

## Instructions for Care and Use of the TAP<sup>®</sup> Appliance Series

### Care and Cleaning of the Appliance:

- Clean the appliance daily with a toothbrush and gentle liquid soap.
- When your appliance is not in your mouth, store it dry (not sitting in liquid) in the case provided. (This is especially important if you have a dog. Some people have had their appliance destroyed due to their dog chewing it.)

### Insertion and Removal of the TAP Appliance

**Always brush teeth thoroughly before use.**

**To insert your TAP Appliance**, place the upper appliance on the teeth and seat it completely by pressing firmly with your thumbs on the right and left back portions of the appliance. Place the lower appliance on the teeth and press firmly with your forefingers on right and left back portions to seat it. Move the lower jaw forward to connect the hook on the upper portion into the plate on the lower portion. Close together to be certain that the appliance is seated completely.

**To remove your TAP Appliance**, place your fingers on the upper borders of the upper splint and press firmly downward, “rocking” the appliance from one side to the other until it releases from the teeth. Then, remove the lower splint by placing your thumbs on both sides of the appliance at the lower borders. Firmly push upwards from side to side to “rock” the lower appliance off the teeth. If the appliance is too rigid or retentive, we will need to adjust your appliance to allow for easier removal.

### Adjusting the screw mechanism

Your TAP Appliance has been custom made for you and is designed to provide maximum effectiveness. The screw mechanism allows you to move your lower jaw position forward, which can increase effectiveness, or backward in case of related jaw discomfort.

In order to adjust the screw mechanism, place the key in the front assembly and turn it from your right cheek to your left cheek (counterclockwise) 2 turns to move the jaw position forward 1/2mm. Each 180° turn = .25mm.

### How Often To Adjust Your Appliance

No adjustment of the screw mechanism should be made during the first week after you receive your appliance. It is important to allow your jaw and teeth to become comfortable with the appliance in place at night. Monitor your snoring, daytime sleepiness and quality of sleep during that first week. If these symptoms persist, then you can advance the jaw by adjusting the screw mechanism two turns counterclockwise, and then monitor your symptoms for 1 week. If the symptoms continue, you will again adjust the screw mechanism two turns counterclockwise. This process of monitoring and adjusting the appliance continues every week until the symptoms are well controlled.

### **Preventing Changes in the Bite:**

After you remove your appliance in the morning, it is common for your bite to feel different because your jaw has been forward all night. You will need to help it move back to its normal position. In order to prevent permanent changes from occurring in the bite, it is very important for you to do these simple exercises each morning.

### **Use of the AM Positioner:**

- It is recommended that you remove the nighttime appliance and wait 10-15 minutes before using the AM Positioner.
- You will be using the AM Positioner for approximately 15 minutes. During this 15 minute period, you will place the appliance over your teeth, close your teeth into the indentations in the appliance, hold them for approximately 5 seconds and then release. Repeat this four times per minute for this 15 minute period.
- During the first five minutes, close your teeth gently into the device. After that, you can close and clench more firmly into the device.
- After using the device for this 15 minute period, close your back teeth together to confirm that your teeth are contacting solidly. If not, use the AM Positioner an additional 10 - 15 minutes, and/or, please contact our office.

### **Care and Cleaning of the AM Positioner:**

- Clean the AM Positioner daily with a toothbrush and gentle liquid soap.
- When your appliance is not in your mouth store it dry in the case provided.
- **Do not place the AM Positioner in warm or hot water or it will warp.**

### **New Dental Work After Your Appliance Has Been Fit:**

If you have any new crowns, bridges, implants or large fillings completed after your appliance has been fitted, your appliance will need to be adjusted to fit over the new dental work. After the dental work is completed, please call our office to schedule an appointment to have your appliance adjusted.

**Please call our office with any questions or concerns regarding care or use of your appliance. For example, if you have any jaw discomfort or lingering tooth discomfort, discontinue use of the appliance and contact our office.**

**Important:** It may take 2-3 months to determine the most effective jaw position for managing your snoring and apnea condition. We are hopeful that you will notice an immediate improvement in your symptoms. However, it is usually necessary to advance the jaw slowly over a period of time to improve the effectiveness of the appliance and maintain the comfort of your jaw and teeth.

*Helping people achieve quiet restful sleep.*