

Commonly Asked Questions About Cosmetic (Esthetic) Dentistry

What is Esthetic Dentistry?

Esthetic dentistry, or cosmetic dentistry, improves the appearance of your smile by correcting discolored, chipped or crooked teeth. A dentist who is specially trained in the latest techniques also considers proper facial balance and the alignment of upper to lower teeth.

What are Veneers?

A veneer is a shell-like covering applied to a tooth to change its shape, size or color. Most are made from porcelain, which gives the most natural look and feel and even reflects light as a natural tooth. Dr. Whiteside often advises veneers since they require minimal disruption to the natural tooth.

What are Lumineers?

Lumineers are a patented type of veneers that require no injections as part of the procedure since they require minimal preparation of the natural tooth. Dr. Whiteside has advanced training in the application of Lumineers and, if you are a proper candidate, can determine the best way to create your flattering, new smile.

What is Bonding?

Bonding is a tooth-like material applied to a natural tooth to improve shape or size. Today's bonding materials have better longevity and a natural appearance. When a dentist who is properly trained applies bonding to your tooth, there is no obvious sign of "dental work".

What are Tooth-colored Fillings?

Rather than using metallic material to repair a tooth, non-amalgam, or tooth-colored material, is advised. Silver fillings are visible in smiles or laughter, while tooth-colored fillings give a more appealing, natural appearance. The material of tooth-colored fillings has the ability to bond to the tooth. It is less brittle, wears like enamel, and expands and contracts less to reduce the risk for cracked, sensitive teeth.

What is Bleaching?

Bleaching whitens the teeth you have. While over-the-counter whiteners give some degree of whitening, it is still recommended under a dentist's supervision. Dr. Whiteside takes important factors into consideration for his patients to create a natural look and provide the safest method for your teeth and gums. His system also provides a dramatic degree of whitening with exceptional longevity.

How long has Dr. Whiteside been doing Esthetic Dentistry?

In addition to skills acquired in dental school and numerous post-graduate courses, Dr. Whiteside has completed advanced training and has been performing cosmetic dentistry for over 24 years. He has an excellent reputation among patients and professional colleagues.

Will I have to wear temporary teeth?

Some procedures require you to wear temporary teeth while the lab makes permanent teeth. Often, the time necessary is only a week or two. However, today's materials provide a very natural look in temporary teeth and you will feel confident with your smile's appearance during this time. Dr. Whiteside can assess how long this will require at your examination.

How long does treatment take?

Each procedure and individual need is different. The best results may require a combination of several procedures. Although many procedures require only one or two appointments, Dr. Whiteside can determine the time involved after your examination.

Are Cosmetic procedures uncomfortable?

Most procedures require only minor numbing, while others require none. We'll make sure you are comfortable at all times.

Are Cosmetic procedures in dentistry expensive?

Costs vary according to individual needs. Our office can answer this after Dr. Whiteside has determined the most appropriate treatment for your needs. Dr. Whiteside is sensitive to the financial commitment some treatment plans require. We have several payment options available if needed. He can also structure your care to work in conjunction with your budget.

Does insurance cover these procedures?

For elective procedures, insurance does not normally provide coverage, however, some companies help with the fees in some cases. Because individual policies vary, we recommend you bring your insurance booklet with you so our Financial Coordinator can discuss the extent of coverage you may receive.



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