

# UPDATE

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## Porcelain Crowns In Hours, Not Weeks!

**n**ew technology now provides single-visit crowns and inlays! Dr. Andrews recently incorporated highly advanced dental technology. **CEREC** uses computerized precision to create porcelain restorations right in the office in one visit.

For those who have ever worn a “temporary” while a dental lab created the final restoration, it is often the most difficult part of treatment. The temporary doesn’t have the look or feel of real teeth and is secured with an adhesive designed for eventual removal, which means it could dislodge.

CEREC eliminates the need for a second appointment to replace the temporary with the final restoration. This new process eliminates the need for more time and another numbing. With CEREC, shade matching is precise with a look and feel that is equally as advanced.

Dr. Andrews skillfully uses the technology’s 3-D infrared camera to acquire data regarding dimensions of height, width and depth needed for the prepared tooth. Once entered into CEREC, the creation of the crown or inlay begins while

the patient comfortably relaxes. Within a short time, the finished restoration is ready for placement.

Only a small number of dental practices offer this technology. The doctor and staff who utilize CEREC must undergo extensive training to accurately utilize the unit. Dr. Andrews states, “I believe



*today’s dental office must acknowledge patient needs and ensure they are investing in technology that supports*

*them. CEREC certainly caters to our patients and helps them achieve the smile they desire without the process becoming complicated.”*

You are invited to learn more about CEREC, for yourself or someone you know. Dr. Andrews or any member of the staff will be happy to explain CEREC at your next visit, or you can call **(843) 871-6351** to receive printed information.



## A Cracked Tooth?

Symptoms, Causes & Solutions

**a** cracked tooth can occur from a variety of causes. Some include:

- | Grinding or clenching of teeth
- | Uneven chewing pressure
- | An accident, such as a blow to the mouth
- | Tooth exposure to extreme hot or cold
- | Chewing hard items such as ice or hard candy
- | Teeth that have become brittle

A crack in teeth is often invisible to the eye and may not even show up in an X-Ray. However, the pain typically occurs when you bite down and feel a sharp pain. This occurs because the pressure of biting causes the crack to open. When it opens, the tooth interior holding nerves and blood vessels becomes irritated. Other symptoms include sensitivity to hot, cold, sweet, sour, or sticky foods. When people have a cracked tooth, they tend to chew on the opposite side or avoid certain foods. However, the problem remains if a cracked tooth is the culprit and requires treatment.

Repairing most cracks can be done through bonding or crowning. If the interior pulp has been damaged or diseased as a result of the crack, a root canal will be necessary prior to crowning the tooth. A severe crack that extends below the gum line often requires extraction.

Small cracks in teeth are not uncommon and typically do not cause problems. However, it is important to keep us aware of oral symptoms you are experiencing that may indicate a problem. The sooner the problem is repaired, the sooner you’ll regain your healthy, comfortable smile!

# Dental Tips For Arthritis Sufferers



If you are an arthritis sufferer, you are twice as likely to develop periodontal (gum) disease. Findings published by the Journal of Periodontology recently stated that patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) had an average tooth loss of 11.6 teeth compared to 6.7 teeth of other participants in the study. Gum disease, the country's number one cause of tooth loss, has also been linked to serious health problems such as coronary artery disease, stroke, diabetes, and memory loss.

RA is the leading cause of disability and limits the daily activities of over 7 million Americans. We are sensitive to the physical limitations RA can cause and offer the following tips to make your oral hygiene at home easier.

| Use water irrigators to help remove food particles and plaque between teeth.

| Electric toothbrushes and floss holders can reduce the amount of effort required by the hands.

| Wrap toothbrush handles with a sponge hair roller to create a more comfortable, thicker grip.

| Replace knob-type faucets with levers, which are easier to turn on and off.

| Insufficient saliva in the mouth increases the risk of bacterial growth. Drink plenty of water to keep your mouth moist. If you are taking medications that are drying, oral rinses are available to help maintain oral moisture. Minimize caffeine, alcohol,

## New Patients Welcome !

**We are always pleased to accept new patients and especially appreciate those you personally refer to us.**

***Thank you for your recommendations to others!***

and smoking, all which are drying to oral tissues.

With good oral care on a daily basis and regular dental check-ups, RA sufferers should be able to maintain a healthy smile and prevent tooth loss.

If you suffer from arthritis, overcoming your physical limitations to protect your smile will result in a smile that constantly reminds you that you are in charge of your health!