



Parkcrest

DENTAL GROUP

COSMETIC DENTISTRY

What is Cosmetic Dentistry?

Cosmetic dentistry is designed to improve the appearance of your teeth and your smile. Cosmetic dentistry procedures can give you confidence, self-esteem, and more smiles as you realize your teeth look more magnificent than before.

Read on to find out everything you need to know about the cosmetic dentistry services provided by Parkcrest Dental Group.

BRIEF HISTORY OF COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Cosmetic dentistry dates back to Ancient Egyptians and Ancient Etruscans (the progenitors to the Roman Empire). The Etruscans, around 700 B.C., used ivory and bone to make replacement teeth as the forerunner of modern dentures. The Etruscans used gold to make crowns, while the Egyptians made crowns out of shells.

By the Middle Ages in Europe, barbers began to perform teeth whitening, fillings, and surgical procedures in the 1100s and 1200s. Cosmetic dentistry technology advanced a lot in the following 500 years, as porcelain dentures showed up in the 1770s along with dedicated labs that produced custom-made dentures for patients.

Modern manufacturing techniques advanced cosmetic dentistry markedly in the 1950s. Porcelain crowns were fused with metal, while plastics and acrylics were used for dentures. We still use high-quality plastics and acrylics today!

By the 1990s, the term “cosmetic dentistry” came into use. All kinds of teeth whitening products entered the market. And the bonding agents used to keep crowns and veneers in place improved results by leaps and bounds.



How Cosmetic Dentistry Works

Cosmetic dentistry procedures run the gamut from teeth whitening and veneers to crowns and full dentures.

1

CONSULTATION WITH YOUR DENTIST

It all starts with a discussion between you and your dentist. What do you want to achieve? Do you want a brighter smile? A fuller smile? Better chewing? Repairs for a cracked tooth? Replacement for a missing tooth?

2

YOUR DENTIST MAKES A RECOMMENDATION

A dentist will listen to what you're asking for and can make recommendations based on your unique situation and needs.

3

COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL EXAM

Then comes a comprehensive dental exam. Your dentist will take a look at your teeth and take x-rays to get a better idea of what's going on in your mouth. Then your dentist will discuss your options with you.

4

THE COSMETIC PROCEDURE

Depending on the cosmetic dentistry procedure you want, the time and cost it takes to update your smile can range from a few minutes to a few hours. Procedures generally take two appointments after the initial consultation and exam.



The team at Parkcrest Dental wants you to have the healthiest smile possible! We promise to take good care of you from start to finish and into the future.

Typical Use Cases

TEETH WHITENING

A patient can visit our office for professional teeth whitening, which usually takes much less time than do-it-yourself kits. Teeth whitening at a dentist's office is also more advanced. Your teeth are visibly whitened in just one visit.

VENEERS

Veneers attach to the front of the tooth to improve your appearance. They're permanently bonded to the tooth using a special cement. You'll have two appointments: one to get a mold of your teeth and the second for fitting the veneer. Each appointment might last an hour or two.

DENTAL BRIDGE

Getting a dental bridge involves placing an artificial tooth in between two real ones. After an initial appointment to take a mold of your teeth and prepare your two anchor teeth, the second appointment involves fitting the bridge in your mouth. Each appointment lasts anywhere from one hour to 90 minutes.

PROCEDURE LOCATION

Parkcrest Dental Group handles most cosmetic dentistry procedures in our office.

Bridges

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Dentists construct dental bridges to fill the space left by a missing tooth. Formed from either porcelain, gold, or ceramics, dental bridges look, feel, and function in a similar way to your own natural teeth. Dental bridges traditionally come in three different forms: traditional bridges, Maryland bonded bridges, and cantilever bridges.

Traditional bridges span the gap in your teeth by connecting a false tooth (known as a pontic) between two crowns. Your dentist reduces the teeth to either side of the gap and makes impressions of these teeth. Then your dentist forms crowns perfectly fitted to your teeth.

