

Dr. George L.
WHITESIDE
Comprehensive Dentistry

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NEW DIGITAL FEATURES GIVE PATIENTS MORE INVOLVEMENT IN LESS TIME!

After much research, Dr. Whiteside and staff have selected digital dental technology for greater patient benefits.

Introducing

DIGITAL X-RAYS

The Dexis Digital X-Ray System provides patients with many benefits, including:

- Reduced exposure to radiation
- Instant on-screen images – developing time eliminated!
- Large image viewing on computer monitor screen
- Magnification of selected areas available to aid in early diagnosis
- Increased comfort from traditional "bite wings"
- Easy transfer to insurance providers or other doctors involved in treatment



Patients who have experienced digital x-rays in our office are pleased with the immediate visual involvement available.

Dr. Whiteside states, "The reduction in radiation exposure, less time in the chair, and sharp, clear views enhance the patient's overall experience when X-Rays are needed."

DIGITAL CAMERA IMAGES

Our powerful Fuji Digital Camera gives patients an "up close" look at specific areas, providing greater understanding and decision-making ability.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," states Dr. Whiteside.

"When patients see a life-size, color view of their mouth, their ability to express treatment preferences is much greater."

These images help to:

- Give accurate views of areas at risk or needing treatment
- Enhance patient communication, allowing them to point out specific areas. "Rather than try to interpret patient descriptions, they can now select areas and be more precise," Dr. Whiteside explains.
- Maintain a visual record of the mouth for each patient as a reference for later, especially helpful in monitoring vulnerable areas.
- Provide dental specialists, dental lab technicians, etc. with a visual "map" to accompany Dr. Whiteside's instructions for heightened accuracy.

Dr. Whiteside adds, "I've noticed how much our patients appreciate having the same view of their mouth as I have. It enables them to be more involved in achieving and maintaining an appealing, confident smile."

Facial Pain

More than 15% of American adults suffer from chronic facial pain.

Common symptoms include pain in or around the ear, jaw tenderness, clicking or popping noises when opening the mouth, or head or neck aches.

Through information reveals in x-rays and examination, Dr. Whiteside can often identify sources contributing to this pain. In some instances, we discover that facial pain is caused by sinuses, toothache, or gum disease. However, this can also stem from facial muscles, strained jaw joints, or grinding or clenching teeth.

Conservative treatment often relieves this pain, such as mouth protectors worn at night. However, Dr. Whiteside works closely with dental specialists and, if needed, will coordinate your care to include the best outcome possible.

She's Baaaaacck!

Welcome back to Daisy Cruz,
Financial Administrator!

Daisy has rejoined Dr. Whiteside's office after relocating to Miami where her son received medical treatment. In her position, she creates a smooth flow for patients in structuring payment plans for treatment, filing insurance claims, and maintaining administrative organization for the office.

A Grand Rapids, Michigan native, Daisy is an active member of the Brain Injury Association of Florida. She enjoys reading, sewing, and spending time with her husband and two sons.



Staff Spotlight On...

Registered Dental Hygienist
GWEN HERRON
Receives Distinguished Service Award!



The Florida Dental Hygiene Association annually recognizes a Florida Hygienist for service to the Association as well as their professional involvement. Ms. Herron was presented the 2003 Distinguished Service Award at the Florida Dental Hygiene Association's annual meeting, held October 2003 in Orlando.

Gwen adds this prestigious award to a previous statewide recognition for service, the 1996 Swann D. Knowles Award. Also presented by the Florida Dental Hygiene Association, this award recognizes a Hygienist's exemplary commitment to the dental hygiene field through patient care and community involvement.

The Florida Dental Hygiene Association has approximately 2,000 members statewide. In 2003, Gwen completed a two-year term as a Trustee for the West Coast segment of the association and has also served the organization as a representative of the local branch, the Gulf Coast Dental Hygiene Association.

Gwen has been a Registered Dental Hygienist for twenty-five years. She initially became interested in the dental field after completing orthodontic treatment to correct crooked teeth. "It changed my life," she states. She completed the Dental Hygiene curriculum at Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, NC and has been a Florida resident for the past ten years.

"Gwen's professional dedication is reflected in her interaction with our patients and as a member of our team. Her personality and skills blend together wonderfully to create a positive experience for patients," Dr. Whiteside says.

New Patients Always Welcome

Dr. Whiteside is always happy to welcome new smiles. Your recommendations to others are greatly appreciated!

A Cracked Tooth? Symptoms, Causes, & Solutions

A cracked tooth can occur from a variety of causes. Some include:

- Grinding or clenching of teeth
- Uneven chewing pressure
- An accident, such as a blow to the mouth
- Tooth exposure to extreme hot or cold
- Chewing hard items (ice, hard candy, etc.)
- Teeth that have become brittle

A crack in teeth is often invisible to the eye and may not even show up in an X-Ray. However, a sharp pain typically occurs when you bite down. This is due to biting pressure, which causes the crack to open. When open, the tooth's interior, which holds nerves and blood vessels, becomes irritated. Other symptoms include sensitivity to hot, cold, sweet, sour, or sticky foods. People with a cracked tooth tend to chew on the opposite side or avoid certain foods.

Repairing most cracks is done by bonding or crowning. If the interior pulp is damaged or diseased, a root canal is necessary prior to crowning the tooth. A severe crack that extends below the gum line often requires extraction.

Small cracks in teeth are not uncommon and typically do not cause problems. However, it is important to keep us aware of oral symptoms you are experiencing that may indicate a problem. The sooner the problem is repaired, the sooner you'll regain your healthy, comfortable smile!

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