

**Comprehensive Dental Care**

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It's hard to believe the year is already drawing to a close. 2007 has been a wonderful year and we are also excited about the upcoming year with the addition of Dr. Nicole Gordon to our team (*see back page*). We are also excited to be able to serve you better than ever before with our newly renovated office.

They say that time flies when you're having fun, and I suppose that explains why year's end has snuck up on us so suddenly. We truly enjoy serving our patients, and we look forward to each day here at CDC. We've been especially grateful for your loyalty through all of our recent transitions. Your kind referrals have also been greatly appreciated. The trust and confidence you show whenever you recommend us to a friend or loved one is something to be treasured.

On a personal note, I would also like to express my gratitude to Denise, my beautiful wife of 23 years. Denise is my

rock, my confidante and my companion. I'm also thankful for my children, Kevin and Ashley, who inspire me and keep me young. That Dr. Catsos survived his heart attack and is on the road to recovery is also something to be thankful for. And, of course, I'm grateful for my amazing team who have been so supportive in and out of the office during these busy days.

From our entire team to you and yours, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season! We look forward to your next visit.

*-Dr. Menendez*

**Welcome Nicole Gordon, D.M.D.**



**N**icole Gordon, D.M.D., grew up in the Tampa Bay area and completed her undergraduate studies at University of South Florida in Tampa. After graduating, she worked in the business world for ten years before deciding to go back to school to study dentistry. She earned her Dental Degree at University of Louisville Dental School in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Gordon has moved back home to Florida to be close to her family. She and her husband, Rusty, have a 1-1/2 year old son named Jack. Dr. Gordon enjoys outdoor activities including going to the beach and hiking.

We are happy to welcome Dr. Gordon to our practice and we know that you will enjoy getting to know her as much as we have.

## Replace Missing Teeth the Beautiful & Secure Way

Partial dentures have long been a great solution for patients who have some missing teeth. But there have been some limitations which make conventional partials less than ideal for some people. Precision Partial Dentures may be just what the, er, dentist ordered for many patients.

### Conventional Partial Dentures

Traditionally, partial dentures have been held in place by clasps. These thin attachments are usually made of a spring-like metal alloy, although some plastic or plastic-like clasps are used. The clasps rest on and around remaining natural teeth and function adequately for normal eating, speaking and other activities.

There can be a few drawbacks to conventional denture clasp design, however. Occasionally, the clasps become visible. For many patients this may not be an issue, but others may find it unacceptable due to personal circumstances.

In addition to aesthetic concerns, there are certain configurations of partial false teeth

that may function better with another system of retention than clasps. For some patients, surrounding natural tooth structures may also be insufficient to accommodate clasps without adding one or more crowns to modify their flaws.

### Precision Partial Advantages

Precision Partial Dentures utilize a system of mechanical interlocking components that are fabricated with extremely high precision to ensure a secure, custom fit. This method, in addition to eliminating the clasps, results in a cosmetically enhanced appearance that blends in closely with the patient's remaining natural teeth. In addition, Precision Partial Dentures exert a more balanced pressure on



surrounding teeth than conventional partials. Due to their high-tolerance manufacturing standards, Precision Partial usually achieve a more secure fit than conventional partials.

As with conventional partials, neighboring natural teeth may require crowns to fit Precision Partial. Each patient has their own needs. A thorough examination and consultation with Dr. Menendez is necessary to determine whether you are a good candidate for Precision Partial Dentures.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call us at 727-785-4461 and talk to any of our caring and knowledgeable team.



## Oral Cancer Screening: Simple Test Aids in Early Detection

Every hour of every day, a person dies from oral cancer in the United States. It is expected that about 34,000 Americans will be newly diagnosed with oral cancer in 2007, an increase in the rate of occurrence for the second year in a row.

### Causes of Oral Cancer

The two most common causes of oral cancer are the combined use of tobacco and alcohol, and exposure to human papilloma virus (HPV-16), the same virus which is responsible for most cervical cancer cases in women.

As with most other cancers, early detection is the key to improving the patient's chances for survival. If found early, oral cancers have an 80-90% survival rate. Unfortunately, most cases are found as late stage cancers resulting in the high death rate of 50% at five years from diagnosis.

### Microlux/DL: Early Detection Key

We use the Microlux/DL system to check for early signs of oral cancer. Microlux/DL and its advanced LED technology can more easily

determine the presence of soft tissue abnormalities in their earliest stages, when they can be treated most successfully. The test is painless, non-invasive, and usually takes about three minutes. After rinsing with a mild acetic acid solution, the diffused light from the Microlux/DL makes potentially dangerous lesions become much more visible.

