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by pamelahammonds

Advancements achieved in dentistry today make having a great smile attainable to everyone. What you like least about your teeth and how you'd like your smile to look determines the best treatment options. Perhaps your teeth are misaligned or misshapen and require cosmetic procedures. Or improving your smile might be as simple as whitening your teeth.

For patients at McKinneyDentist.com, choosing one option or a combination of a few can help achieve a gorgeous smile, once only dreamed possible.

COMPOSITE VENEERS

Sometimes referred to as “bonding”, applying composite veneers involves a technique of layering tooth-colored filling material onto the teeth. It is used to fill in gaps, smooth edges, or change the tooth color. The procedure can often be done without anesthesia and can be completed in one appointment with great results.

Composite veneers are usually less expensive than porcelain veneers, but are a less resilient option. “I recommend composite veneers when my patients have tight budgets,” said Dr. Marvin Berlin, “or they need a new smile right away for a wedding or special occasion.” Most patients experience five to ten years of great results. But since the original teeth are still intact, shaving off the compound and reapplying it is a simple procedure.

PORCELAIN VENEERS AND CROWNS

For the ultimate in making a smile perfect, Dr. Berlin recommends porcelain veneers. “I have veneers on my anterior (front) teeth, done by my partner, Dr. Jeff Lynch,” Dr. Berlin said. “Porcelain resists stains and is as strong as your natural teeth, so it rarely chips and should last ten to twenty years, depending on your bite. We may use photos of our previous work or a cosmetic wax-up. We may also use an image editing program to enhance digital photos of your own smile.” Dr. Berlin compares this step to catalog shopping, where his patients get to look at different smiles and see a computer simulation of what they will look like when the work is completed.

Brett Patterson of Heath, Texas, had Dr. Berlin apply porcelain veneers over six years ago. “I had braces as a young man and didn't wear my retainer,” Brett said. “My teeth got crooked again.” Dr. Berlin suggested veneers to improve his smile. “Not only do my teeth look beautiful,” Brett said, “but having great teeth has been awesome for me and my business. Instead of hiding my smile, I want to show it off. I grew up hating to go to the dentist. But for

the past 13 years that I've gone to Dr. Berlin, I've never felt that way. There's never any pain involved. He's amazing and I don't mind going to the dentist anymore."

Porcelain veneers are very thin, but require removing a small amount of the tooth surface. While the veneers are being made, patients will have temporary veneers applied. "These allow you to 'try on' different colors and shapes until we find you the exact smile you are looking for," Dr. Berlin said. "Your porcelain veneers will then be made to match your desired smile."

For Mary Ann Solano of McKinney, Texas, it became time to replace previous cosmetic dental work. "Dr. Berlin thought I might be interested in having my front teeth redone," she said. At first she resisted, thinking she didn't need the work completed. Dr. Berlin suggested full coverage crowns on her upper and lower teeth. Now she is thrilled with the results. "I'm extremely happy that I replaced them," she said. "In fact, I keep looking at everyone's teeth right now and think, 'Was mine that way?' It took me awhile to make up my mind, but I'm so very pleased. They were considerate, caring, and accommodating to my wishes."

EXPERIENCE THE INVISALIGN DIFFERENCE


Patients with healthy teeth who are not satisfied with their smile may benefit from Invisalign, a state of the art technique for straightening crooked or misaligned teeth. Invisalign incorporates clear, plastic aligners that are easily removed for eating and drinking. About every two weeks, patients insert a custom-made aligner that will reposition the teeth while being worn.

Pat Murray of McKinney, Texas, a patient of Dr. Markham, began her Invisalign regimen last year. "As a young person, my teeth were straight," Pat said. "Then as I got older my bottom teeth became crooked. When I got in my mid-50s, I decided to straighten my teeth and looked into the different methods." She chose Invisalign because the approach seemed to best suit her lifestyle, "and I totally trusted Dr. Markham." Although she was initially concerned about the cost, Pat factored into her decision the convenience of not having to make trips to an orthodontist and the fact that her trusted dentist could treat her. "It was relatively painless," she said. "I'm very satisfied with the results. I had become very self-conscious about my smile, so now I feel like I can go back to being my friendly Texan self."

WHITENING

For patients with otherwise healthy, straight teeth, whitening may be all that is needed to improve their smile. While it won't change the shape or position of your teeth like veneers or crowns can, it is a simple and affordable way to enhance your smile.

For most people, teeth stains are a result of their own doing: drinking coffee, tea, or red wine or, from smoking. Others might have discoloration on the inside of the tooth due to antibiotics or fluoride. How your teeth were stained will determine the best course of treatment.

McKinneyDentist.com now offers Zoom2, which produces superior results in less than an hour. It's easier to apply, and ensures the lowest possible degree of discomfort for patients. Zoom2 patients are reporting 67 percent less sensitivity than those treated with the original Zoom! system. 



Call today to talk to the professional, friendly team at McKinneyDentist.com. They can start you on your way to the smile of your dreams.

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