



PREVENTATIVE DENTISTRY



PREVENTATIVE DENTAL THERAPY

At Smiles by Mia, our goal is to not just fix problems but to help our patients prevent future ones from occurring. Our philosophy is to help our patients to have the stable and disease free beautiful smiles that they deserve. Our office utilizes High-Tech diagnostic equipment such as:

DIGITAL X-RAYS

Our dental office utilizes computerized digital dental x-rays which require 90% less radiation than conventional film x-rays. With this technology, the x-ray images come up on the computer screen in seconds allowing Dr. Mia and the patient to see to see the x-ray without the wait for traditional chemical darkroom processing. This allows us to better diagnose and find potential problems before they develop.

SEALANTS

A dental sealant (also called a pit and fissure sealant) is professionally-applied material that is put on the chewing surfaces of back teeth to prevent cavities. Sealants provide a physical barrier so that cavity-causing bacteria cannot invade the pits and fissures on the chewing surfaces of teeth.



NATURAL TOOTH



SEALED TOOTH

Photos provided by: <https://www.carestreamdental.com/en-us/csd-products/intraoral-cameras/cs-1500/>

DIGITAL INTRA-ORAL IMAGING

Intraoral cameras are tiny digital cameras that enable Dr. Mia and her team to capture enlarged images of an individual tooth or an entire smile and project it onto a computer screen. It captures images that show details that may be missed by standard mirror examinations. Intraoral technology can help us uncover problems before they become serious. This is a crucial part of conservative and preventative dental treatment. This not only saves teeth but also money. For example, it is easy to see cracks in old amalgam fillings which are not visible on x-rays. More importantly, it allows the patient to view this and other types of problems in detail and immediately realize that the condition needs to be corrected before it becomes worse.

With the intraoral camera, any areas that may have been missed during brushing or flossing are much easier to see than with a mirror and the naked eye. When conditions such as periodontal problems are caught in their earliest stages, less invasive corrective treatment is possible. It easily and accurately allows the doctor to monitor and enhance what cannot be seen with the naked eye.

At Smiles by Mia, we do a complete examination on all new patients using the intraoral camera. We take a complete series of photos of all teeth and store them in the computer for future reference. These are done in addition to the standard x-rays. They are invaluable as a supplement to any patient treatment plan, because the patient can understand them completely. We have been keeping intraoral camera photo records of our patients for about over 10 years. It is an impartial assistant at the side of the dentist. We feel it is one of the reasons that we are able to give excellent service to our patients at Smiles by Mia.



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ORAL CANCER SCREENING

The VELscope® Vx Enhanced Oral Assessment System is a handheld scope that is used by Dr. Mia to help visualize oral tissue abnormalities, including cancer and pre-cancer. This enables Dr. Mia to detect potential oral cancers much earlier so that patients can get the required treatment before it is too late.

The VELscope® Vx system is an adjunctive device which means it must be used together with and as a supplement to the traditional intra and extraoral head and neck exam. Unlike other adjunctive devices used for oral examinations, the VELscope® Vx does not require any dyes or prolonged testing procedures. In fact, a VELscope® Vx exam can be performed during a routine hygiene exam in about two minutes.

If you would like us to show you how to prevent potential problems in your mouth, please call Smiles by Mia at (703) 323-1300 to schedule an appointment today!