



**DOWNERS GROVE ORTHODONTICS**



## **THE TOP 10 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR ORTHODONTIST**

[DOWNERSGROVEORTHODONTICS.COM](http://DOWNERSGROVEORTHODONTICS.COM) | (630) 515-2727

## Introductory Letter from Dr. Balakrishnan

Dear Friend,

If you are researching orthodontists and different types of braces for yourself, your child, or a loved one, you are in the right place. You should know that just like all teeth are different, every orthodontic practice is different. In your search for finding the right orthodontist, you will most likely find similar treatment options, even with the same name or by the same manufacturer. That does not mean all treatment is the same, however.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, our mission is to serve others by changing lives, supporting our community, and making treatment fun. Our biggest reward is seeing how happy our patients are after we ignite their smiles. To help support our mission and to help you choose the right orthodontist, even if it is not us, I put this report together, "The Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Orthodontist."

If you have any questions after reading this report, feel free to call my office to ask. My knowledgeable staff and I will be happy to help you.

To Your Smile,



Dr. Meena Balakrishnan

P.S. When you are ready, I invite you to schedule your Downers Grove Orthodontics Smile Assessment, which includes a complete exam, digital x-rays, and comprehensive treatment consultation, by calling (630) 515-2727. We are here for you.



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1. Do They Have

## Extensive Experience?

Your orthodontist's experience should top the list when it comes to finding a new care provider. When you choose a doctor who has already seen a wide variety of orthodontic needs, that means your doctor

will likely have already treated a case similar to your own. That prior experience can help your orthodontist foresee any potential risks or complications. With this knowledge and foresight, you can feel assured that your treatment recommendation is truly the best one for your situation.

Our expert orthodontist at Downers Grove Orthodontics has helped over 10,000 patients achieve healthy smiles since 2007. Dr. Balakrishnan is board-certified and a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a national dental honor society, the American Association of Orthodontists, and the Midwest Society of Orthodontists. She has held various leadership positions over the years, including an Intern Representative at the Government Dental College in Bangalore, India, and secretary of the Rotaract Club of Bangalore in India. She was Conference Co-chair at the 33rd Indian Orthodontic Conference in Manipal, India, and Joint Secretary at the Indian Academy of Oro-facial Genetics in



Mangalore, India. Dr. Balakrishnan has also taught at the UIC College of Dentistry for the past 10 years. She has participated in various studies, published multiple works, and given several professional presentations throughout her career as well.

With this level of experience, you can feel confident that when you choose Downers Grove Orthodontics, you're getting top-rated professionals with the experience necessary to help you achieve your healthiest smile in less time



## 2. Do They

### **Offer a Guarantee?**

A great orthodontist will stand behind their treatment, and the best way to do that is with a guarantee. Orthodontists should offer a solid guarantee to make sure you know that you come first no matter what. Your satisfaction and health are of the utmost importance! When you are considering a new orthodontic office for yourself or your loved ones, ask whether they back up their treatments with any guarantees. Also make sure that a guarantee doesn't have any fine print or loopholes.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, our treatments are completely backed by

our satisfaction guarantee. We not only guarantee a healthier smile in less time, but we will also do what it takes to get your smile back to its healthiest state should your teeth shift out of place at any time after your braces come off. As long as you wear your retainer properly, our guarantee has you covered.

We also offer our Have Braces Without Missing School or Work Guarantee to make your treatment as convenient for you as possible. We realize you and your children have busy schedules, so we offer extended hours and Saturday appointments to accommodate your needs. We're committed to providing the highest quality orthodontic care to our patients and want to make the treatment process as convenient for you as possible.

