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What to Expect at Your Dental Visit

Not sure what your dental appointment will involve? You're not alone. Whether you're coming in for your first visit, have a tooth that's bothering you, or have been told you need treatment, knowing what to expect can make the experience feel much easier.

We believe in explaining your options, answering your questions, and making sure you feel comfortable before we begin. This guide walks you through some of the most common visits and procedures at our office.

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Your Comfort Matters!

Dental care shouldn't feel like something you have to “tough out.”

We know that dental visits can feel overwhelming, especially if you've had an uncomfortable experience in the past. That's why we offer small touches designed to make your visit more comfortable.

Depending on your appointment and individual needs, comfort options may include:

- A calm, welcoming environment
- Music throughout the office
- TVs with headphones
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Nitrous Oxide
- Minimal Oral Sedation

Have questions? Feeling nervous? Just let us know.

You never need to apologize for being anxious. We're here to listen, explain what's happening, and help you feel comfortable every step of the way.

Establishing Care:

New Patient Exam & Cleaning

New to our office? Here's what your first visit may look like.

Your first appointment isn't a test you have to pass. It's an opportunity for us to get to know you, build a relationship, understand your concerns, and establish a plan for your oral health.

Your first visit may include:

Getting to know you

We'll talk about your dental history, concerns, goals, and anything that makes you nervous about dental visits.

A comprehensive exam

The doctor will examine your teeth, gums, bite, and overall oral health.

X-rays when needed

X-rays help us see areas that can't be evaluated just by looking in your mouth, like in between the teeth.

Cleaning

If appropriate, you'll receive a professional dental cleaning. Depending on the condition of your gums and your individual needs, we may recommend a different type of cleaning or schedule additional treatment.

Your personalized plan

We'll explain what we see, answer your questions, and discuss any recommended treatment. You'll leave with a clear understanding of the recommended treatment, out of pocket cost and how your insurance will cover the recommended treatment.

Nervous about coming in? Please tell us!

There is no need to feel embarrassed about dental anxiety, how long it's been since your last visit, or the condition of your teeth. We've helped many patients who were nervous about coming back to the dentist.

We'll meet you where you are and take things one step at a time.

Dental Pain?

Dental Emergency

When you're in pain or something suddenly happens to a tooth, it can be difficult to know what to do.

Let us know if you experience:

- Severe or persistent tooth pain
- A broken or cracked tooth
- A knocked-out tooth
- Facial or gum swelling
- A dental infection
- Significant bleeding
- A lost filling or crown causing pain
- Pain when biting
- Sudden sensitivity or discomfort

What happens when you call?

First, we'll listen. We'll ask questions about what happened, where you're hurting, and how severe your symptoms are.

We'll help determine what you need.

Depending on your symptoms, we may recommend an emergency appointment so we can examine the problem and take X-rays if necessary.

Our goal isn't just to treat the symptom.

We'll work to understand what's causing the problem and explain your treatment options, cost and how your insurance will help cover the needed treatment.

Don't be embarrassed.

If you haven't been to the dentist in a while, **you don't need to apologize.** We're here to help, not judge.

If you're hurting, call us. Let's figure it out together.

Root Canal

What is a root canal?

A root canal is a treatment used to save a tooth when the inside of the tooth becomes infected, inflamed, or damaged. Despite its reputation, modern root canal treatment is designed with your comfort in mind.

Why might I need one?

- Deep decay
- A cracked or damaged tooth
- An injury to the tooth
- An infection
- Persistent tooth pain or sensitivity

What can I expect?

1. We get you comfortable

Before treatment begins, we numb the area thoroughly. We can also discuss comfort options if you are feeling nervous.

2. We remove the infection

A small opening is made in the tooth so the damaged or infected tissue can be carefully removed.

3. We clean the inside of the tooth

The inside of the tooth is cleaned and disinfected to remove bacteria and infection.

4. We seal the tooth

The cleaned space is filled and sealed to help protect the tooth from future infection.

5. We restore the tooth

Depending on the condition of your tooth, you may need a crown or another restoration to protect it and allow you to use it normally.

Will it hurt?

The goal is for you to be comfortable throughout treatment. Many patients are surprised that having a root canal is much easier than they expected.

Good to know:

Don't wait until dental pain becomes unbearable. If you're experiencing persistent tooth pain, sensitivity, swelling, or discomfort when biting, give us a call.

Tooth Extraction

Sometimes removing a tooth is the best way to protect your oral health.

We understand that the thought of having a tooth removed can make people nervous. Our team will explain what is happening, answer your questions, and focus on keeping you comfortable.

Why might a tooth need to be removed?

A tooth may need to be extracted if it is:

- Severely damaged or broken
- Too badly decayed to restore
- Causing an infection
- Impacted
- Creating problems for surrounding teeth

What happens?

Before:

We'll examine the tooth and take any necessary X-rays. We'll discuss why extraction is recommended and answer your questions.

