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8 Smile Correcting Treatments You Must Know About

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Your comprehensive guide to the latest developments in the field of cosmetic dentistry.

1. BETTER WHITENING TREATMENTS

With mega-watt grins gleaming out at us from the pages of every magazine, savvy smilers want quick routes to starlet-worthy whiteness. Thankfully, new in-office whitening treatments and at-home follow-ups have increased their hydrogen peroxide content to 40 per cent from a previous 16 to 22 per cent. The new higher strength gives the products more whitening power, so that in-office treatments only last an average of 45 minutes as opposed to an hour or more, and at-home follow up whitening time has been cut to 15 minutes per day over several weeks - an upgrade from the previous systems which used custom fit trays over night for several weeks to whiten while you sleep. These products are also designed so that sensitivity is reduced as whitening power is increased. "New advances in the area of In-office whitening systems allow us to create faster, cheaper results with decreased sensitivity, or no sensitivity at all," explains Dr. Edward Gelfand, DMD, of Dawson Dental Clinics, located across the GTA. Costs for in-office whitening treatments and take-home followups range from \$100 to \$600.



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2. NO MORE BRACES

"You need braces." Three little words that teenagers everywhere used to believe to be the end of social lives, and stylishness. Even worse if you're an adult! Luckily, Clear removable aligners can work behind-the-scenes to give you a smile you can be proud of. Heading the pack is the revolutionary Invisalign system, which is nowwell-established in the world of orthodontics. Dr. Vasant Ramlaggan, DDS, of Midtown Dental in Toronto explains that these products, roughly the same size and shape as whitening trays but made of a more rigid clear plastic, can straighten both the front and back teeth. The system is worn for roughly 22 hours a day, and the trays are changed every two weeks. "I have installed Invisalign for multinational executives, customer service reps, and other professionals whose jobs require them to speak a lot,"

Dr. Ramlaggan says. "Those who will wear it as prescribed will get the results." The Invisalign system is easier to clean than braces, and patients will generally achievedesired results in about a year and a quarter. Expect to pay an average of\$5,500 for the treatment.

3. A SNAP ON STARLET SMILE

Ever wondered how you'd look with a perfect Hollywood smile? Now you can find out in seconds, without spending a fortune on extensive whitening or reconstructive surgery.

The "Snap On Smile" is a full set of pearly whites constructed out of a thin dental resin which slides over your existing teeth, masking damage, gaps and chips. They maintain the look and feel of real teeth, and you can eat and drink with them in, too - just like a real grin! But don't think this means you can cut corners where hygiene is concerned. "Because they are temporary, it is important to check for any underlying problems that need to be treated to avoid any oral health concerns," cautions Dr. Ramlaggan. "Patients should have good oral hygiene for best results." A standard Snap On Smile will last three to five years before needing to be replaced. Cost: around \$1400.

4. STRONGER CERAMICS

Breathe a sigh of relief: The new ceramics on the market are so strong, you can even enjoy a candy apple without worrying about cracking your crowns. "Recent advances in ceramics allow dentists to use an amazing revolutionary product created by Ivoclar, called Lithium Disilicate," says Dr. Gelfand. "This is the strongest ceramic available to dentists today and the aesthetic results are quite nice, too." Up to three times as strong as any other ceramic on the market, Lithium Disilicate is used for metal-free crowns if you have sizable fillings, and when done correctly by a qualified professional, surfaces can be virtually indistinguishable from the surface of your natural tooth. The preparation of the tooth will take roughly an hour depending on the work needed, and then patients will receive a temporary crown until their Lithium Discilicate crown arrives from the lab roughly a week later. Prices vary from clinic to clinic, but at Dawson Dental, budget for around \$900 per tooth.

5. BETTER PORCELAIN VENEERS

Gone are the days when tooth damage turned even the best smiles into frowns. Amazing new Porcelain veneer products can restore damaged teeth to their former glory. "There are some beautiful porcelains out there at the moment," explains Dr. Brian Friedman, DDS, of Toronto. "The one I use is fairly new to the market - it's called EMax." A painless procedure, veneers are a more conservative approach to restoring a tooth than a traditional crown because the application process removes less enamel. A layer of tooth is removed and a mould is made of the resulting space and sent away to the EMax lab, where the veneer is constructed. A word to the wise, though: if you grind your teeth when you sleep, you'll need to have a mouth guard made so that you don't fracture the veneer. Costs for this procedure vary, but when considering EMax veneers, budget for about \$900 per tooth.

6. EASIER DENTAL IMPLANTS

In the past, the space left behind after a damaged tooth had been removed was such an embarrassment many people were forced to put their lives on hold while waiting for a replacement, or constantly smile with their mouths closed. But not anymore. The advent of new in-and-out procedures for dental implants means you can repair your smile on your lunch break. "There are innovative methods for dental implants, where some dentists, including our Dawson dentists, are " There are innovative methods for dental implants, where some dentists are trained to remove a tooth and place an implant with a tooth over it the same day. - Dr. Edward Gelfand, Dmd trained to remove a tooth and place an implant with a tooth over it the same day," explains Dr. Gelfand. The procedure leaves you with a permanent, natural-feeling smile. The cost per tooth for dental implants is \$3,500 and up. This procedure is not recommended for smokers.

7. LESS GUMMY GRINS

For some people, a gummy grin may mean they shy away from "saying cheese". If this sounds familiar, you might be a good candidate for gum re-contouring. A mild surgical procedure which corrects uneven gum height, gum re-contouring is a one-visit treatment. Excess gum is trimmed away, and in some cases a small amount of bone is also removed underneath the gum. "We live in the best time to get this done, says Dr. Gelfand. "Using a laser to reshape the gum line can often be done even without freezing (local anaesthesia)." The procedure can take a half hour to a few hours, but recovery is nearly immediate, although healing of the gums does continue in a minor way for a few weeks. If you are taking blood thinners, consult your dentist before the procedure. Cost for this procedure starts at \$150.



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8. CLOSE TOOTH GAPS QUICKLY

According to some sources, a gappy grin maybe the latest thing. But just because models are turning up on the runway sporting spaces doesn't necessarily mean it works for you. So if you're looking for an instant fix that traditional braces or other orthodontic work can't provide, new Nanohybrid bonding may be for you. Like a veneer or crown, bonding involves your dentist applying a composite resin to build up the tooth and close the gap. "Composite resins are like pavement - you have tar and stones," says Dr. Friedman. "They're packed with particles to give colour. In the past, the more resin, the weaker the product. Now you have the best of both. Nanohybrid polishes just like your own tooth and it's strong." Prices start at \$100, depending on the number of teeth and the size of the bond.

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