

The Smile Evaluation

This is a great way to transition patients into restorative dentistry among other adjunctive services such as Invisalign®, whitening and, I have seen patients accept veneers, implants, etc., from asking these questions.

Step-by-Step-Process

Hand the patient a mirror or take a tour of the patient's mouth with the intraoral camera. Have their completed smile evaluation on a very nice clipboard or a nice folder nearby.

You can also have one person at the front desk who greets the patient, give them this information. No brown clipboard or a clipboard with chipped edges. Have the patients name already filled out on the form and the correct date already on the form.

Now ask the patient to smile at themselves in the mirror and check off anything on the evaluation form that they find pertains to their smile, teeth or mouth.

It will only take the patient about 30 seconds; maybe 60 seconds, to complete this form. Now, take the hand mirror from the patient and offer the patient a shade guide with the instructions that the patient will pick the shade that they think their teeth are right now. Very often the patient will pick a lighter shade which opens up a conversation for whitening or a smile enhancement.

Remember, when it comes to esthetic dentistry that you never pre-judge the patient. Often we look at a patients smile and see something we believe should be changed when in fact, this is what the patient really likes about themselves and they believe it makes them stand-out. These types of things can be a diastema, or gold that shows when they smile.

Do not pre-judge your patient because it is possible that they are interested in changing something about their smile.

“If you never ask, then the answer is “NO!”

This is a great time to prepare your notes for the patient exam. All this information is completed before doctor enters to do the exam. Your patient exam notes are prepared and so is the patient.

The smile evaluation is a simple and comfortable way of uncovering interest even when we think the patient already has a nice smile.

HELPFUL NOTE: During the hygiene visual exam, always take a tour around the patient's mouth to show them various areas of their mouth: Stained or discolored teeth, broken or old amalgams, (Composites) heavy plaque and/or calculus, etc.

Your Personal Smile Evaluation

Name: _____ Date: _____

When I see a photograph of myself:

_____ I wish my teeth were whiter

_____ I wish I had a wider or broader smile

_____ My teeth are:

_____crowded _____crooked

_____uneven _____overlapped

_____rough on the edges _____too short

The color of my teeth is _____just fine_____yellow_____brown_____gray

My gums show: _____too much _____not enough

_____ My teeth do not show enough

_____ There is too much space between my teeth

_____ I am not 100% satisfied with my smile

_____ I try not to show my teeth when I smile

_____ I want to know about options to enhance my smile

_____ I want to know about options to whiten my teeth

_____ I want to know about options to _____
(Please complete as appropriate to your teeth.)