

Can Anyone Have a Smile Makeover?



Thanks to television shows like “Extreme Makeover” there is a greater awareness of the value of cosmetic dentistry and the dramatic difference it can make to one’s appearance and lifestyle. As a dental practitioner, this awareness has resulted in a more informed dental consumer who knows what he/she wants to achieve in dental esthetics. This process makes it easier for patients to see the value in keeping their teeth and good dental health for a lifetime.

Often, patients will present to my office with a request for cosmetic treatment and they focus on their front teeth, which are most visible when they smile. While there are numerous new procedures to improve the appearance of these teeth, it is important to understand that problems may exist in their back teeth which provide the support and foundation for the front teeth. If the back teeth are in poor repair and are breaking down, any cosmetic treatment done on front teeth has a greater probability of failure. That is why when a patient presents to us for a cosmetic consultation and evaluation; we always stress the need to perform a full examination of all teeth and oral structures. It is imperative that the back teeth are healthy, stable and in harmony to provide a solid foundation for any esthetic treatment. In this way, the patient can get their desired

cosmetic treatment, which will last for a long time.

The relationship between esthetics and function is very important to achieve an overall stable and long lasting result.

Sometimes if teeth do not “mesh” together well or a patient exhibits any type of tooth clenching or grinding problem, cosmetic treatment may look great but it will not last as long as expected. The natural teeth and/or cosmetic treatments, such as veneers or crowns, can break or even fall off. Your bite should be examined and any problems, such as missing teeth, need to be addressed prior to any extensive treatment.

The most important aspect of cosmetic treatment success is having healthy gums. If the support of any tooth is compromised from a gum standpoint, treatment outcome will be less predictable. The health of the gums needs to be stable for cosmetic treatment to be successful and to last. Gum health has been determined to have far reaching implications in other areas of overall well-being and can be a contributing factor to heart disease and strokes.

So go ahead and ask about having a “Hollywood smile.” We will tell you not only how you can achieve it, but how to maintain it for as long as possible and enjoy good oral health at the same time.

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call now to schedule an appointment for a complimentary consultation