3. Do They Offer the

## Latest in Technology?

Technology plays an important role in orthodontics and is essential for diagnostics, efficient treatment, number of visits, comfort, and accuracy. Incredible advances have been made in the last 20 years, which is why it is important to find out whether your potential orthodontist uses the latest technology for their patients' benefit.

treatment process, starting with your initial diagnostic appointment. From extremely accurate imaging to accelerated orthodontic treatment, our technology helps make the experience faster, easier, and even fun! To learn more details about the specific types of technology used in our office, please visit our website for more information.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, we use the latest technology throughout your





4. Can They

## Shorten Your Time in Braces?

Many adults hesitate when it comes to getting braces simply because of the amount of time traditionally required for treatment. Luckily, getting braces today is a completely different experience than it was even 10 years ago. When you opt for an orthodontist who offers the latest technology, you can expect faster treatment, fewer appointments, and more precise results. Be sure to ask your

orthodontist how you can benefit from the latest treatment options and reduce your overall treatment time.

During your assessment and consultation at Downers Grove Orthodontics, you will learn about all our treatment options, including faster treatment with Invisalign and Damon Braces.



5. Do They

## Support Their Community & Beyond?

By opting for treatment with a community minded orthodontist, you not only indirectly support your community yourself; you can also enjoy the added benefit of receiving treatment from an orthodontics provider who genuinely cares about other people. For example, our Downers Grove Orthodontics team frequently shares our time and resources with a variety of charitable causes...

- Downers Grove Orthodontics regularly sponsors Noah's Hope, a local charity organization that combats Batten's Disease in children. We have sponsored the Noah's Hope Cupcake Classic for several years.
- Our office provides support to Downers Grove Grade School District 58 whenever we can. In 2017, we hosted their Downers Grove Crosstown Classic, and we have also provided prizes for Reading Games in District 58. We hope and plan to continue supporting both of these great events for years to come!
- Dr. Balakrishnan is a Parent Volunteer at The Lane Elementary School in Hinsdale, and also participated in the science fair at Salt Creek Elementary School (District 48), where she taught elementary school kids how dental impressions and dental models are made.
- Dr. Balakrishnan is a instructor at the University of Illinois at Chicago,



Orthodontics, and a Teacher for the Art of Living Foundation. The Art of Living Foundation is the largest volunteer based non-profit educational organization in the world.

- Dr. Balakrishnan has participated in dental outreach programs to rural areas around Manipal, India, and volunteered in the Mobile dental unit of the Rotary Club of Bangalore, Indiranagar.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, we appreciate the support of our community and believe in giving back whenever possible.



## 6. Are They **Multilingual?**

If you or your loved one doesn't speak English as your first language, then trying to discuss complex health concerns with any kind of healthcare provider can be stressful and, in some cases, can even lead to poor treatment due to misunderstandings or miscommunications. It can also be a hassle to find someone to join you in your appointment as a translator, especially when you need a short-notice emergency appointment. To avoid problems that can arise due to language discrepancies, ask your potential orthodontic office if any of their staff are

bilingual in your native language.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, we appreciate the importance of being able to communicate effectively with our patients for the best possible orthodontic care. For this reason, our office located in the greater southwest suburbs of Chicago area provides multilingual orthodontic services in Spanish, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Czech, and Slovak. This is just another way that we seek to go a step beyond for the members of our community.





#### 7. Do They Offer

### Same-Day Starts?

In today's world, everyone is busy! Making the decision to get orthodontic treatment shouldn't interrupt your entire schedule, which is why orthodontists should implement flexibility for scheduling appointments. When looking for an orthodontist, make sure they offer flexible hours, short wait times, and same-day starts. With today's technology in a fast-paced world, this is a necessity for any successful orthodontic practice to run efficiently.

Downers Grove Orthodontics is proud to offer all three of these scheduling options. Our office is highly efficient, so wait times are minimal. Oftentimes, we can schedule your appointment for the same day, plus work around your school or work schedule. This is just another way we put our patients first.



8. Are

## Retainers Included with Treatment?

Every orthodontic office has its own fee schedule, and doctors often charge differently for certain procedures. Always make sure your contract clearly states all expenses for your treatment before it begins. It is important to know exactly what you will be paying, and exactly what it covers. It is common to find out about retainer fees towards the end of your treatment. Since you are reading this report, you now know to ask your orthodontist about what a retainer will cost. Also, make sure to ask your orthodontist to provide you or your child with an extra retainer. This way, if it gets lost or broken, you have a backup one to use while the orthodontist makes a new one.

