



LOGOS DENTISTRY

Patient Education

The following is some information about treatment and medications often used in dentistry.

- **Anesthesia**
 - Often used in dental treatment for pain control, it is given as an injection into the cheek and gum tissue. Numbness can last several minutes to several hours. Complications are rare, but they may still occur.
- **Tooth Colored Fillings**
 - Can be made of resin, plastic-like materials; a mixture of glass ionomers and resin particles; or porcelain and ceramic materials that combine silicates and oxides. Treatment involves replacing the space(s) created by removal of decayed and deteriorated tooth structure and restoring the tooth/teeth to beauty and function.
- **Crowns, Bridges, Onlays and Inlays**
 - Made of porcelain/ceramics, resins, acrylics, metals, or a combination of these materials.
 - Crowns are restorations that are placed to cover a tooth. The purpose is to strengthen a tooth damaged by decay, large failing restorations, trauma, root canal treatment, or a combination of these conditions. It can be also be used to improve the bite in certain abnormal situations.
 - A **Bridge** is several crowns fused together across a space. Treatment involves removing 1-2 mm of the outside surface of the tooth.



LOGOS DENTISTRY

- **Onlays & Inlays** are similar to fillings in appearance, but their placement is different in that these restorations are cemented into place, thereby creating a stronger and sturdier restoration.
- **Veneers**
 - Made of porcelain/ceramics, resins or acrylic material. More conservative restorations with the treatment involving the removal of 0.5-1 mm of the tooth outer surface.
- **Complete Dentures**
 - **Immediate Temporary Dentures** -- dentures are delivered immediately following removal of teeth. This will also mean that the condition of the gums will change over the several months following the extraction(s) as the bony ridges and gum tissue begin to shrink with healing. They are looser since there will be less mechanical support for them.
 - **Permanent**-- within 3-6 months, more permanent dentures are normally required once healing of the gums is complete.
- **Overdentures**
 - Essentially complete dentures that are supported by remaining tooth roots or implants with bars. Tends to be more stable due to retention of the bars.
- **Partial Dentures**
 - Supported by gum tissue and remaining teeth. Depending on the condition of the remaining teeth, the dentist will recommend one of three treatment options:
 - **Metal-Framework Partial** -- Remaining teeth are stable and free of active periodontal disease.
 - **All-Acrylic Partial** -- Remaining teeth may have active periodontal disease and are not good 'anchor' teeth, and some teeth are expected to be lost within 6-9 months.



LOGOS DENTISTRY

- **Flexible All-Acrylic Partial** -- Remaining teeth do not have active periodontal disease but are not good anchor teeth. However, gum tissue is healthy and will support denture base.
- **Gum/Periodontal Disease:**
 - Inflammation and infection that affects the gums, bone and supporting tissue structures around the teeth. In addition to inadequate flossing and brushing, other factors that contribute to periodontal disease include smoking, Osteoporosis, stress, diabetes, medications, illness, hormonal changes and genetics. 3 out of 4 people have a form of periodontal disease and most are unaware of it due to the silent nature of this disease. Common signs include gums that are red and swollen, bleeding when brushing or flossing, gums that have 'pulled away' from the teeth, pus between gums and teeth when the gums are pressed, permanent teeth are loose or separating, etc. Pain to chewing and biting or deep throbbing ache is not normally present until the condition is severe.
- **Esthetic/Cosmetic Teeth Whitening:**
 - Whitening products use carbamide peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, and glycerin that carry out a 'whitening' process to lighten discolorations of tooth enamel by oxidizing stains. There are some potential risks involved with treatment like hot/cold sensitivity of teeth, ulcers on gums, possible damage to existing fillings, and sore throat from swallowing some of the solution. The two most common products are:
 - **"In-Office System"** Procedure takes 90-120 minutes and may sometimes require a 2nd appointment. The solutions used are at stronger concentrations than the in-home products, and so a "gum-barrier" must be placed to protect the gum tissue. Most patients find that their teeth may lighten 1-4 shades per treatment.



LOGOS DENTISTRY

- **"Take-Home Kit"** achieves similar results as the in-office system. Most patients see results in about 5 days, with optimum results in 10-14 days. Because solutions are of a lower concentration, treatment time may vary between 2-5 weeks.