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CHANGING THE FACE OF DENTISTRY

The days of dreading a visit to your dentist may be coming to a close as more and more dental offices follow the lead of industry trailblazers who have reconfigured their offices and their approach to patient comfort.

The 21st century is here, and along with it comes a new understanding of what the average dental patient likes and doesn't like about going to the dentist. From this understanding, the 21st century dental practice has been remade into a place of comfort, low stress and increased communication between doctor and patient.

The Washington Center for Dentistry Sets the Bar

From the spa-like atmosphere of its waiting area, complete with refrigerated bottled water and juice, to its high-tech sterilization center and the latest in dental equipment, the recently renovated office of The Washington Center for Dentistry is a good example of the direction dentistry is heading.

The soothing atmosphere helps alleviate many patient's anxiety about visiting a dentist, while the latest in high-tech equipment makes it easier for the Center's dentists (Dr. Daniel Deutsch, Dr. Marc Doctors, Dr. Ronald Buro, Dr. Andrea Flamer and Dr. David Schneider) to do the job at hand in the best possible manner.

Newly installed equipment in the practice includes:

- Digital x-ray machines and intraoral cameras with video displays to help show patients exactly what is going on inside their mouths.

- Air abrasion systems which can be used in the place of (or in conjunction with) more traditional drills to clean away decay.

- Bleaching systems that allow all the teeth to be treated in one visit, instead of the multiple visits required by older technology.

- Computers, TV monitors and DVD players in each room which are used to track procedures as well as to provide video-based patient education.

Latest Technology Gives Dentists More Choices

Dr. Stephen Price of Bethesda's Dr. Stephen A. Price & Associates points out that today's state-of-the-art dentists have a much larger range of high-tech equipment to use for both medical and cosmetic applications. Price himself has done a great deal of research and training in the booming high-tech area of dental implants, for example. Price's office also features computer generated porcelain crowns, electronic anesthesia, air abrasion, intraoral imaging and other advanced equipment and techniques.

As important as the equipment is, patient comfort is still the driving force behind the modern approach to dentistry. The Washington Center for Dentistry's amenities list includes a variety of complimentary beverages, stereo headphones with CD player, electric foot massager, warm neck pillows and blankets during treatment, and fax and copier service (among other things). While the expertise and equipment ensure a healthy mouth and a good-looking smile, the atmosphere and amenities are aimed at making your trip to the dentist as pleasurable as possible.