

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

## HIGH-DEFINITION DENTISTRY™

**H**igh-Definition Dentistry™ is the ultimate fusion of the art and science of dentistry with high technology to create the beauty of a natural smile.

Your smile says a lot about you. It is, after all, the first thing most people look at when they meet you. It creates a major part of the first impression you make. Either the color, shape, arrangement of your teeth, or the dark color of old fillings may make you self-conscious about your smile. With the approach used in High-Definition Dentistry™, we are able to evaluate your current condition and propose treatment solutions to correct your particular cosmetic problems.

We start the process by gathering specific information by a detailed facial analysis, which includes a study of the size and shape of your teeth; dimensions and shape of your face and jaws; your occlusion; analysis of your smile line, which is formed by your lips; the shape, condition, and arrangement of your teeth; and the color of your teeth. We evaluate the health of your gums, the position of the gingival margins, and the thickness of the gum tissues.

Then we gather objective clinical information using digital photography, intraoral video photography, digital radiography (x-rays), fabrication of diagnostic casts of your teeth to study your occlusion, and any other special characteristics of your mouth. Using the diagnostic casts, we can create a three-dimensional model of our projected treatment result. After a detailed treatment planning session to explain our suggested treatment recommendations, we can proceed with the necessary care.

There are many exciting techniques we can utilize to correct each patient's treatment problem.

**Enamel Shaping**—Enamel shaping is a process of shaping or contouring of the natural teeth to improve their overall appearance. When teeth are slightly crowded, uneven, or appear too long, enamel shaping may be used to correct the

flaws. This conservative technique attempts to create harmony and balance in the visual appearance of the teeth and the smile.

**Tooth Whitening or Bleaching**—Tooth whitening is a safe and easy way to lighten teeth that are discolored or stained, or darkened because of injury or medication taken during tooth development. There are two methods of tooth bleaching: at-home or in-office bleaching.

**Cosmetic Bonding**—The bonding of tooth-colored nano-particle composite resin materials to a tooth surface can improve the appearance of teeth that are chipped, broken, cracked, or stained, or even close spaces between them. Bonding is also used to protect and repair exposed and damaged tooth root surfaces.

**Porcelain Veneers**—Porcelain veneers are thin custom-made shells that are designed to cover the front of teeth. Porcelain is the most successful of all the dental materials in reproducing the natural appearance of tooth enamel.

*(cont. on page 2)*



dental news

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

Visit our Web site: [www.rbgerberdds.com](http://www.rbgerberdds.com)  
Thank you for your referrals. We appreciate them!

## HIGH-DEFINITION DENTISTRY™

(continued from front page)

We can duplicate natural tooth details of translucency, colors, and contours, and at the same time close spaces between teeth, cover teeth that are permanently stained or poorly shaped, or even correct alignment of teeth.

### Sirona CEREC 3-D CAD/CAM

**Technology**—This high-technology, computerized system enables us to make ceramic inlays, onlays, and crowns—in one office visit in many cases. Using an infrared video camera, a computer, and integrated milling unit, we can prepare, fabricate, and cement tooth-colored ceramic inlays, onlays, and crowns. Complex cases may require more than one visit. The entire procedure can be completed in 60–90 minutes.

**Implantology**—The miracle of replacement of missing teeth with titanium implants has become the standard of care. It all started with titanium and the ability of bone to heal against a titanium surface. This complex technique requires the most sophisticated diagnosis and treatment planning. After planning is complete, we instruct our surgeon to surgically place the implant in the patient's jaws. After healing, it will be restored with an abutment (a custom-made extension), which is permanently screwed into the implant body, and then a crown is cemented over the abutment. The final restoration has an amazing, natural toothlike appearance and emergence profile restoring both form and function.

**High-Definition Dentistry™** can provide the ultimate solution to your smile problems so that in the years to come, your smile can continue to reflect your inner beauty. For more information or to schedule your cosmetic evaluation, call **Dr. Gerber** at (310) 652-0450 or visit our Web site at [www.rbgerberdds.com](http://www.rbgerberdds.com).



High-Definition  
Dentistry™  
can provide  
the ultimate  
solution to your  
smile problems.

## Early detection of oral cancer can increase survivability from less than 50 percent to 90 percent

(continued from back page)

tactile exams are detected late, in stage III or IV, when the five-year survival rate is 57 percent.

Vizilite Plus™ is an easy, painless, and noninvasive examination. It is a three-step process that takes only a few minutes. First, the patient rinses with a raspberry-vinegar-flavored solution for one minute, and then the dentist activates the Vizilite Plus™ light wand, which is a low-energy blue-white light, and then shines the light in the patient's mouth while examining all the oral tissues for abnormalities. Abnormal tissue will glow a blue-white color. Once Dr. Gerber has ruled out trauma as a cause, the TBlue 630 Oral Lesion Marking System, a bluish dye will be applied to any suspicious area to visualize the precise extent of the lesion.

Vizilite Plus™ is an exciting and revolutionary aid for early detection of abnormalities. It is my hope that we can save lives by detecting this disease when it is still curable. I believe it may be recognized as important as other screening exams, such as mammography and Pap smears.

