

SEDATION DENTISTRY: beautiful smiles while you relax

AFTER



SMILE MAKEOVERS. Laura and Dorothy are happy to flash the beautiful smiles Dr. Bailey designed for them while they relaxed with sedation dentistry.

FHCN AFTER PHOTOS BY NERISSA JOHNSON

my hand in front of my mouth. I didn't want that to continue; I wanted to see if my daughter-in-law's dentist could help me, too.

"That dentist was Dr. Bailey."

Michael W. Bailey, DMD, received advanced training with the country's premier cosmetic dentistry teaching facility, the Las Vegas Insti-



tute. He was trained and certified in the technique of minimal sedation dentistry by the Dental Organization of Conscious Sedation. After comprehensive exams of both Laura and Dorothy, he advised them to have this procedure as an adjunct to completing the extensive work each of them required.

"Sedation dentistry provides an immense service to patients," states Dr. Bailey. "It allows me to provide

my patients with healthy, beautiful smiles while they relax in the dental chair. Some patients, even the fearful ones, become so comfortable that they snooze during procedures."

Millions can benefit

The Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation estimates that 95 million North Americans avoid scheduling needed dental work simply because they remember bad dental experiences they've had in the past and fear having equally uncomfortable treatments in the future.

Dr. Bailey adds that millions more patients delay dental work because they don't have time to devote to the numerous appointments required to complete a comprehensive treatment plan or because they have a strong gag reflex.

Sedation dentistry, when performed by a trained and qualified dentist in a state-certified facility, offers all these patients the opportunity to complete their treatment plans comfortably and in fewer office visits than are required for non-sedated dental work, which has the added benefit of leaving patients with less postoperative discomfort, shorter healing times, and little or no memory of the work performed.

Right approach

Laura was relieved when Dr. Bailey told her that sedation dentistry could help her through her treatment plan. "He's very gentle," she relates, "and his entire staff is caring and compassionate. They didn't want me to be in any discomfort whatsoever. From the beginning, I knew I'd entered a safe and relaxed environment."

"I've been comfortable in Dr. Bailey's office from the first day I walked in," supports Dorothy. "I needed a full-mouth restoration, and I didn't want to miss any more work than necessary to accomplish it. When Dr. Bailey talked to me about completing numerous steps in my treatment plan during a single visit using sedation dentistry, I told him that's what I wanted."

Safety first

At the pre-sedation appointment, Dr. Bailey and his staff carefully gather information about a patient's medical history and current medications. Then a protocol with the highest safety rating is selected to ensure the

sedation appointment has minimal risks of complication. Dr. Bailey also reviews with each patient the responsibility of the patient's escort, who will bring the patient to the appointment and take him or her home.

Some fearful patients may require an oral sedative the night before the dental appointment to ensure a good night's rest. The majority of patients only have to take the sedatives the morning of the procedure one hour prior to the scheduled appointment.

Once in Dr. Bailey's office, the patient is seated comfortably in the dental chair and is fully relaxed by the time Dr. Bailey applies a numbing agent to the mouth.

"Patients taking advantage of minimal sedation dentistry are more quickly and thoroughly numbed, even those who say they have never been properly numbed in the past," informs Dr. Bailey.

A patient having minimal sedation dentistry is Dr. Bailey's only appointment for the day, and the appointment may last from three and a half to six hours, depending on the type and amount of work to be done.

Throughout the procedure, the patient's vital signs are monitored and, while drowsy, the patient is fully able to respond to Dr. Bailey's requests for them to turn the head or open or close the mouth. Minimal sedation dentistry has the added benefit of reducing saliva production, which reduces the need to interrupt work to remove saliva from the treatment area. When the day's procedures are complete, Dr. Bailey gently awakens his patient, who has little recollection of the work accomplished until the next morning, when they see the beautiful results in their mirror.

Exceptional results

"I needed crowns and porcelain veneers on the teeth in my upper jaw," says Laura. "When he saw my results, my husband just couldn't get over it. My teeth were whiter, and there were no spaces between them anymore. Best of all, I didn't have any discomfort during or after my dental visits. To me, that was just wonderful. I am so comfortable with Dr. Bailey now, and so confident that he will not hurt me, that I'm past needing sedation when I go in for cleanings or other work.

"This has been a very positive experience all around."

"Dr. Bailey has taken about 10 years off my appearance, judging from the compliments I'm getting about

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BEFORE PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. BAILEY

my smile," says Dorothy. "I needed several crowns, and Dr. Bailey placed 10 veneers to make sure that all the teeth that show when I smile would be equally beautiful. My health is improved, too," says Dorothy. "I don't have headaches anymore, I've quit having toothaches, and my gums have stopped bleeding. I not only look better; I also feel better.

"I can't tell you how pleased I am with Dr. Bailey, his staff, and the sedation dentistry that made all this possible for me." **FHCN**—Billie S. Noakes

Bite better

Dr. Bailey welcomes the opportunity to discuss your dental health and ways of improving your smile and your bite function. Please contact him at his office, located at 6610 20th St. in Vero Beach, by calling (772) 567-7510.



Michael W. Bailey, DMD, completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia, and received his dental degree from the Medical College of Georgia. He received advanced education in general dentistry while serving in the U.S. Air Force and is certified by the Las Vegas Institute in cosmetic reconstruction. He is also certified in the use of conscious sedation and is a member of the American Dental Association, Florida Dental Association, and Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation.

"One of my bottom teeth broke in June 2006, and I knew I needed to do something about it," says Laura Smith.

"I also needed a good, thorough cleaning, because I hadn't been to a dentist in a couple of years.

"I'd grown self-conscious about my teeth, too," Laura confides. "They had become discolored, and some of my teeth had shifted, leaving spaces between them. That embarrassed me and even kept me from smiling."

Laura wanted to find a good general dentist to begin a regular care regimen and to help her restore her

Michael W. Bailey, DMD, P.A.

smile and her dental health, but there was a problem.

"I'm one of those white-knuckle patients," she admits. "I have memories of very painful dental experiences in the past, and I've always been nervous and even fearful whenever I visited the dentist.

"My sisters are the same way, but two of my sisters told me how keen they were on Dr. Michael Bailey. When I saw how happy they were, especially the sister who had extensive work done without any pain, I gathered up my courage and scheduled an appointment to see him myself."

Dorothy's story

Like Laura, Dorothy Rogers hadn't visited the dentist in a while either.

"It's not that I was afraid," she explains. "Several years ago I was prepared to have a lot of work done on my teeth, but I had to put it off to help a friend who was very ill."

Dorothy's dentist wasn't gracious about the delay, and Dorothy was so irritated by his attitude that she put her dental work on hold until she could find a more compassionate and professional dentist.

Dorothy found him in early 2006.

"My daughter-in-law had developed gum disease," says Dorothy, "and she found a dentist who treated her gums and brought everything back to good health for her. I was impressed. Then I saw her sister, who had visited the same dentist. She needed a set of dentures, and the dentures he made for her looked so natural that I was astounded.

"My teeth were in worse shape by then," reports Dorothy. "They were discolored and chipped, and I was even missing a couple of teeth. I was so embarrassed that I'd smile only with my mouth closed, or I'd put