

# 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