During:

The area is thoroughly numbed before treatment. Once you're comfortable, the tooth is carefully removed.

After:

We'll give you clear instructions for caring for the area while it heals, including what to eat, how to protect the extraction site, and when to contact us if you have concerns.

What about replacing the tooth?

Depending on your situation, we may discuss options such as:

- Dental implants
- Implant-supported restorations
- Bridges
- Dentures

Remember: You don't have to figure all of this out on your own. We'll walk you through your options.

Broken or Missing Teeth?

Missing teeth can change more than just your smile. It can affect the way you eat, speak, laugh, and feel about yourself every day. Our goal is to help you smile freely again with a solution that feels natural, secure and built to last.

What happens when you call?

First, we'll listen. Tell us what happened, what you're experiencing, and what you're hoping to change. Whether a tooth recently broke, you've been living with a missing tooth for years, or you're simply unhappy with your smile, **we're here to help - without judgment.**

We'll help determine what appointment is needed. Depending on your situation, we may recommend a comprehensive exam and X-rays to understand the health of your teeth, gums, and surrounding bone. This helps us determine what options are available and what approach makes the most sense for you.

We'll explain your options. A broken or missing tooth doesn't always have just one solution. Depending on your individual needs, treatment may include a ***crown, dental implant, Full arch dental implants, full / partial denture, or another restorative option.*** We'll explain what we find, walk you through your choices, and answer your questions along the way.

We'll talk about comfort and cost. We know that the thought of fixing a broken or missing tooth can feel overwhelming. We'll take the time to explain what treatment involves, what you can expect, the cost of care and how your insurance or financing options may help.

Don't be embarrassed. If you haven't been to the dentist in a while, **you don't need to apologize.** We're here to help, not judge.

Same-Day Crown

Need a crown? You may not need multiple appointments.

A same-day crown allows us to restore a damaged or weakened tooth in a single visit using digital technology.

What can I expect?

1. Examination

We'll evaluate your tooth and determine whether a crown is the right solution.

2. Digital scan

Instead of traditional messy impressions, we use a digital scanner to create a detailed model of your tooth.

3. Your crown is designed

Your restoration is carefully designed to fit your tooth and your bite.

4. Your crown is made

Your crown is created right here in our office.

5. Your crown is placed

We'll make sure your crown fits comfortably, looks natural, and functions properly before permanently securing it.

Why choose a same-day crown?

- One visit
- No temporary crown in many cases
- No traditional impression material
- Digital scanning
- Natural-looking restoration
- Less time spent traveling back and forth to the dentist

The goal: Leave our office with your tooth restored and ready to get back to your normal routine.

Dental Implant & Crown

Replace a missing tooth with a solution designed to look and feel natural.

A dental implant can replace the root of a missing tooth and support a crown that replaces the visible portion of the tooth. The implant is placed into the jawbone and acts as an artificial tooth root. Once the area has healed appropriately, a custom crown is attached to complete the restoration.

What can I expect?

1. Consultation & planning

We'll evaluate your oral health, the missing tooth, your bone levels with 3D imaging, and your overall goals.

2. Implant placement

The implant is placed into the jawbone.

3. Healing

The implant needs time to integrate with the surrounding bone.

4. Custom crown

Once you're ready for the final restoration, we'll create a custom crown designed to blend naturally with your smile.

5. Your new smile

Your completed implant can help restore your ability to smile, speak, and eat with confidence.

Is an implant right for me?

Every patient is different. We'll evaluate your situation and explain whether an implant is a good option and what the process would look like for you. As well as giving you your own treatment plan to take home, go over costs and how insurance may be able to help cover.

Full Arch Dental Implants (All-On-X / Implant Supported Bridge)

A secure, natural-looking way to replace multiple missing teeth

If you are missing several teeth in a row, an **implant-supported bridge** can be a great option for restoring your smile and helping you eat, speak, and smile with confidence.

Unlike a traditional bridge, an implant-supported bridge is supported by **dental implants rather than natural teeth**. The implants act like strong, artificial tooth roots, giving your new teeth stability and support.

What Can I Expect?

1. Consultation & Planning

We'll start by getting to know your goals and evaluating your teeth, gums, jawbone, and overall oral health. We'll use 3D digital imaging and other diagnostic tools when needed to carefully plan your treatment. We'll explain your options and answer your questions so you understand exactly what to expect before moving forward.

2. Implant Placement

The dental implants are carefully placed into your jawbone. The number of implants needed will depend on your individual treatment plan. Before the procedure, we'll make sure you are comfortable and discuss available comfort options with you.

3. Healing & Integration

After the implants are placed, they need time to heal and become securely integrated with the surrounding bone. This is an important part of the process and allows the implants to provide a strong foundation for your new teeth. We'll monitor your healing and let you know when you're ready for the next step.

4. Your New Bridge

Once your implants have healed appropriately, your custom Full Arch Dental Implants (Implant-supported bridge / All-On-X) will be created. The bridge is designed to replace your missing teeth while complementing your natural smile.

