

Robert B. Gerber, DDS
Tower Dental Group
Tower Dental Implant Center

HIGH-DEFINITION DENTISTRY®

PORCELAIN LAMINATE VENEERS may be the answer...
...if your teeth are stained, chipped, or unevenly spaced

Nothing says more about you than your smile. It is said that your eyes are the "windows" to your soul and your smile is the "mirror" of your personality. Now you can make sure that mirror holds a beautiful reflection. It should be the kind of smile that people will remember.

The key to the transformation may be porcelain laminate veneers—an artistic, high-technology breakthrough that can dramatically improve the look of your natural teeth.

Porcelain laminate veneers are custom fabricated to achieve the desired color, shape, and translucency selected for your teeth in just two visits. At the first visit, there is minimal tooth reduction of the selected teeth, impressions are made, and attractive temporary veneers are fabricated to prevent any interim cosmetic problems and to minimize posttreatment discomfort. At the second visit, the temporary veneers are removed, and the porcelain laminate veneers are bonded to the teeth with a specialized type of resin cement. Although the veneers are thin, after bonding they become highly resistant to wear and staining.

Porcelain laminate veneers can be used to cover stained, worn, or chipped teeth; to correct color and spacing problems; and to

improve the appearance of crowded or crooked teeth without orthodontic treatment in many cases. Most importantly, porcelain laminates can transform your smile into the kind of memorable smile that has a lasting impact on everyone you meet.

If you have any questions about porcelain laminate veneers, or to find out if you are a candidate for this procedure, or to arrange a consultation, please call **Dr. Gerber** at **310.652.0450**.

**Porcelain
laminates can
transform
your smile!**



High-Definition Dentistry® is the ultimate fusion of the art and science of dentistry with high technology.

Visit our Web site: www.rbgerberdds.com

Thank you for your referrals. We appreciate them!

dental news



Osteoporosis medications and the risk of developing jaw complications



Osteoporosis is a serious skeletal disorder that weakens the bones and increases the risk of developing fractures. It affects about 10 million Americans, 8 million of them women. Another 34 million are at risk of developing osteoporosis. This disorder affects more women than cancer, heart disease, and stroke combined. Many patients are treated with a group of prescription drugs called "oral bisphosphonates." Examples include alendronate (Fosamax), risedronate (Actonel), and ibandronate (Boniva).

Jaw complications linked to the use of these drugs are a growing concern because these drugs have been associated with osteonecrosis of the jaws (ONJ). ONJ is an uncommon but potentially serious condition that can cause severe destruction of the jawbones. Most cases of ONJ have been seen in patients with cancer who receive treatment with intravenous bisphosphonates, which absorb differently from oral bisphosphonates. Researchers agree that it appears that oral bisphosphonates have a lower risk for ONJ.

It is important to know that you should not discontinue taking oral bisphosphonates before discussing the matter fully with your physician. The benefits of taking the medication far outweigh any risk of ONJ. Neither your physician nor your dentist can eliminate the possibility of developing ONJ, so it is important to have a complete dental examination and dental x-rays **before starting** the medication to eliminate any dental problems that might lead to ONJ. If you have **already started** taking one of the bisphosphonates, it is recommended that you have frequent dental examinations, dental prophylaxis, and practice excellent dental hygiene.

For more information, call your physician or **Dr. Gerber**, or log on to **www.ada.org**.



Dr. Gerber in China— 2007-2008

For the ninth consecutive year, **Dr. Gerber** visited the People's Republic of China. In 2007, he lectured at the Qingdao Municipal Hospital, a 2,000-bed hospital, and the Qingdao Stomatological Hospital, a 70-dentist facility. In 2008, he visited the new Qingdao Dental Museum and Educational Facility that was just completed. He served as an adviser in the initial planning of the museum. Dr. Gerber lectured on various dental topics such as "Porcelain Veneers, Dental Implants, and the Problems of Osteonecrosis and Diabetes."

Dr. Gerber is the Senior Academic Consultant to the Dental Department of the Qingdao Municipal Hospital and the Scientific Consultant to the Qingdao Stomatological Hospital. Qingdao City has a population of approximately 7 million people and is located in Shandong Province. It is an Olympic event city for the windsurfing competition to be held this year.



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Here's your
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American Heart Association changes in prophylactic antibiotic use

On April 19, 2007, the American Heart Association (AHA) changed its guidelines on prophylactic treatment to prevent infective endocarditis (bacterial endocarditis). There are now only a few suggested situations in which prophylactic antibiotics are recommended before dental treatment.

According to the AHA and the ADA, preventive antibiotics are **no longer** indicated for dental patients with:

- Mitral valve prolapse
- Rheumatic heart disease
- Bicuspid valve disease
- Calcified aortic stenosis
- Most congenital heart conditions

Prophylactic antibiotics are **still recommended** for:

- Artificial heart valves
- A history of infective endocarditis
- Certain specific serious congenital heart conditions
- A cardiac transplant that develops a problem in a heart valve

For more information or if you have further questions, please call **Dr. Gerber** at **310.652.0450** or consult your physician.



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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for dental advice.
For your specific information, be sure to consult our office.