### Self-Examination

As with breast cancer, self-examination and awareness also often play an important role in early detection of oral cancer. Contact our office or your doctor immediately if you notice the following symptoms in yourself or a loved one:

- A sore or lesion in the mouth that does not heal within two weeks.

- A lump or thickening in the cheek.
- A white or red patch on the gums, tongue, tonsil, or lining of the mouth.
- A sore throat or a feeling that something is caught in the throat.
- Difficulty chewing or swallowing.
- Difficulty moving the jaw or tongue.
- Numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth.
- Swelling of the jaw that causes dentures to fit poorly or become uncomfortable.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call us at 727-785-4461. A wealth of information about oral cancer can be found on the Oral Cancer Foundation's website at [www.oralcancer.org](http://www.oralcancer.org).

## Smile Makeovers Transform Lives

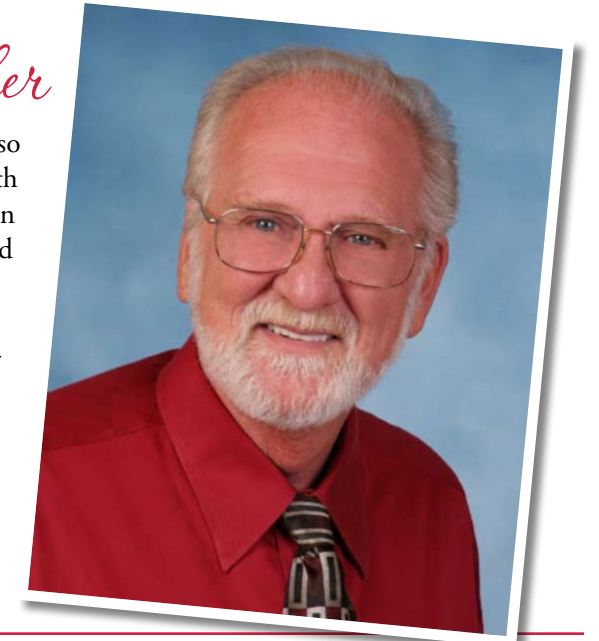


### Devlyn Parsons

For as long as she can remember, Devlyn Parsons had felt self-conscious about her smile. Yet she also resisted the idea of wearing braces, even though 4 different dentists had insisted that orthodontics would be necessary to correct her teeth. Dr. Menendez, though, envisioned a different approach. Using porcelain veneers to reposition Devlyn's teeth, Dr. Menendez was able to give her the smile of her dreams. What's more, the work was done in just 2 appointments, as opposed to the 2 years or so of braces and numerous office visits that an orthodontic solution would have demanded. Plus, her procedures cost about the same as braces would have.

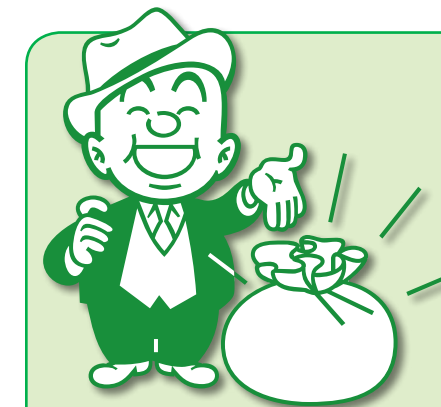
Devlyn is thrilled with the results. "I'm much happier," she says. "I feel complete...I'm happier with everything else about myself and I smile all of the time." In fact, Devlyn is now a model and landed a job at her very first casting. "Before, I would never have felt confident in front of a camera."

### Allen Baker



Since age 11, Allen Baker has endured dental problems. In fact, Allen was so unhappy with the appearance of his teeth, he would cover his mouth with his hand whenever he would smile. Since Dr. Menendez did his precision partial and crowns, though, Allen says there will be no more smiling behind his hand.

"I'm amazed every morning," says Allen. "I can't believe my smile." In addition, eating is no longer the stressful ordeal that it was in the past. "I discovered I can eat everything. I don't have to worry anymore. And my precision partials are so comfortable, I forget to take them out at night." Allen continues to make the trek all the way from Bradenton to Palm Harbor for his dental visits—even for cleanings. "The whole team is just fantastic," he says, "so caring and genuine."



## Do You Have **Hidden Money?**

You may have **pre-tax dollars** (Flex Plan) or **dental insurance benefits** remaining for 2007. **Don't forget: benefits that are not used by year-end are forfeited.** If you have treatment that has not yet been completed or you are due for your routine cleaning and checkup, be sure to **call us now** at (727) 785-4461 to schedule your appointment.