

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS

During the regular profylactic examination you may see several signs which may tell you that there might be a myofunctional disorder. Signs like: thumb- finger- or pacifier sucking, open mouth posture, habitual mouthbreathing, low tongue position at rest and a deviate swallow (forward or lateral) with the consequence a deviate form of the dental arches or the positioning of the teeth. Then it is wise to refer the patient to the myofunctional therapist for examination.

HOW DOES IT LOOKS LIKE IN THE MOUTH??

1. Open bite, if not normal mixed dentition or skeletal open bite
2. Uni- or bilateral open bite
3. Uni- or bilateral crossbite (99% due to low tongue position at rest)
4. Gothic arch of palate (mostly V shape instead of U shape)
5. Class I malocclusion with big overjet. (pseudo class II)
6. Class I malocclusion with reversed front (pseudo class III)
7. Ankylotic frenulum linguale
8. Swollen raphe palatinae (due to mouthbreathing) like picture 4

ORAL HABITS LIKE:

9. Ongoing thumb-, finger- or pacifiersucking longer then 3 yrs of age
10. Deviate swallow (protrusive, lateral or interdental)
11. Mouthbreathing (often in combination with hypotonic body posture)
12. Facial grimace during swallowing indication for interdental tongue
13. Recurrent-Otitis Media due to deviate swallow

SPEECH PROBLEMS LIKE:

14. Protrusive lisp during speech
15. Lateral lisp during speech

