

UPDATE

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Fall 2003

Dr. James Andrews And Staff are pleased to announce their

25th Year in practice!

September 2003 marks 25 Years of caring for thousands of South Carolina Smiles!

Throughout September, Dr. Andrews' office celebrated with refreshments for patients and other guests.

After graduating from the Medical University of South Carolina School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Andrews served as an Instructor

at MUSC's Department of Oral Medicine. He then served in the U. S. Army Dental Corps until 1978 when he established a private practice in Summerville.

"It's hard to believe we have arrived at our 25th year! The time has passed quickly while we've grown as a practice and member of the community," states Dr. Andrews. "The many people who entrust us with their smiles have become like family to us."

Oral Sedation Not Just For Big Cases!

Would you rather have a dental appointment for several fillings or take a refreshing nap? Hmmm ... if the nap sounds much more appealing, you may want to combine Oral Sedation with your treatment. *"More and more of our patients are asking for Oral Sedation while fillings are placed, for root canals, or any other visit where a drill is involved,"* Dr. Andrews explains. *"Some people don't want to hear, see, or smell certain things in a dental office that make them uncomfortable. With Oral Sedation, they are totally relaxed and most are completely recovered in an hour or so."*

If you prefer to nap through your procedure, ask about Oral Sedation when your treatment is scheduled. You'll think your dental visit is a dream-come-true!

Schedule Year-End Appointments A.S.A.P.

To take advantage of unused insurance benefits and a flexible time around holidays, many patients arrange treatment near the end of the year. This traditionally causes the schedule to fill quickly, so please make appointments as early as possible.



Sleeping Problems Nothing To Yawn About!

If you're not getting enough sleep, the end results can have significant physical and mental consequences. *"As a dentist, I am concerned that many adults never associate teeth grinding and night-time clenching with sleep deprivation,"* states Dr. Andrews.

For most, eight hours of sleep is the ideal. When sleep time is sacrificed or interrupted on a regular basis, the losses are devastating.

Sleep loss has been estimated to cost 90 billion dollars a year due to absenteeism, car accidents, lost productivity, and medications.

As little as six hours of sleep per night can result in some serious problems, such as:

- Problems with memory or concentration
- Irritability
- More susceptibility to infection

Sleep loss related to clenching or grinding teeth can often be easily resolved. Dr. Andrews creates a custom-fitted mouthpiece that is small, comfortable, and prevents clenching and grinding.

If you are losing sleep, or feel clenching or grinding may be a problem for you (or a mate), call (843) 871-6351 to discuss this concern.



Fixed Bridges To Replace Missing Teeth

If you lose a tooth, you can avoid unwanted problems and save remaining teeth.

A fixed bridge:

- Replaces missing teeth
- Helps balance bite
- Helps prevent trauma to the unprotected gum ridge
- Prevents elongated growth of opposing teeth
- Helps to prevent decay
- Decreases the potential for gum disease

If you lose a back tooth, why replace it since the tooth was never visible?

The arrangement of your teeth is a balanced system that provides proper support and stability. Losing a tooth can start a vicious cycle of oral problems. Typical problems include drifting, shifting, and increased risk of gum disease and decay.

In a normal, healthy mouth, there is a natural balance of teeth. Each tooth has three or four companion teeth. These include adjacent teeth on either side as well as upper or lower teeth. Upper and lower teeth work together to provide comfortable chewing function.

When a tooth is lost, statistics show that the companion tooth will be lost next. Then, the next closest tooth is subjected to the same conditions. With each

tooth lost, the problems are magnified and the cycle of tooth loss continues.

While a fixed bridge restores your smile's appearance and chewing function, it also stabilizes surrounding teeth. Fixed bridges are made of materials that Dr. Andrews selects as most appropriate for your individual needs.

The placement process involves attaching the bridge to adjacent teeth. The existing teeth are prepared with crowns or inlays. Then, a bridge of the replacement tooth (or teeth) is attached to the crowns or inlays and secured in place. The result is an appealing look and feel.

The best time to replace missing teeth is immediately after a tooth is lost. Dr. Andrews will make recommendations that will accomplish a confident, comfortable smile. During this discussion, he will answer your questions and explain all options of tooth replacement so you can select the preferred treatment.

New Smiles Are Welcome!

We are always pleased to welcome new smiles to our office. Your recommendations to others are greatly appreciated.

Thank you!



QUESTION: "As a child, the gap between my front teeth didn't bother me. As an adult, it does. Can this be repaired without braces?"

Answered by Dr. James Andrews

As with any patient, it is necessary to first diagnose what caused the gap to occur. Assuming gum disease did not contribute to tooth movement, there are several ways to repair a gap between teeth.

Depending on the gap's width, bonding may be the easiest way to close the space. In this process, tooth-colored resin material is applied. Shading is carefully matched and the surface is polished to blend naturally. Although less expensive, bonding is more vulnerable to chipping or breaking than with porcelain veneers, particularly on front teeth.

Porcelain veneers are custom-designed shells that attach to the front of teeth. A veneer gives the most durable, natural feel and appearance possible, even reflecting light as a natural tooth. While the veneer's design can reshape or resize the tooth for a flattering look, this method also causes minimal disruption to the tooth.



If the teeth are badly turned or misshapen, porcelain crowns can be used to close the space. This method requires the existing tooth to be reshaped to accept a custom-designed crown. The crown covers the top and sides of the tooth, protecting the natural tooth portion underneath. Like veneers, crowns give excellent longevity and natural appeal.

If the space is wide, other teeth may need to be involved. This keeps the teeth visible in your smile to balanced proportions. Otherwise, you could end up with very wide front teeth that close the gap but don't create an appealing smile.

After an examination, we can determine which option will give you the best results and you will also learn the process and fee involved. Once you understand the choices, you have already taken the first step to regain a smile you'll love!