



Dr. Oscar Ceballos Provides Smile Makeover to a Satisfied Patient

My experience with Dental Travel Guides was nothing less than amazing! A representative from Dental Travel Guides met me in San Diego, explained what we would be doing and escorted me across the border into Tijuana, Mexico. We then went to the office of Dr. Oscar Ceballos. The building was nice, the office and waiting room clean, welcoming and relaxing. His office manager was very welcoming and friendly and spoke English very well. Dr. Ceballos maintained the same standard of cleanliness and professionalism as any dentist in the U.S., but in addition he had a warm, caring countenance, like that of an old family friend.



George before his procedure

Once in the chair, what first startled me-and then earned my trust and confidence-was when Dr. Ceballos said he would *not* do the work that I wanted. This was a little disconcerting until he explained that he could do the veneers that I wanted, but that due to the crowding and placement of my teeth (which he couldn't have seen clearly until I was in his chair) they would not look right and would not hold in the long run. Many dentists would just give the patient what they *thought* they wanted, but Dr. Ceballos explained that he wanted to take the extra time to do it right and create a smile that would be something we could both be proud of and would last a lifetime. He showed me why the veneers wouldn't work and how crowns would actually be stronger and produce the results that I wanted, and he made sure that I understood and felt comfortable with the decision. It was clear at that moment that this was a dentist that was not just out to make a fast buck, but was someone who really cared.



George after his procedure

He went on to explain that in the past, most crowns and bridges have been porcelain fused to metal. These restorations, built on a dark metal alloy base, tend to look opaque and monochromatic, with a darker grayness at the gum line. Dr. Ceballos and the lab he used were going to make the crowns with dental Zirconia. Sometimes called "white steel", Zirconia is a ceramic material that has been used to create substructures in cosmetic dentistry to give crowns and bridges a whiter, brighter more translucent quality. Zirconia is 100% biocompatible, meaning the body doesn't reject it as often happens with metal alloy. Crowns and bridges based on Zirconia are the strongest and most aesthetically translucent restorations available in dentistry today -- up to five times stronger than all-porcelain restorations, nothing looks more like natural teeth. In the past, dentists used to say that crowns or bridges need to be replaced every five or ten years, but while the porcelain may chip or need repair, a crown or bridge substructure created with Zirconia should last a lifetime. Once I understood this, I knew that not only was he using the latest and best technologies available in dentistry, but that I was safe in his care and in my decision to do this work with him and Dental Travel Guides.



Smile Makeover (cont.)

On my first appointment the initial work was done- impressions, preparations and placing the temporary bridge that I would wear while the lab prepared the crowns. Dr. Ceballos made every extra effort and put any extra time necessary in to make sure that I was satisfied with the finished product that I would wear for the next week (this was only for the temporaries!) and that he understood exactly what I wanted my new smile to look like from the shade to the shape of the teeth.

A week later, (in the US it would have been 2 to 3 weeks) I returned for my permanent crowns and new smile. Again, it was like seeing an old family friend as Dr. Ceballos greeted me and told me that even he had trouble sleeping the night before because he was so excited for me. We removed the temporary bridge and got the crowns in immediately and he checked with me to make sure that I was happy before seating them permanently. They were beautiful! It was exactly what I had asked for, down to the tiniest detail. So, we went to work to lock them in permanently to create my new smile.

Now, I feel it is worth saying that this procedure can take quite a while based on the amount of work the dentist put into the initial preparations. If the preparations were not done well, the crowns will not fit properly and additional adjustments will have to be made to the teeth they will fit over. Dr. Ceballos put more attention and detail into the preparations than most labs and machines would, so the crowns were a perfect fit, and the procedure took less than half an hour.

When finished, Dr. Ceballos sat me up in the chair and said, "My friend, I am very happy for you. You are ready. Here is your new smile." Now I must admit that my teeth had been a source of insecurity for me since I was a child. With an extra tooth growing in behind my canine I was often called "Snaggletooth" and even after we had it pulled my teeth were crowded and overlapping for the rest of my life. I tell you that so you will understand why it was hard for me to hold back a tear as I smiled and saw that I would never have to be embarrassed or insecure about my teeth again.

There is no way I would have been able to afford this in the U.S. This procedure would have cost \$10,000 to \$12,000 in the U.S. and by using Dental Travel Guides I was able to get it done for **less than** half that cost! And that is including the cost of my travel and accommodation! All I can say is thank you for making this possible for me. This is a service and a company that I would recommend to anyone, knowing that they will be taken care of with the utmost level of professionalism and quality, equal to or greater than anything they will find in the U.S. at a cost far below anything they will ever find in the U.S.

-George R.