Part of the Downers Grove Orthodontics philosophy is an all-inclusive approach to treatment estimates. That means you'll know exactly how much your braces will cost - and everything that will be included - from the outset. No hidden fees, no surprise bills, and no extra charge for your retainer. That's right -your retainer is part of your orthodontic treatment, so the cost is included in your estimate, too. You're trusting us with your teeth, and we take that responsibility very seriously. By eliminating unexpected costs, we're proving every day that Downers Grove Orthodontics is a name you can rely on.





9. Do They Offer

## Free Teeth Whitening After Treatment?



Because thoroughly flossing and brushing your teeth with braces is difficult, there's a chance you may have tooth discoloring after your braces are removed. Maintaining your optimal oral health continues to be vital after treatment, and your best smile should be not only healthy but also aesthetically pleasing. In the event you have tooth discoloring, you may need whitening after treatment. During your initial consultation, make sure to ask your orthodontist if they offer cleaning and whitening services to help bring out the best in your smile.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, we offer FREE teeth whitening after treatment to all our patients! We want your best smile to not only be healthy but also look great! When you're ready to get started on your happiest, healthiest smile, call to request your complimentary, no-obligation Downers Grove Orthodontics Smile Assessment. During your free new patient appointment, your orthodontist will make sure all your questions are thoroughly answered about our office, our orthodontic treatments, our flexible payment options, and anything else that you would like to know about us.



**10. Do They**

**Help to Make Treatment Fun?**

All businesses should give back to their patients in one way or another, whether it be by offering discounts on treatment, or a rewards program to encourage proper oral hygiene and to make treatment fun. When you're considering an orthodontic professional, make sure to ask if they offer any of these benefits to their patients.

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, we want you to feel special and know that we appreciate you every day. That's why we

have monthly raffles to offer our patients the opportunity to win a variety of prizes. To make things even more fun, the details change each month, so make sure you ask for more information during your consultation. Ultimately, we aim to make you feel special and appreciated before, during, and even after treatment. When you choose Downers Grove Orthodontics, you become part of the Downers Grove Orthodontics family forever.



11. Bonus: Do They Offer

## Affordable Payment Options?

This report was only supposed to include 10 crucial questions to consider when looking for an orthodontist, but affordability is so important that I've included this section as a bonus. Whether or not you have insurance, it's important to understand what kind of payment options your potential orthodontist offers before you choose them. Downers Grove Orthodontics feels cost should never be an obstacle to obtaining braces or

orthodontics, so we offer several ways to assist you in making your orthodontic investment, including full-payment discounts, in-house financing with 0% interest, Care Credit plans, multi-family member discounts, and discounts for first responders and teachers. You can rest easy knowing that every facet of your braces and orthodontic treatment is going to be smooth-sailing and worry free!





## Closing Letter from Dr. Balakrishnan

Dear Friend,

I hope this report was informative! If you've already seen another orthodontist, I encourage you to follow up with them with any new questions or concerns based on what you've learned today. Additionally, I invite you to take advantage of my complimentary Downers Grove Orthodontics Smile Assessment - whether it is for your first consultation or for a second opinion. There is absolutely no obligation - I simply want to answer your questions, address your concerns, and give you the Downers Grove Orthodontics experience that you or your child will get from every visit. During the assessment, we may learn that you might not even need treatment!

At Downers Grove Orthodontics, I understand that there is much to consider when choosing an orthodontist. In fact, I am certain that I could have doubled the length of this report! I am confident, however, that the information you have now will help you choose the right Chicago area orthodontist for your needs. If you would like to know more about any of the information we've included here, feel free to call our friendly and knowledgeable team at (630) 517-5794. We look forward to meeting you!

To Your Smile,



Dr. Meena Balakrishnan

P.S. When you are ready, call **(630) 515-2727** to schedule your complimentary Downers Grove Orthodontics Smile Assessment, which includes an office tour, a comprehensive exam, digital x-rays, and an in-depth personalized consultation with Dr. Balakrishnan - a \$400 value, yours free!

