

1. How does prosthetic dentistry differ from cosmetic dentistry?

All quality dentistry should address cosmetics. Prosthodontics, however, is a specialty area of dentistry that considers how your existing restorations may integrate into your future treatment. Cosmetics are very important and will certainly highlight the completion of your treatment without compromising function and longevity.

2. What is prosthodontics?

Prosthodontics is one of the nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA). Prosthodontics is the practice and implementation of basic engineering principles and state-of-the-art techniques and procedures.

3. What is a prosthodontist?

A prosthodontist is a dental specialist who has several years of concentrated post-doctoral training in the field of both fixed and removable prosthetics. Extensive university training and experience provide prosthodontists with a special understanding of the dynamics of a smile, the preservation of a healthy mouth and the replacement of missing teeth. Serving as an architect of your dental treatment plan, prosthodontists collaborate with general dentists, other specialists, and health care professionals to create solutions for your unique dental and oral concerns.

4. Do prosthodontists have additional dental education?

Yes! Prosthodontists must complete dental school, plus two to three additional years of post-doctoral training in an ADA-accredited prosthodontic educational program focusing on engineering treatment for function, comfort, and cosmetics. Continuing education (weekend) courses are not to be confused with these extensive university post-doctoral training requirements.

5. Managed Care vs. Private Practice

I have been in private practice for over 35 years in the same location. I have chosen not to have contracts with insurance companies which often restrict necessary treatment. As a courtesy, my staff will do everything they can to help you with insurance benefits provided that you can go out of network and choose your dental specialist. Sometimes people “shop” for dental treatment as they would for a car. Individual treatment plans may be similar; however, the anatomical differences vary from patient to patient and play a big part in implementing the treatment. It would not be reasonable to quote fees until I have completed an initial examination, diagnostic workup, and full discussion of your

expectations. After these steps have been taken, I can offer you a written treatment plan including the fees with no obligation.

6. Do I treat children?

I usually recommend that young children began their dental care with a Pedodontist, a specialist for children, around the age of three. A good time to make the transition to an adult dentist is toward the end of high school.

I do evaluate and treat children who are referred to me with special needs such as dentures or accidents.

7. What if fear is your biggest obstacle?

I often treat patients who have severe anxiety when undergoing dental work. Do not worry! I am confident that my staff and I can offer you options to relive your anxiety. I offer nitrous oxide and oral sedation (Valium). During this process we will build a relationship based on trust and the understanding of your concerns and expectations which will help ease your fears.