

## Re: Over Cautious Dentist?

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- *From:* "Alexander Vasserman DDS" <[purple543210@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:purple543210@xxxxxxxxx)>
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Billy wrote:

My new dentist takes 18 x-rays every 5 years, then 7 x-rays annually.

I take fullmouth xray every 3-5 years 20 films. checkup x-rays 6 films annually. If there are areas I am concerned about I will take a separate x-ray to show the roots.

I'm a 40 year old male and I've seen this dentist for two years now. Since utilizing his services, I've had to get 6 fillings, some so minor the drilling lasted 30 seconds or less without any anesthesia at all.

Sounds like he makes sure all your decay is gone even the smallest. With amalgam silver fillings you had to drill a bigger hole to remove this decay so that you can put in the metal fillings. Some dentists did not fill these teeth because of this. With tooth coloured fillings the hole can be minimum.

He always likes to do the "white" fillings, even in the back, maybe because they cost more.

I do not do amalgam silver fillings anymore. The composite tooth coloured materials are very good these days more conservative to the tooth being drilled on. Amalgam fillings require EPA permits these days because of the danger of mercury to the environment. Apparently when they are stored in your mouth the environment is not affected!!????? The white toothcoloured fillings cost more because they take longer to do and require extra care during placement. And they are valued more because your tooth gets the most conservative and modern filling.

My insurance doesn't pay for that.

Why would they? they are in the business of making money not giving it

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away. They know people like to have tooth coloured modern fillings and they want to use that to get out of their obligation to you when you file a claim.(or the dentist files the claim on your behalf)

He has every

new dental technological gadget known to man, so you may have guessed.

So do I. Sounds like somebody who is passionate about their work and wants to use the most modern tools available for his patients. Don't you want that for example when you get LASIK eye surgery or would you prefer the doctor used a blade or the old laser machine????

My girlfriend sees him too. She needs a route canal,

root canal -- Although I like your term better :)

5 fillings, etc.

If she needs she needs. Only she can decide that. People do not require dentistry or teeth for that matter to live productive lives. Nature has it's own way to take care of that. People have lived their lives before advanced dental care why do you think your girl friend can't live that way. If she wants to have healthy teeth vs broken down ones then in her mind that is a need not a want. Even though you and I know it is a want to have healthy perfect teeth.

He determined. My former dentist likely gave me this many fillings in the entire 10 years I've seen him.

Your former dentist is a different person with different philosophy of treatment. He did not do white fillings in the back. I'm sure he took good care of your teeth to his ability and gadgets.

Who is to say that if you did not go to your former dentist he would not find these new cavities. Maybe maybe not. I can not judge that from cyberspace especially if I did not see what your new or old dentist saw that day in your mouth.

I take meticulous care of my teeth,

Wonderful. Then why are you worried about your new dentist being meticulous about the dentistry he provides you???

they are perfectly straight and I brush religiously twice daily.

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What about flossing? You do not have to floss every tooth just the one you want to keep. If you do not floss you can very easily get cavities between your teeth on each of the teeth. That can easily add up to several cavities.

My

girlfriends are not as great as mine, but they are ok-ish.

Sounds like you need another girlfriend. Gum disease is contagious -- you know that I hope?

Now, he pushed me to get a tooth removed

Wow did he restrain you? or use reason to explain why you might want to get that fixed.

and I did from a specialist.

You could have escaped instead of going to the specialist.

Now that the tooth is gone, he and the hygenist gave me a half hour talk on how my upper teeth will drop/shift/ect

Teeth drifting 101 course twice. What an education. Yes teeth move and it gets difficult to correct.

until I get a \$5,000  
implant....

Sounds on the high side for one tooth. You should check to see if it is the surgeon who puts it in that is expensive of your new dentist. The price of course depends on the area and the skills and dedication of the dental team both the restorative and surgeon. I'm pretty sure you would go to the specialist for the implant since your new dentist did not extract that tooth himself. If he referred you then placing an implant most likely could be out of his comfort zone. But then again I did not see your tooth, it might have been a very dificult extraction etc.... I charge roughly about \$4000 for the surgery and the abutment and crown.

However if your team is good at what they do, paying an extra \$1000 for your health and piece of mind when you put that in the perspective of lifetime dental care is worth it.

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that he will do, of course.

I'm pretty sure he means restoring the implant and the specialist screwing it in.

Am I seeing the wrong dentist?

I think from my comments you should be able to answer that question. Most important thing is trusting and confidence in the team not the expenses you will incur. Remember unless they are restraining you and using mind altering drugs to get you to go with the treatment plan, you are not being pushed, just informed about what it would take to keep your mouth meticulous. By law and by the standard of care they must inform you of the risks, benefits, consequences of procedures, provide you with alternative treatment if any is possible and consequences of no treatment. If you interpreted that as being pushed, then you are mistaken and should discuss your feeling with your team.

Does the x-rays and tooth work sound

extensive?

no.

What do you think about the implant?

Do you think you want it? if they took out an important tooth that was not restorable, it makes sense to replace it. If you are asking me whether implants are a good thing and do they work a good percentage of the time, ... Then I have to say yes as long as you are a candidate. Implants long term are a cost savings.

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