

# YOUR SURGICAL EXPERIENCE

When your orthognathic team feels your teeth have moved into the correct position, surgery is scheduled. Your surgeon will give you instructions to follow before surgery. During surgery, your bones will be repositioned. After surgery, your bones usually grow together and heal naturally within a few months.

## Before Surgery

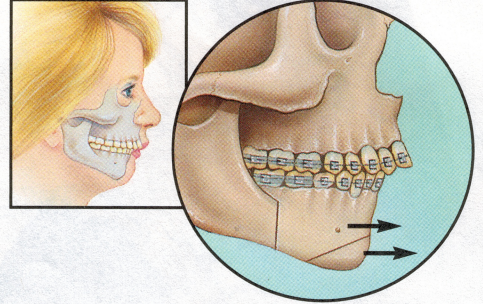
Before surgery, you will have a physical exam to assess your general health. You may also need to have lab tests. Follow your surgeon's instructions on when to stop eating and drinking before your procedure. The surgery may be performed in a doctor's office, an outpatient surgery center, or a hospital. An anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist will discuss anesthesia with you. He or she will also answer any questions you have. You will receive IV (intravenous) fluids and medication to prevent dehydration and infection. The medications also help limit swelling and control pain. Just before surgery, you'll receive general anesthesia so you can sleep through the surgery.

## Risks and Complications

As with any surgery, there are some risks and complications. You may experience some pain and swelling in your face and neck, but most of it is usually gone within a couple of weeks. Your face may feel stiff or numb for several months. During healing, there's a risk of infection and of the bones shifting position as they heal. Your surgeon will discuss these and any other risks and complications with you before surgery.

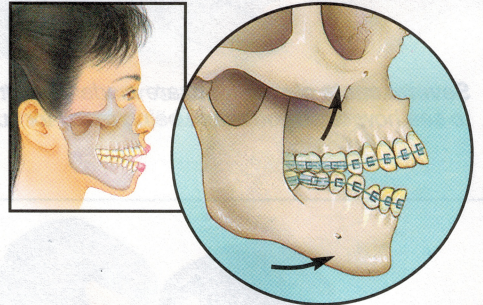
## During Surgery

**For lower jaw surgery**, the lower jaw is either brought forward or moved back. An incision is made inside the mouth. The jaw is sectioned and moved according to your surgeon's plan.



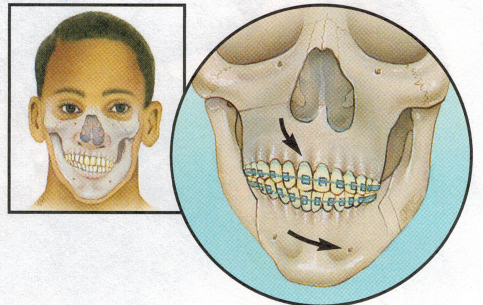
*The lower jaw is separated into several parts.*

**For upper jaw surgery**, your upper jaw is shortened or lengthened. An incision is made inside the mouth so there are no visible scars. For open bite surgery, your jaws are repositioned to allow your mouth to close.



*The upper jaw is separated into two parts.*

**For uneven jaw surgery**, a wedge of bone may be removed from or added to your upper or lower jaw. If other facial bones contribute to the asymmetry, they may be repositioned during this procedure.



*The upper and lower jaws may be separated into several parts.*

EVALUATION

PREPARATION / BRACES ON

YR3DRUB

Orthodontist  
Surgeon

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