

# Ask Your Dentist

## Braces Versus Aligners: The Straight Story

(NAPSA)—Should you wear braces or the new aligners (also called clear retainers) you may have seen advertised recently? New ceramic-type braces that are nearly invisible are for those who want straight, aesthetically pleasing teeth. One of the leading brands of ceramic braces, Mystique, combines ceramic with silicate, so it not only treats as well as metal, but is translucent as well. From three feet away, it is almost impossible to tell that a person wearing Mystique has braces on their teeth.

While almost anyone needing orthodontic care can use braces, aligners are not for everyone. For example, children under the age of 12, people with gum problems and those requiring major corrective care are not candidates for aligners but can be treated with braces.

Orthodontists often say they prefer braces over aligners because braces offer these specialists more precision and control in guiding these devices than do computer-created aligners. Naturally, orthodontists want to provide the best possible treatment they can for their patients, which is why many of the 10,000 or so orthodontists in this country pre-



**BRACE YOURSELF—Virtually invisible braces like Mystique are popular with people of all ages.**

fer the new generation of reliable, attractive braces like Mystique.

The American Association of Orthodontics estimates that up to three out of four people (75 percent) in the U.S. could benefit from orthodontic care. Nearly five million people in the United States and Canada are presently in orthodontic treatment, one of five of them over age 18. For more information about the latest advances in aesthetic braces visit [www.gacmystique.com](http://www.gacmystique.com).