

Comprehensive Examination



What is a comprehensive examination?

A thorough evaluation of your oral-facial structures from both a functional and esthetic approach, which does two basic things:

1. Gathers information that will be of value in diagnosing any problem in the head and neck region, including the teeth and gums.
2. Allows you time to get to know the staff, completely understand your dental condition and all options of therapy or treatment, if necessary.

Why is a comprehensive exam important?

In order to successfully treat any existing dental problem, or intercept a developing one, the cause(s) of the problems must be discovered. Also, before any restorative dentistry (e.g., fillings or crowns) can be started, detailed planning for long-term success is mandatory.

What does a comprehensive exam include?

Medical History

A complete and thorough medical and dental history is taken. Any previous x-rays or records are reviewed. Your chief complaint(s), previous dental experiences, and treatment goals are discussed. Please bring as much information (e.g., current medications and records from past dentists) as possible with you to your first appointment.

Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Examination

A detailed palpation of the muscles of the face and neck, and the TMJ itself. The relationship of your jaws to each other, as well as your range of motion are evaluated. Any previous trauma or treatment to your TMJ is discussed.

Imaging

All necessary radiographs (x-rays) and photographs are taken to properly diagnose your case.

Occlusal Examination

Impressions and models of your teeth may be made to more closely evaluate your teeth and bite.

Periodontal Examination

Using precise measuring instruments, your gums and bone underneath are evaluated for their relative health. In doing this, we will determine if gum disease is present and whether you need to be referred to a periodontist (gum specialist).

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Esthetic Examination

A “smile analysis” may be performed if multiple restorations (e.g., crowns) are needed on your front teeth. This would include several photographs of your face, smile, teeth, and bite. Measurements are taken to evaluate the symmetry and harmony of your teeth and compared to your facial profiles. The possibilities for tooth whitening are evaluated and discussed, if desired.

Benefits of a comprehensive examination.

1. You will have a complete understanding of the condition of your teeth, gums, and TMJ, and the reasons why they are in that condition.
2. If restorative/esthetic dentistry is being planned, you will have a very good idea of what is possible from a dental perspective and desired by you.
3. An organized and detailed plan and sequence of therapy will be proposed of your desired restorative/esthetic care.
4. By finding the cause of the problems and the possible solutions, you will be able to make a more informed decision about your dental care.

When should I have a comprehensive exam?

1. As a new patient.
2. Before any major dental work is started.
3. If you are a patient in our practice but have not been seen in the last three years.

If you have any questions before your appointment, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Office Hours:	Monday	8:30 – 5 PM
	Tuesday	8:30 – 5 PM
	Wednesday	8:30 – 5 PM
	Thursday	8:30 – 5 PM
	Friday	8:30 – 1 PM