

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I just had a full mouth makeover in Costa Rica and am unhappy. They built up my teeth too much and they look like horse teeth. Can you adjust them for me and how much will it cost?

Dear J. I am sorry you are unhappy and am also sorry you felt the need to go out of the United States to have your work done. Since I have had the opportunity to see you and your restorations I can only comment that there were cement lines between your crowns and your teeth and these will eventually dissolve and you will notice gaps between your teeth and crowns. This will lead to decay and discomfort. While not all tourist dentistry is bad, patients need to realize that if dentistry is cheaper it may not be comparable to what you would have received here. If a patient is not satisfied it is up to the patient to return to the dentist that did the work for follow-up care.

A dentist cannot take responsibility for altering another dentist's porcelain crowns. Adjusting crowns can lead to chipping, porcelain fracture or exposure of the tooth preparation. So when you are considering medical tourism please realize that you may need to go back to that country several times for adjustments, replacements or further treatment and you should allocate funds for that up front. Dentists in the United States use materials that have been accepted by the American Dental Association and most stand behind their work. One red flag is that you were unhappy with your temporary crowns. If a dentist is conscientious they will use the temporary crowns as a blue print to help establish the proper esthetics for a full mouth makeover. To simply shave the teeth down because they are too big may lead to unaesthetic crowns that do not have the proper shape. Then they may need to be started from scratch.

Dear Dr. Winter, I have bulimia and am ready to have my teeth fixed. They are chipped and sensitive and ugly and I really am afraid they will keep breaking down without some serious help. How much will this cost. I am still purging but have really cut down on this habit.

Dear Jane, I would need you to be in remission to help you with definitive crowns. That being said there are temporary solutions such as bonding and night guards that may help you in the short term while you continue to battle this illness. Working with a psychologist and perhaps a psychiatrist can help tremendously in working



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

on strategies for success.

Dr. Winter my 82 year old mom needs help with her denture! She takes it out to eat and puts it on the table because she has so much pain while wearing them.

Dear Ann, we would be happy to see your mother to discuss options. Perhaps a silicone liner could help her to have less discomfort or mini-implants could be evaluated to help hold her dentures in while she eats.

We would be happy to perform a second opinion or comprehensive examination and x-ray visit for our readers! Please call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit. We invite you to visit our new website at www.hamptondentalassociates.com

For photos and videos of our dentistry and information about implants and cosmetics.

We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Winter

MAGD, DICOI, DABOI/ID

Master Academy of General Dentistry

Diplomate International Congress of

Oral Implantologists

Diplomate American Board of Oral

Implantologists/Implant Dentists

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