

stDental Times

July 14, 2014



Dear patients:

Life is hectic and we are excited to offer our patients new ways to make it easier.

You can now make arrangements for your health care bills to automatically be charged to your credit card, or deducted from your checking or savings account!

Many patients appreciate the ease of automatic payments, knowing there are safeguards to protect them from misuse. Plus there's no worry about finance charges being added to your account because your payment arrived a few days late.

With our **Automatic Credit Card Payment** program, we will charge the credit card of your choice each month for the previous month's activity. Or, if you prefer, we can use the **Electronic Check Payment Plan** which takes the funds from your checking or savings account each month for the previous month's activity.

Ask about it at your next visit with us, or call/email us today!

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Huang & Dr. Ann

Produced in-house by Santa Teresa Dental to improve your dental health and awareness

Cosmetic Dentistry: More than Just a 'Pretty Face'

Many myths surround the practice of cosmetic dentistry. Some feel that it's all about flashy smiles for people craving attention. Others think that it is merely a way to cover up more serious problems. Even those who understand the benefits might perceive that it's only for patients with more money than they know what to do with.



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Time for Orthodontic Evaluation

Written by [Dr. Chris Anderson](#)

I am often asked the question, "When is the right time for me to bring my child in for an orthodontic check-up?". While most people think that the answer is "around the age of 12", or "when all of the permanent teeth are in", the right time actually comes much sooner than this.



The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children should see an orthodontic specialist for an evaluation no later than age 7. While this may seem very early to start with braces, there are a number of very important reasons to see children at this age. The check-up may reveal that your child's teeth and bite are fine, or there may be some issues that can be monitored as your child grows and be addressed later at the appropriate time. There may also be some problems that are best treated at a younger age.

When indicated, **early interceptive orthodontic treatment** may provide your child with a huge benefit, and allow the orthodontist to achieve results later that could not be attained if they had waited to initiate treatment. Early treatment can allow the orthodontist to guide jaw growth, correct harmful oral habits, guide permanent teeth into the right spot and avoid extraction of permanent teeth.

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Cosmetic Dentistry

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But the truth is **modern cosmetic dentistry** involves far more than simply looking good. In many cases, it offers beneficial and affordable treatment options.

This isn't to say that looking good should be discounted.

It has been proven that aesthetic enhancements can lead to overall improvement in dental health. People who take pride in their smiles have more incentive to stick with a proper regimen of brushing, flossing, and rinsing. There are emotional benefits as well. It's no secret that self confidence is tied to our impression of the external image we project. When we look good, we feel good, and nothing looks better than a healthy smile.

Patients can consider a wide array of cosmetic options:

Bonding is a process in which a tooth-colored resin is applied to the teeth and hardened using a special light. It can be used to repair a damaged or discolored tooth, to close gaps between teeth, or to simply alter the shape and color of teeth in a more pleasing manner.



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Smile Show Case

Patient, Sara Hamaguchi, had dental bonding performed. Composite aka tooth-colored bonding material was used here to restore her smile.



Fun Dental Trivia

- An elephant's tooth can weigh three kilograms? That's heavier than a big jug of milk!
- Even though whales are very big, some of them don't have any teeth. Instead, they have rows of stiff hair like combs that take food out of the ocean.
- Snails are very small but they can have thousands of tiny teeth all lined up in rows.
- Minnows have teeth in their throat.
- Rabbit's teeth never stop growing. They keep them worn down by gnawing on bark and other hard foods.
- Lemon sharks grow a new set of teeth every two weeks. They grow more than 24,000 new teeth every year!
- Every year in China, people celebrate a special holiday called "Love Your Teeth Day".



Orthodontic

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The orthodontist is also one of the earliest health care providers to identify issues with breathing and airway restriction, which can affect facial growth and overall health throughout life.

Patients that require early treatment (often called "**Phase I treatment**"), will have a monitoring period after completion of the treatment, and almost all of these patients will require orthodontic treatment later ("Phase II treatment"). The goals in Phase I treatment are to make Phase II treatment easier and shorter for the patient and to achieve results that are of a higher quality than those that could have been achieved if nothing was done when the child was younger.

In our practice, we are very conservative in our approach to early orthodontic treatment. We do not feel that every child needs braces at age 7, and take pride in the fact that we only recommend treatment that we feel is necessary. Every patient is different in his or her needs, and our goal is to provide each patient with the appropriate treatment at the most appropriate time. Initial evaluation at age 7 allows us to determine the long-range treatment plan for each patient, and provide them with the best, highest quality care possible.

Drs. Andrew Huang and Ann Lien are extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of dentistry, and are very adept at recognizing potential orthodontic problems in their patients. Please feel free to ask them about orthodontic treatment for your child, and we would be happy to meet with you and your family to discuss your child's needs, and determine the best time to start their orthodontic care.

Sincerely,

Chris Anderson DDS, MSD of Wafelbakker Anderson Orthodontics
www.southcountyorthodontics.com

Photos from our Movie Event 2014



Share a Smile New Patients Are Always Welcome!

The finest compliment we can ever receive is a referral from our friends and patients.



Office Information

Andrew Huang, DMD

Ann Lien, DDS

16160 Monterey Rd.
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 5:30pm

Contact Information

Phone: (408) 782-6568

Fax: (888) 503-6560

Email: info@stDental.com

Website: www.stDental.com

Office Staff



Alison Vrabel

Registered Dental Hygienist



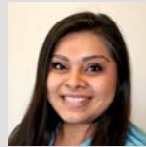
Becky Wallingford

Registered Dental Hygienist



Sarah H.

Financial Coordinator



Teresa C.

Patient Coordinator



Luis M.

Dental Assistant



Brielle C.

Dental Assistant



Neyda M.

Dental Assistant

Cosmetic Dentistry

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It has been proven to be a viable option to more costly veneers, disproving the myth that cosmetic procedures are too expensive for the average patient.

A missing tooth can be replaced through a dental **implant**. The result is a tooth that looks and functions like a real tooth, and eliminates that embarrassing gap.

For some patients, **Invisalign** braces may be an option for straightening misaligned teeth. These clear aligners are much less visible than traditional metal braces and many patients experience faster results.

Whiter teeth can be achieved through the Philips **Zoom** whitening system. The in-office procedure uses hydrogen peroxide to bleach the teeth to a lighter color. Regular brushing and the periodic use of Philips Zoom home products can ensure this is a long-term solution for whiter teeth.

Even porcelain **veneers**, often associated with Hollywood stars and high-profile politicians, can provide a practical solution for serious dental issues. Veneers may be used to improve teeth that are chipped, broken, misaligned or discolored. For many patients, this can be the difference between hiding a smile and beaming proudly at every opportunity.

Santa Teresa Dental offers a full range of **cosmetic dentistry services** and has a long list of satisfied patients who have enjoyed successful results. Dr. Andrew Huang will only recommend a cosmetic procedure after considering your dental history and overall oral health.

If you have concerns about the appearance or condition of your teeth, schedule a visit to find out what options will work best for your lifestyle.

