

Dr. Ban R. Barbat
Where Lasting
Smiles Begin

Practice Update

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“It’s the best thing I ever did!”

These days, it’s not unusual for Darlene to be complimented on her smile, even by strangers. “I smile all the time now!” she states, which is something she rarely did before finding Dr. Ban Barbat.

Like many *baby boomers*, Darlene remembers dental visits in her youth being much different from today’s care. “When I was young and had a toothache, they just pulled the tooth,” she explains.

With soft enamel, keeping healthy teeth was a particular challenge. Having little confidence in her dentist of 20 years, she also admits that dental check-ups were not as regular as they should have been. Because he “did an okay job”, Darlene remained in his care while never feeling good about her smile.

After raising children and caring for her mother during an illness, Darlene decided it was her turn. “My husband has nice teeth,” she says, “and I always felt people were looking at my teeth because they were yellow and had so many gaps.”

She initially researched options to whiten her teeth, checking with several dental offices. From another dentist’s recommendation and being familiar with Dr. Barbat through the newspaper, Darlene decided to make an appointment.

Upon meeting Dr. Barbat, Darlene immediately felt positive about this new environment for dental care. After a thorough examination, they discussed whitening as well as other options to restore Darlene’s smile to good health. After learning she could recreate her smile and restore her mouth to optimal health, she became enthusiastic about proceeding.

Darlene added oral sedation to have more done at fewer visits. In two appointments, her entire mouth was treated without leaving her feeling fatigued.

For a highly natural look, Dr. Barbat used porcelain restorations (crowns), which

provide exceptional durability and help protect the natural tooth. Dr.

Barbat also used porcelain bridges to replace missing back teeth for restored stability and function.

When her treatment was complete, Darlene looked in the mirror. “I started crying and then Dr. Barbat started crying, too!” shares Darlene. “I was in awe that my smile was so beautiful!”

Darlene feels everyone made her feel so welcome and pampered. “There, you don’t really feel like you’re in a dental office.” She also describes Dr. Barbat’s care versus dental experiences of her past, “She wants to make sure you’ve gotten the best results and are happy. I’m so glad I did it.”

With a flattering smile, Darlene especially enjoys wearing lipstick. “I never wore lipstick before and now I wear it all the time!” And, she has a renewed dedication to her oral health. Before, she didn’t realize crowned teeth need diligent care and was surprised when her gums bleed. With Dr. Barbat’s commitment to helping patients maintain good oral health and avoid repair, she now admits, “I’ll never miss another appointment!”

Dr. Barbat states, “Hygiene visits help patients keep their teeth and gums healthy. When a person has achieved appearance goals for their smile, it’s important to be proactive when it comes to oral health. This is why Darlene’s preventive appointments are more frequent than every six months. This helps her enjoy a beautiful smile and healthy mouth at the same time.”

Darlene agrees, “It’s the best thing I ever did! My smile is gorgeous!” To discuss smile enhancement or tooth replacement with Dr. Barbat, call to arrange a consultation or ask at your next visit.



Before

NOW!



Replacing Teeth



Dr. Ban Barbat provides a comprehensive environment for a lifetime of smiles. Options for tooth replacement include:

Dental Implants ...

• What is a dental implant?

An implant is a tooth root replacement held by the jaw bone just as a natural tooth. Implants are made of Titanium and vary in shape to fit specific needs. Replacement teeth are attached to the implant, giving the stability of natural teeth.

• How will I benefit from dental implants?

The greatest benefit is the ability to chew all foods and speak confidently. Dr. Barbat also advises implants to halt bone loss that occurs when tooth roots are missing in the jaw. Bone loss contributes to changes in facial shape, a sunken-in appearance and deep wrinkling around the mouth.

• How long do implants last?

Implants are intended to last your lifetime. Although complications can’t always be foreseen, the success rate for dental implants is higher than any other implant in the body.

Bridges ...

• What is “crown-&-bridge”?

Rather than replace a tooth root, a fixed bridge is held by natural teeth on both sides of the gap. After the bordering teeth are prepared for crowns, a replacement tooth or teeth are attached. The bridge is then affixed to the crowns, restoring appearance and chewing ability.

Q U E S T I O N

“I’ve heard that gum disease can cause other health problems but don’t know how much to believe. What is a dependable source on this?”

Answered by Dr. Barbat:

“I believe one of the most thorough sources on gum disease as well as all oral health issues is a report published through the Department of Health & Human Services in 2000, *‘Oral Health In America’*. This contains fairly recent findings on virtually any topic related to oral health in the United States. The report can be downloaded online at:

www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/oralhealth

“A remarkable point, in my opinion, is its revelation of how tissues and fluids in the mouth are gaining serious consideration in signaling the presence of disease, disease progression, and risk factors of one’s general health (and not just oral health). The association between oral diseases (such as gum disease) and heart disease, stroke, and diabetes are backed by years of research and covered, in depth, in this report.

“Another area addressed is how oral health can relate to one’s quality of life. The consequences of poor oral health are shown to impact appearance, speech, and diet as well as self-esteem, social interaction, career achievement and emotional state. Sleep deprivation and depression can

arise from oral-facial pain as a symptom of dental problems, also contributing to a diminished quality of life.

“Tooth loss is often seen as a symptom of aging; however, this, too, is addressed in great detail. Keeping in mind that gum disease is the leading cause of tooth loss, adults often do not have significant symptoms until they are in their 30’s, even though the problem typically originates in adolescence.

The report shows that nearly 75% in the 35-44 age group have some form of periodontal disease while nearly 90% of adults between 55 and 64 are infected. Males outnumber females 2-to-1 in nearly every age group, leveling out somewhat in the 75+ age bracket. By age 50, American adults have lost an average of 12.1 teeth and one third of those 65 and older are totally without teeth.

“This doesn’t have to be. As a dentist, I’ve seen a growing awareness in America regarding the value of good oral health. We still have a long way to go. I hope you will begin an even greater commitment to your oral health and share your knowledge with those you love, especially children. It will be a gift you give to yourself and others that has lifelong benefits!”



Bridges (Continued) ...

• Is it necessary to crown teeth to support a bridge?

In some instances, bordering teeth can anchor a bridge without crowns. Instead, the replacement tooth or bridge is held by adjacent teeth with metal brackets. The brackets are attached to the back of natural teeth and typically not visible.

Dentures ...

• What are partial dentures?

A partial denture fills spaces of missing teeth to give chewing ability and halt shifting of remaining teeth. Removable partial dentures usually consist of replacement teeth attached to gum-colored bases, connected by metal framework. These attach to natural teeth with metal clasps as well as precision attachments, which are not visible and more esthetic than clasps.

• Are partial dentures removable?

When a missing tooth or teeth have natural teeth on each side, a non-removable Precision Fitted Partial uses adjacent teeth to secure replacement teeth (similar to crown-&-bridge).

• How do dentures replace teeth?

Full dentures are removable replacements for teeth and gums that have resorbed. While a partial replaces teeth in mouths with remaining natural teeth, a “full” denture replaces all teeth.

• Are wearing dentures difficult?

New denture wearers need time to get accustomed to their new “teeth” because even the best fitting denture can feel awkward at first. While most begin to speak normally within a few hours, some have difficulty eating for several days or weeks. To become accustomed to chewing, Dr. Barbat advises a diet of soft, easy-to-chew foods at first. Some also notice a slight change in facial appearance, increased salivary flow, or minor speech difficulty.

THANK YOU For Referring Others!

It is always a pleasure to welcome new patients, especially those who come because of your recommendations. Thank you for your words of praise to others who desire confident smiles!