Though less common than traditional bridges, Maryland bridges work well but may not be as aesthetically pleasing. Your dentist attaches two metal wings to either side of the pontic. These wings slide behind the teeth to either side of the gap in your mouth, providing support to the pontic. Though not visible without a dental mirror, these metal wings sometimes cause a slight discoloration of the teeth they are affixed to. You do not need to have your teeth reduced for Maryland bridges.

Less common than either the traditional or Maryland bridges, cantilever bridges use two crowns side by side and a pontic on the end. Your dentist will reduce two teeth, much like the traditional bridge. These teeth, however, will be next to each other instead of on either side of the gap.

HISTORY

○ Archaeologists believe the Ancient Egyptians first used rudimentary dental bridges about 4,100 years ago. Mummies show that the mouths of some people still had the materials in place from their dental procedure. The Etruscans in Italy made dental bridges later.

○ The ancients used gold, ivory, animal bones, and human and animal teeth to make dental bridges. Dentists modernized bridges starting in the 1800s.

Porcelain became the material of choice about 150 years ago. By the 1950s, modern manufacturing allowed porcelain to bond to metal for better-fitting bridges.

Modern materials include acrylic and composite plastics.





As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your dental bridge, feel free to reach out to us!

PROCEDURE

Once your dentist determines a dental bridge is right for you, you make two appointments. During the first appointment, your dentist may reshape the teeth on either side of the bridge if you opt for a traditional bridge. Then the dentist takes a mold of your teeth to ensure the bridge is a perfect fit for your mouth.

A few weeks later, you'll have a second appointment to install the bridge. Your dentist uses a special cement that bonds the crowns to your natural teeth. They will check to make sure that everything fits properly before you leave the office.

Expect each appointment to last an hour or two. Your dentist may decide to use a local anesthetic to prevent any pain during the procedure.

OUTCOME

After your dental bridge is in place, it may take a few weeks before you become used to your new artificial tooth. It will look and feel similar to a real tooth for decades to come. You'll be able to chew normally with a dental bridge, and you can smile confidently.

Caring for your bridge is the same as you would for natural teeth, including brushing and flossing at least twice a day. Think about using toothpaste for sensitive teeth as the crowns might make the natural teeth underneath sensitive to hot or cold temperatures.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your dental bridge, feel free to reach out to us!



Crowns

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Crowns strengthen and support a tooth badly damaged by disease or fracture. Traditionally, crowns protect weak or broken teeth and help fill missing spaces in your mouth. Crowns placed to either side of a false tooth stabilize dental bridges.

Dental crowns consist of hard materials that mimic the characteristics of natural teeth very closely. Crowns perform all the functions of teeth. You bite with them, smile with them, and brush them, and they should withstand all these pressures in the same way your natural teeth would.

We most commonly use crowns made from porcelain or sometimes, metal. Parkcrest Dental Group makes custom-fit crowns that fit perfectly in your mouth.

Feel free to ask the staff at Parkcrest Dental Group any questions about dental crowns!

PROCEDURE

Your dental crown typically takes two appointments to finish. The first appointment involves preparing the tooth for the crown. This may involve reducing the size of the natural tooth, so it can easily accommodate the crown over it. Then your dentist takes an impression of the tooth before sending it to the dental laboratory. You'll receive a temporary crown until you get the real one in about two weeks.

The second appointment is when your dentist fits the crown over the original tooth. He or she will use a special cement that bonds to your original tooth as well as the crown.

You'll spend about an hour or so at each appointment, and your dentist will use a local anesthetic to prevent any pain.

HISTORY

Dental crowns first showed up 4,000 years ago on the island of Luzon in The Philippines. Archaeologists found skeletons there with gold caps on their teeth and gold tooth replacements. Etruscans in Italy in 700 B.C. also developed dental crowns using gold.

