



SADA

THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

*Patient Education
Information
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**Dental
Examinations**

Dental Examinations

The dental examination is used to determine the overall health of your mouth.

As well as looking in your mouth the dentist will ask you some questions.

These may include:

- Why you have come for a dental examination?
- Any problems you have noticed such as pain or sensitivity.
- Are you happy with the appearance of your teeth?
- Your general health and any medicines you might be taking.
- Your diet.
- How you clean your teeth and gums.
- Smoking and drinking habits.

You may expect the dentist to:

- Look at your face and neck to see that they are healthy.
- Feel under your jaw and over your jaw joints.
- Look inside your mouth, at your tongue, your cheeks and lips, the roof of your mouth and back of your throat.
- Look at your teeth and gums to see whether they are healthy or whether there are any signs of decay, damage or gum disease.
- Compare your mouth now with how it appeared at your last dental examination if this is not your first visit to this particular practice.

It is possible that the Dentist decides more information is needed from x-rays, photographs or plaster models of how your teeth bite together.

The Dentist will tell you about any treatment you need, explain the choices available and provide

you with a written treatment plan outlining any associated costs.

Regular examinations mean that your dentist can identify any problems and correct them early before the treatment becomes more complicated.

A thorough examination enables the dentist to help you look after your mouth and prevent future problems.

The dentist will advise on how often you should attend for a dental examination according to your particular circumstances.

If you require clarity on any aspect of your examination or treatment plan it is your right to request clarity from the Dentist.