5. Your New Smile

Once your bridge is securely placed, you'll have a stable restoration designed to help you **eat, speak, and smile with greater comfort and confidence.**

Why Choose an Implant-Supported Bridge?

An implant-supported bridge can offer several benefits:

- **More stability** than a removable appliance
- Helps restore the ability to chew comfortably
- Can look and feel more like natural teeth
- Does not rely on neighboring natural teeth for support
 - Helps replace multiple missing teeth
- Designed specifically for your smile and bite

Is an Implant-Supported Bridge Right for Me?

Every smile is different. Your treatment options will depend on factors such as your oral health, bone levels, number of missing teeth, and personal goals.

We'll take the time to explain what we see, discuss your options, and help you decide what makes the most sense for you.

And if you're nervous...

That's okay.

You don't have to feel embarrassed about missing teeth, how long you've gone without treatment, or feeling anxious about dental procedures. **We're here to help - not judge.**

We'll explain each step, answer your questions, and make your comfort a priority throughout the process.

Full & Partial Dentures

Restore your smile, comfort, and ability to eat with confidence

Missing teeth can affect much more than your smile. They can make eating difficult, affect the way you speak, and sometimes make you feel self-conscious about smiling or being around others. Whether you are missing all of your teeth or only some of them, we'll help you understand your options and find an approach that works for you.

What's the Difference?

Full Dentures

Help replace an entire arch of missing teeth - either the upper teeth, lower teeth, or both.

Partial Dentures

Help replace several missing teeth while allowing you to keep your remaining natural teeth.

Your dentist will help determine which option is appropriate based on your individual needs.

What Can I Expect?

1. Consultation & Evaluation

We'll examine your mouth and discuss your dental history, concerns, and goals. If you still have teeth that need to be addressed, we'll explain what can be saved and what may need to be removed before your denture is made.

2. Treatment Planning

We'll discuss the type of denture that best fits your situation and explain what you can expect throughout the process. We'll also talk about what you would like your new smile to look and feel like.

3. Impressions or Digital Scans

We'll take detailed measurements and digital scans of your mouth. These help us create a denture designed specifically for you.

4. Your Denture Is Created

Your denture is custom-made to replace your missing teeth while fitting comfortably and complementing your smile. We'll carefully evaluate the fit, appearance, and function when your denture is ready.

5. Adjusting to Your New Smile

It's normal for a new denture to take some time to get used to. You may notice that speaking and eating feel a little different at first. As you adjust, these things typically become more natural. We'll also check the fit and make adjustments when needed to help you stay comfortable.

If You're Nervous About Dentures...

Please know that you don't have to feel embarrassed about missing teeth or how long you've been putting off treatment. We've helped many patients who were nervous about coming to the dentist or unsure where to begin. **You don't have to have everything figured out before you call. That's what we're here for.** We'll start where you are, answer your questions, and take things one step at a time.

Embarrassed by your smile?

Cosmetic Dentistry

A smile you feel comfortable sharing

Cosmetic dentistry isn't just about creating a “perfect” smile. It's about helping you feel more confident, comfortable, and happy with the way your smile looks.

Whether you're looking to make a small change or completely transform your smile, we'll start by listening to **what you would like to change** and what you hope to achieve.

What Can I Expect?

1. Start With a Conversation

Your first step is simply talking with us about your smile.

Maybe you're unhappy with the color of your teeth. Maybe you have chipped, worn, uneven, or missing teeth. Or maybe you've been hiding your smile for years.

Whatever your concern, we'll listen without judgment and talk through your goals.

2. Comprehensive Evaluation

We'll examine your teeth, gums, bite, and overall oral health to determine which cosmetic options may be appropriate for you.

Depending on your goals, cosmetic treatment may include:

- Dental bonding
- Veneers
- Professional teeth whitening
- Crowns
- Tooth-colored restorations
- Invisalign®
- Full mouth restoration
- Replacement of missing teeth

3. Explore Your Options

There is rarely just one way to improve a smile. We'll explain the options available to you, including what each treatment involves, how long it may take, and what you can expect.

Our goal is to help you make an informed decision- not pressure you into treatment.

4. Plan Your New Smile

Once you've decided on a treatment plan, we'll carefully plan your restoration to create a smile that looks natural and fits comfortably with your facial features, bite, and goals.

5. Enjoy Your Smile

The finished result should feel like **you - just more confident.**

Whether you're looking for a subtle improvement or a complete smile transformation, cosmetic dentistry can help you feel more comfortable smiling, laughing, and enjoying everyday moments.

Nervous About Cosmetic Dentistry?

You don't need to feel embarrassed about the things you would like to change.

We're here to listen to your concerns, explain your choices, and help you feel comfortable throughout the process.

Your smile doesn't have to be “perfect.” It just needs to be a smile you're happy to share.