Gold was the material of choice for crowns until the early 1900s. Dr. Charles Land created the first modern dental crown in 1903 by reconstructing a broken tooth with a porcelain cover. This technology continued through the 1950s before ceramics came into favor thanks to modern manufacturing techniques.

OUTCOME

Your crown functions as a normal tooth, and it should last for many years with the proper care.

Brush your teeth twice a day and floss once a day. Consider using sensitive toothpaste if your crown causes issues with hot or cold temperatures due to the natural tooth underneath.

If you grind your teeth at night, your dentist might recommend a night guard to protect your teeth from any damage.

Veneers

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Veneers offer a solution for damaged, chipped, discolored, or misshapen teeth that can lead to low self-esteem, problems eating and speaking, as well as more serious health problems down the road.

Veneers consist of tooth-colored material (usually composite or porcelain) that our dentist uses to shape a replica of the front side of a patient's tooth (or teeth). Modern dentistry and manufacturing have made veneers a viable choice for a lot of people.

PROCEDURE

As with most cosmetic dental procedures, veneers take two appointments. Your dentist may trim a very small amount of enamel from the front of your tooth or teeth before taking a mold of your teeth. The mold goes to a lab to create a veneer that precisely matches the color and shape of your teeth.

The second appointment is when the veneers go on your teeth, about two weeks after the first one. Your dentist thoroughly cleans your teeth. Then the dentist applies the cement before using a bit of high-intensity light to let the cement dry and harden faster.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your veneers, feel free to reach out to us!

HISTORY

Veneers date back to 1928 as Hollywood movies were becoming popular. Dr. Charles Pincus attached acrylic material to the front of teeth with a special adhesive to make the teeth of actors and actresses whiter and brighter. These temporary veneers came off after about an hour or two.

In the 1950s, dentists discovered a way to make veneers more permanent using dental etching. This used an acidic solution to make the surface enamel rougher. Two doctors discovered bonding resins in the 1980s that allowed veneers to take hold permanently, and veneers became much more common.

OUTCOME

If properly cared for, veneers can last for decades, giving you many years of incredibly natural-looking, healthy smiles. Dental veneers provide a similar strength and caliber as natural tooth enamel.



Dentures

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Dentures are a cosmetic dentistry option for replacing teeth lost due to disease, trauma, or other problem that led to missing teeth. Full dentures replace all missing teeth, while partial dentures work where some natural teeth can be saved. The type of dentures you need depends on your teeth, your gums, and your overall oral health.

Do you have stability problems with your dentures? We can use implants that support dentures. Implant-supported dentures work well if your jaw is still strong. Dentures stabilize by attaching to implants. Though more stable than traditional dentures, implant-supported dentures can be easily removed by your dental professional and cleaned. This helps you conveniently enjoy the foods and lifestyle you deserve.

PROCEDURE

The first visit allows your dentist to take a mold of your teeth or mouth to ensure an ideal fit for your dentures. We can take molds with or without your natural teeth, so your dentures align with your gums properly. Your dentist may remove excess tissue in your mouth or even extract teeth to make room for your full or partial dentures. You'll get a set of temporary dentures while you heal and your final dentures are made.

The second appointment lets your dentist fit the dentures more precisely using a pliable rim of wax and loose-fitting dentures. We also decide on the length of the teeth for proper alignment within your mouth.

A third visit gives us a chance to try out your real dentures before the final model. This set looks and feels like your permanent dentures, but the base fits loosely and the teeth are wax instead of acrylic or plastic. Your dentist then adjusts the dentures for size and fit. We need to get these just right because your dentures are designed to last for years!

The fourth and final visit is when you get your new set of pearly whites!

HISTORY

The Etruscans were true dental wizards as they created dentures around 700 B.C. using human or animal teeth fastened together with gold bands. Wooden dentures came about in the 1500s in Japan, using beeswax molds as a model for carving the wood.

