

SECURE SMILE FAQs

HOW TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ABOUT FULL-ARCH BRIDGES

Secure Smile Answers

1. How many appointments are required?

After your initial consultation, there are as few as four appointments in the Secure Smile process.

2. How many different offices will I need to visit?

One. All of your Secure Smile appointments can be in the same dental office.

3. How often do patients need bone-grafting to support the dental implants?

The Secure Smile process virtually eliminates the need for bone-grafting in most patients, however, it may be required for patients with extreme bone-loss.

4. How many dental implants will support my full-arch bridge?

We have demonstrated a 100% success rate using 6 implants for upper bridges and 5 implants for lower bridges, but your Secure Smile Advanced Implant Dentist will determine the precise number of implants your specific case requires.

5. How long will I be without teeth?

Overnight. With Secure Smile your extractions are performed and implants are placed on the first day, and you get a chance to heal overnight. The following day, your customized, lab-produced temporary bridge is attached to your implants, and you leave with a beautiful smile.

6. Will I have a temporary bridge prior to my final bridge?

Yes. The bridge you receive the day after your implants are placed is called a provisional. You also are free to go home and rest immediately after implant placement, so you don't need to wait in the dental office.

7. How soon until I get my final bridge?

You'll wear your Secure Smile provisional bridge for 3 to 6 months while your implants stabilize and you become perfectly accustomed to a full-arch of teeth and gums.

8. What materials are used in making my bridge?

Your Secure Smile final bridge is custom milled from a solid piece of Prettau® Zirconia. It is hand-crafted to your unique smile specifications and natural looking color shades are permanently absorbed into the bridge prior to furnace curing and final polishing.

9. How long is my bridge going to last?

Your Secure Smile Prettau® Zirconia bridge is designed to last a lifetime. Of 2,039 Prettau® Zirconia bridges produced by the lab that provides all Secure Smile final bridges, only 9 have had to be returned in the past 5 years.

10. Will my bridge ever become discolored or attract and retain odors?

Prettau® Zirconia is non-porous, so it doesn't stain, discolor, or retain odors. You care for this bridge just like natural teeth. Other bridge materials such as acrylics with porcelain denture teeth attract both stains and odors.

11. Will my bridge attract plaque and harmful bacteria?

Just as Prettau® Zirconia is resistant to stains and odors, its non-porous nature doesn't attract plaque (and the harmful bacteria that breeds in plaque buildup).

12. What is the chance that my bridge will chip, crack or break and need to be replaced?

The results of the 5-year study of 2,039 Prettau® Zirconia full-arch bridges produced by Tischler Dental Laboratory (the Exclusive Lab for Secure Smile) show the chances of chipping, cracking, or breaking are 0.44%.

13. Will my bridge weaken or wear down from chewing and talking?

Your Secure Smile Prettau® Zirconia final bridge is not only extremely resistant to chipping, cracking and breaking – Its industry-leading durability shows no weakening or wear from chewing and talking, even in patients who grind their teeth.

14. What's the chance that I will develop an infection under my bridge?

Infections are caused by bacteria. The fact that Prettau® Zirconia does not attract plaque and harmful bacteria means there is minimal risk of developing an infection caused by the bridge.

15. Does your office provide ongoing hygiene and full-service dental care?

Every Secure Smile Member Practice provides comprehensive dental care and hygiene treatments in the same office where your bridge procedure is performed.

16. May I see a study of the long-term success of my bridge published in an accredited professional journal?

A study of 2,039 full-arch Prettau® Zirconia bridges manufactured by the lab that produces all final bridges for Secure Smile is published in the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry documents a less than one half of one percent failure rate for all patients in the study. Be wary of any study of under 100 bridges.

Secure Smile Benefits

Rarely Requires Bone Grafting

Optimal Number of Implants per Jaw

Two-Day Procedure Promotes Healing

Temporary Next Day + Final Permanent Bridges

Prettau® Zirconia Final Permanent Bridge

Less than 0.5% Failure Rate

Doesn't Stain or Attract Odors

Doesn't Wear Down, Chip, Crack or Break

Minimal Chance of Infection

Documented 5-Year Study of 2,039 Bridges