



**DENTAL
ASSOCIATES
OF WALPOLE**

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Frenectomy

It is quite common for a space to occur between the two front teeth (central incisors). Many factors may be involved in causing the space. It is often impossible to determine the primary cause. A fibrous tissue attachment (frenum) that goes between the central incisors is often thought to be the reason for a space to develop.

Treatment of a space is recommended for esthetic reasons. The first step in treatment is aligning the teeth properly and closing the space. Once the alignment is complete a periodontist will perform a procedure known as a *frenectomy*. The frenectomy is a minor surgical procedure done with local anesthesia. The periodontist will move the excess fibrous tissue away from the teeth. This will usually prevent the space from re-opening.

There is always the possibility that the space will reappear after the frenectomy. While not common, it does occasionally occur. This may happen because of improperly fused palatal bones, bruxism (grinding) or because teeth are too small for the upper jaw. If this occurs we may recommend having some cosmetic bonding done, or perhaps a fixed retainer on the back of the teeth.

It is important to remember that the space is cosmetic issue only. Sometimes the parent or patient chooses not to try to close it. This is a personal decision.