



Orthodontists warn against 'quick fixes'

WEXFORD orthodontists are advising people against being treated at 'quick fix' 'smile clinics.'

They say they are growing increasingly concerned at reports of patients dissatisfied with the results of treatments used by some cosmetic dentists at 'smile clinics' to straighten teeth and are having to rectify some of these failed treatments.

'Many of the treatments offered at these clinics which are heavily promoted are offered by dentists inexperienced in providing orthodontic treatment but who are claiming to give a beautiful smile in six months or less,' said Dr Don Ryan, a special orthodontist, with practices in Gorey and Wexford towns.

'This is much faster than the comprehensive individual treatment usually required to treat crowded and crooked teeth to get teeth fully corrected. Comprehensive treatment provided by specialist orthodontists ensures that following the treatment, the patient is biting correctly and the teeth are in harmony with the jaws and lips.'

As part of this campaign, the OSI is advising people that are considering getting their own or their children's teeth straightened to follow this advice in order to get the best possible experience and treatment.

'Some dentists (including cosmetic dentists) who provide orthodontic treatment have only had

a few hours training in procedures to straighten teeth.

'So it is advisable to ask, how much training they have had in orthodontics and with the type of brace they are proposing to fit

'Orthodontists have first trained as general dentists (by completing five years of dental undergraduate training) and have then undertaken a further three years of training in orthodontics to qualify as orthodontic specialists and are recognised as such by the Dental Council of Ireland,' he added.