

Dr. Samy's Smile Update

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Up-to-date TECHNIQUES AND CARING SERVICE WITH A PRACTICAL APPROACH

Restoring Teeth

"Creating the Foundation"

- What will happen when teeth are lost or without treating areas of missing teeth?

If teeth are lost, then the supporting periodontal tissue (bone and gums) is also lost over time. As the gums and bone disappear, problems with other teeth, lack of support for dentures, partial dentures, and fixed bridge work increase. The problems associated with tooth loss include pain, mobility of other teeth, lack of retention for prosthetic appliances, sharp/painful jaw ridges and mobile/sore gum tissue. The tongue, being one of the powerful muscles of the body, enlarges to accommodate spaces of missing teeth. Facial muscles tend to collapse due to lack of support. People with all of their teeth, can eat/function up to five times more efficiently than people without or missing teeth.



top: Missing tooth creates gap.
bottom: Remaining teeth can drift.

Periodontal disease (loss of supporting gums and bone) is progressive in nature. In other words, once we have deterioration of the bone in an area, the likelihood of

bone loss occurring around adjacent teeth increases. It is like the foundation of a building, if the foundation is weak or defective in one area, then there is likelihood of the supporting walls or roof developing problems. This is why it is better to address the basic problems of the mouth and teeth before the side effects arise.

About Us

Dr. Samy and Samaneh's daughter, Saba, is a year old this month. What a fast year that was!

About Crowns & Fillings

Crowns

We may recommend a crown to:

- replace a large filling when there isn't enough tooth remaining;
- protect a weak tooth from fracturing;
- restore a fractured tooth;
- attach a bridge;
- cover a dental implant;
- cover a poorly shaped tooth;
- cover a discolored tooth; or
- cover a tooth that has had root canal treatment.

Filling Material

Amalgam vs. Composite

Amalgam Advantages

- Less costly
- Easier to place

Disadvantages

- More tooth structure must be removed
- Aesthetics may be a concern
- Teeth break and crack over time

Composite (resins) Advantages

- Preserves tooth structure
- Aesthetics are better

Disadvantages

- More costly
- More difficult to place (usually need a Rubber Dam)
- Likelihood of increased sensitivity

Dr. Samy's Perspectives

- I consider numerous factors, which include; location of tooth, the color and shape, amount of tooth structure remaining, function of the tooth, position of surrounding tissue and home care, before recommending among the various materials available to use.
- You may also have heard me say; "even though our techniques and materials are as good as ever, they don't last forever." What we have naturally is the best material, unfortunately, it does not last forever either. The key is maintenance!
- The most recent clinical research indicates that approximately 30% of all teeth which have undergone full crown procedures and approximately 50% of three tooth fixed bridges end up needing additional treatment over time (root canals, crown replacements, etc.) These findings are probably due to the fact that the teeth are compromised prior to having restorations placed. This is why it is best to take care of it before it becomes symptomatic.