the crowns are inclined so the teeth can interface and function optimally, the Curve of Spee is between 0 and 2.5 mm, the contact areas abut, and skeletal maxillary width is in harmony with skeletal mandibular width (Element III).



ELEMENT II

Optimal Anteroposterior (AP) Jaw Positions

The AP position of the maxilla is optimal when the FA points of Element I maxillary incisors are on the Goal Anterior Limit Line (GALL). Mandibular AP position is optimal when it is in *centric relation*, the incisors are Element I and they interface optimally with Element I incisors in an optimal maxilla.

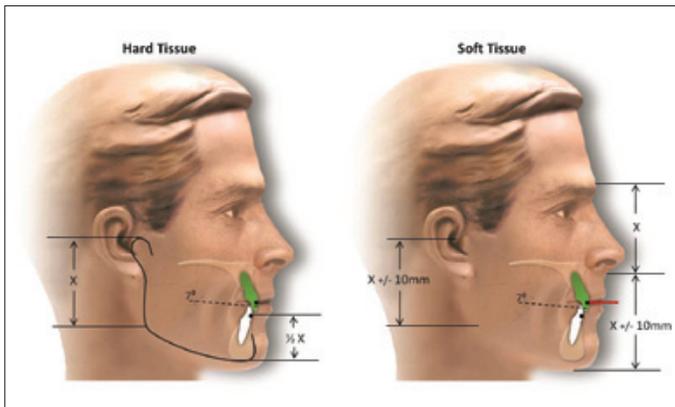


ELEMENT III

Optimal Jaw Widths

Mandibular width is naturally optimal for most individuals. Maxillary width is optimal when the distance (X' mm) between the mesio-lingual cusp tips of Element I maxillary first molars is equal to the distance (X mm) between the central fossae of the Element I mandibular first molars.

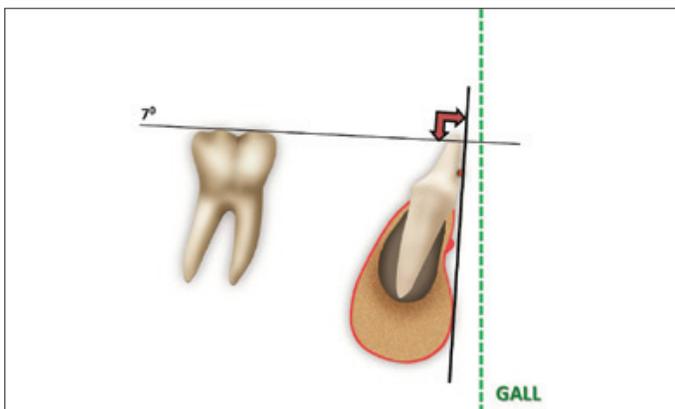
The **6Elements** Orthodontic Philosophy is a revolutionary, 3-dimensional approach to diagnosis and treatment planning. Treatment is performed with an updated version of the Straight-Wire Appliance.



ELEMENT IV

Optimal Jaw Heights

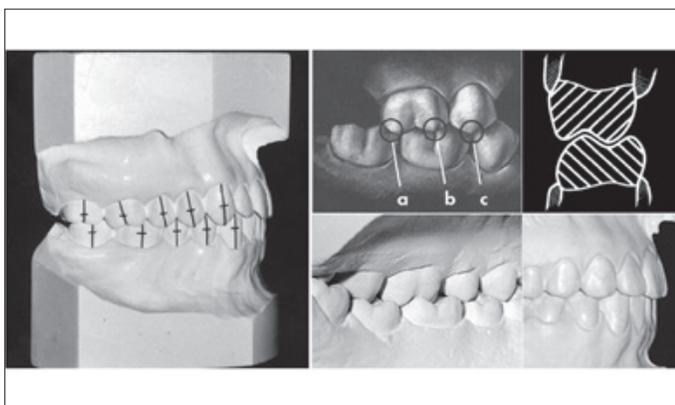
Jaw heights are optimal when: the tooth positions are Element I, the middle anterior, lower anterior, and posterior face heights are equal, the maxillary incisors' FA points are level with the lower border of the upper lip in repose, and the occlusal plane is in harmony with function and esthetics.



ELEMENT V

Optimal Chin Prominence

Chin prominence is measured independently AP of jaw position. Assuming normal soft tissue thickness, chin prominence is optimal when pogonion point matches the prominence of the FA points of Element I mandibular incisors.



ELEMENT VI

Optimal Occlusion

Optimal occlusion involves: the Six Keys to Optimal Occlusion*, Element I teeth and arches, and the Element II, III, and IV jaw positions. Collectively, these are the characteristics of an esthetic, functional, and healthy occlusion.

THE 6ELEMENTS OF OROFACIAL HARMONY™.

The *Six Elements of Orofacial Harmony* are the characteristics found to be shared by individuals with optimal occlusion and balanced faces.

Q: What are the Six Elements?

A: The Six Elements are optimal treatment goals for the six areas for which orthodontists have diagnostic responsibility. The areas are: the arch (width, shape, and length), AP jaw positions, jaw widths, jaw heights, chin prominence, and occlusion.

Q: What is the Six Elements Philosophy?

A: It is a complete set of treatment goals, rules for treating, and a 3-D positionally-correct classification system that is based on the *Six Elements of Orofacial Harmony*.

Q: What do you mean when you refer to “orofacial harmony”?

A: Orofacial harmony exists when the teeth, arches, and jaws are positioned in ways that contribute maximally to oral and facial appearance, function, and health.

Q: Can the same Six Elements treatment goals be used for most patients?

A: Even though people differ in size, shape, gender, age, and race, when measured relative to the Six Elements, those variables have surprisingly little effect on the optimal positions and relationships of teeth, arches, and jaws.

Q: How complete is the Six Elements Orthodontic Philosophy?

A: We know of no other philosophy that is more complete and more defensible. It has been 40 years in the making, and practiced for over 20 years. It has been peer-reviewed by independent researchers, and lectured-about worldwide since 1990. It is being practiced by a growing number of orthodontists and taught, in part or in its entirety, in most orthodontic departments throughout the world.



The Andrews Foundation and *Ortho Organizers*®

With over 35 years of manufacturing experience, and offering state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities, *Ortho Organizers* was the perfect choice for the Andrews Foundation to be the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of the products developed at the Andrews Foundation.

“We have had the pleasure to work closely with *Ortho Organizers*’ talented Marketing and Engineering teams to bring the Six Elements ideas and the Andrews products to the orthodontic community,” said Drs. Larry and Will Andrews.

For more information on our products and education offerings, please contact us:

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