In the early 1700s, the French made dentures out of ivory or animal bone. Porcelain dentures, the forerunners of modern dentures, came about in 1770 in Great Britain and have evolved since then. Hard rubber dentures were invented in the 1850s for people who didn't want porcelain varieties. Today, dentures are made from acrylic resins and plastic.

OUTCOME

Dentures typically last between 10 and 15 years. You should take care of them as you would normal teeth. Make sure you follow the care instructions for your dentures, such as removing every night before bed, soaking them in a glass of water or denture solution so they retain their original shape, and see your dentist every six months for regular check-ups.

Teeth Whitening

GENERAL OVERVIEW

At-home teeth whitening kits work over time. But they can take several months to make your teeth as white as possible. Professional, in-office teeth whitening (under the care of a dental professional), takes one appointment and you see immediate results.

We offer in-office GLO whitening treatment to our patients to help them achieve instant results. Our dental office also sells GLO take-home kits if you would prefer to perform teeth whitening on your own.

PROCEDURE

GLO whitening procedures allow us to carefully apply a whitening solution to your teeth. This technology uses gentle heat and a patented Guided Light Optics (GLO) system, combined with a closed-system mouthpiece, to create a brighter smile before you even leave the office!

GLO whitening is a fast, easy, and safe method of whitening teeth that can ensure fast and superbly high-quality results with virtually no discomfort. Teeth whitening with this method takes a dental professional between 45 minutes to an hour to help get teeth up to five shades whiter. You'll want to avoid foods that could stain your teeth for a few days after your procedure.

OUTCOME

Keep your teeth looking white by avoiding food that stains them, such as coffee, tea, and fruit juice. Always brush your teeth and floss twice a day to prevent weakening your enamel. You might consider using a whitening toothpaste once or twice a week to remove any stains that may build up every week. These regular oral hygiene routines let you maintain whiter teeth moving forward.

HISTORY

- The Ancient Egyptians are credited with starting the practice of teeth whitening around 4,000 years ago. They created a whitening paste by mixing ground pumice stone with wine vinegar.
- In the Middle Ages, barbers would try to wear away stains on teeth using nitric acid. Unfortunately, the acid would also destroy the enamel. Luckily, medical science discovered the whitening action of hydrogen peroxide in 1884. Dentists improved on this by adding a heated lamp along with peroxide in 1918, while a dentist in the 1960s discovered that an overnight soak with carbamide peroxide using an orthodontic device achieved great results.
- Tray whitening was invented in the late 1980s. And that's the preferred teeth whitening method dentists use now.

About Parkcrest Dental Group

Parkcrest Dental Group team has been committed to serving Springfield and the surrounding areas with exceptional dental care for the whole family since 1974. Our team of dental professionals takes care of you with full cosmetic restorations. Our dedication to providing the best in patient care and satisfaction remains strong. Come experience the Parkcrest difference today and see how we make having great smiles easy. We are here to serve you!

CONTACT US

Fill out our handy contact form to schedule an appointment, or call (417) 887-1220 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to talk to someone about improving your smile with cosmetic dentistry.

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WHO WE ARE

Our eight doctors, combined with over 50 support associates, are highly trained to provide you the quality care you deserve. We'll make sure you are comfortable throughout your appointment, from the moment you walk in the door until the time you leave. Because we love our patients at Parkcrest Dental Group, we treat everyone like an individual, ensuring that your treatment is specifically designed to provide dentistry that is right for you.

OUR MISSION

Here at Parkcrest Dental Group, we make it our mission to be dedicated to the optimal oral health of all of our patients. We live our mission every day, and we do everything we can to provide excellent service while making our patients happy, comfortable, and healthy!

In addition to our focus on customer satisfaction, we're dedicated to adhering to the highest standards of dentistry and staying on top of the latest cutting-edge technology. When you choose Parkcrest Dental Group, you're choosing a dental group that strives to be the best.

OUR OFFICE

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