

# Smiles under construction

Cosmetic dentistry offering people whiter, brighter smiles

You may not have heard of Invisalign, BriteSmile, or Smile Makeovers, but if you want to improve your smile, you'll want them. Your best plan of action to strategically approach cosmetic dentistry is a visit to Dental Village.

Over the last 30 years, dentistry in general has come a long way, not to mention the tremendous improvements in cosmetic dentistry over the last 10 years. However, cosmetic dentistry should not be confused with other dental procedures. Cosmetic dentistry highlights the importance of a healthy mouth including a beautiful smile. Cosmetic procedures are primarily performed to improve teeth in a safe and predictable way taking into account orthodontics, periodontics, cosmetic reconstruction, and occlusion.

Additional cosmetic procedures can involve teeth whitening to remove stains from teeth. A recent survey published in USA TODAY cites 80 percent of Americans want whiter teeth. Professional teeth whitening is also used on patients whose teeth have become stained from certain medications or habits such as tobacco, coffee, tea, dark soft drinks, or infrequent visits to the dentist.

Oro Valley, Tucson and the rest of southern Arizona is privileged to have one of cosmetic dentistry's leading practitioners here. Dr. Harry Collins of Dental Village has been

studying in the field of cosmetic dentistry for 30 years. He works with and is a clinical instructor at the esteemed Las Vegas Institute for Advance Dental Studies where the most technologically advanced products and procedures are tested. The Institute, which is not endorsed by any product manufacturer, has the privilege of choosing the best resources available to cosmetic dentistry. In turn, Dr. Collins and his colleagues at Dental Village are making these procedures readily available to Tucsonans.

"Being at LVI allows me to work with the best materials available and with patients who require dramatic smile makeovers due to extreme over crowding and other conditions," says Collins.

One procedure that is helping make over many smiles and replacing traditional braces is Invisalign, the invisible way to straighten teeth. Invisalign works by wearing a set of clear aligners for about two weeks, removing them only to eat, drink, brush and floss. As the aligners are replaced bi-weekly, teeth are slowly moving little by little to the desired position the patient and dentist have agreed upon. The total treatment time is from nine to 15 months.

"It's a wonderful procedure that can work on up to 80 percent of patients requiring orthodontics," says Collins. "Unlike traditional

metal and wire braces you can see computerized results using invisalign." For those patients with more severe crowding or occlusion traditional bracket and wire braces are still required.

Smile designs are a area of expertise offered at Dental Village that can rebuild a patient's teeth especially if they have severe crowding that may take years for braces and other procedures to correct. With smile designs patients receive 'instant orthodontics' through porcelain veneers or crowns. The smile catalog at Dental Village can help a patient choose the size and shape of teeth they desire by looking at various models featuring masculine, feminine, and petite smiles. Wax-up modifications are made throughout the process so that revisions can be made.

After a patient completes cosmetic dental procedures often times teeth whitening is necessary to match their new veneers. Patients can readily see a difference in whiteness by peering into a hand held camera that photographs their before smile on a freeze frame, and then by clicking "after" - it displays the



Photo by Mary Jo Cvetic

Meet the dedicated dental professionals at Dental Village, located at 10785 N. Oracle Road in Oro Valley.

immediate improvements in whiteness. For a whiter, healthier looking smile, patients are choosing BriteSmile, a patented blue light and proprietary whitening gel clinically proven to safely whiten teeth in about one hour.

If your smile is in need of improvement, contact Dental Village at 229-1444. Dental Village has four offices located throughout Tucson including a convenient northwest location in Oro Valley at 10785 N. Oracle Road just north of First Avenue. Dental Village is a full service dental practice for the entire family.

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## Get a Brighter, Whiter Smile from Dental Village

*Before*

*After*



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