### FAQs:

- More than 30,000 people are diagnosed with oral cancer each year.
- Eight thousand Americans die annually from oral cancer, making it more deadly than cervical, brain, or skin cancer.
- More than 50 percent of patients diagnosed with oral cancer will die within five years.
- Ninety percent of oral cancer patients are age 40 or older. Age is the primary risk factor.
- Patients younger than 40 years of age are considered high risk if they have contracted human papillomavirus (HPV).
- Users of any smoking or chewing tobacco, currently or within the past ten years.
- Users of one or more alcoholic drinks daily, including one beer, one glass of wine, or one drink of spirits.
- Patients with any combination of these risk factors and patients with a family history of oral cancer are considered at highest risk.
- Alarmingly, 27 percent of oral cancer victims have no lifestyle risk factors.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for your Vizilite Plus™ screening test, call (310) 652-0450.

# Amalgam fillings are safe!

An article that appeared in the April 2006 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported two recent independent studies that concluded children with dental amalgam fillings do not experience adverse effects related to neurobehavioral, neuropsychological (IQ), and kidney function. These studies reinforce the long-standing position of the American Dental Association of the safety of dental amalgam.

The strength of the evidence is particularly impressive; two large groups of geographically distinct groups of children were studied and each study reached similar conclusions about the safety of amalgam.

Amalgam is a silver-colored powder composed of silver, copper, zinc, and other metals bound together with mercury. Silver amalgam has been used by dentists worldwide to restore decayed teeth for over 150 years. It is estimated that 70 million teeth are treated with amalgam fillings in the United States alone every year.

## But what about the mercury?

Mercury alone is toxic in sizable doses—for instance, when eating substantial quantities of mercury-contaminated fish, such as **tuna, swordfish, shark, and tilefish**. The majority of mercury is introduced into the environment by volcanic eruptions, the burning of fossil fuels (coal), early gold mining that used mercury to extract ore during the Gold Rush, mercury-containing batteries, and various measuring devices. Mercury enters the food chain because mercury goes from a liquid state to a gas without a solid state. The mercury gas rises and enters the aquifers (oceans, lakes, and rivers) when it rains. The mercury is converted to methyl mercury and is eaten by fish. Since big fish eat little fish, the large fish retain large amounts of mercury. There have been many warnings to the public about excessive consumption of these contaminated fish. It is something to think about during your next trip to the sushi bar.

In conclusion, dental amalgam fillings are safe for you and your children. There is, however, a downside. These fillings are not cosmetic; they do not have a bonded surface to the teeth; they experience microleakage as they get older and break on the edges and often decay; and they make your tooth look grey. Many patients prefer the stronger and highly cosmetic benefits of our CEREC 3D porcelain inlays and onlays or bonded composite fillings. So if you have old amalgam fillings that detract from your appearance, or appear worn and you would like **Dr. Gerber** to evaluate your old silver fillings, please call (310) 652-0450.



**CEREC 3D**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

**Robert B. Gerber, DDS**  
A Professional Corporation  
**Tower Dental Group**  
**Tower Dental Implant Center**  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers  
8631 West Third Street, Suite 730-E  
Los Angeles, CA 90048-5911

Here's your  
dental newsletter

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 17543  
PERMIT NO. 30

© Copyright 2006. Newsletters, Ink, Corp. Printed in the U.S.A. www.newslettersink.com

## Early detection of oral cancer can increase survivability from less than 50 percent to 90 percent



**Robert B. Gerber, DDS**  
**Director**

Telephone  
**(310) 652-0450**  
FAX  
**(310) 652-0458**  
email  
**rbgdds@aol.com**

Cedars-Sinai  
Medical Office Towers  
8631 West Third Street  
Suite 730-E  
Los Angeles, CA 90048-5911

**Lila**  
*Dental Hygienist*

**Narine**  
*Dental Hygienist*

**Elena**  
*Dental Hygienist*

**Karen**  
*Office Manager*

**Ruth**  
*Treatment Coordinator*

**Marjorie**  
*Dental Assistant*

**H**igh-Definition Dentistry™ uses the new Vizilite Plus™ screening technology to fight against oral cancer.

Every hour of every day in the United States, one American dies of oral cancer. This deadly disease is the sixth-leading cause of cancer deaths, with no significant improvement in the survival rate in the past 40 years. In fact, while the American Cancer Society recently reported that overall cancer deaths and incidence have decreased, the oral cancer death rate increased by 5.8 percent, and the incidence increased by 1.5 percent.

If discovered in its early stages, oral cancer is 90 percent curable, but less than 50 percent curable in its later stages. To help achieve early detection, **Dr. Gerber** offers patients the benefits of Vizilite Plus™ with the TBlue 630 Oral Lesion Identification and Marking System, a technology cleared by the FDA for identifying oral abnormalities in patients at increased risk for oral cancer. Vizilite Plus™ is a medical breakthrough that helps professionals detect oral abnormalities that could be early indicators of cancer.

The test was developed to improve the traditional method of detecting oral abnormalities. Once precancer or cancer can be seen or felt by a health-care practitioner, it has possibly already advanced to the late stages, where it is considerably less curable. In fact, 70 percent of oral cancer lesions detected with traditional visual and

*(continued on page 2)*

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.