Dr. Lori Anna Dees

Keeping Patients Smiling: Mesquite Endodontics, P.A.
A SOLUTION THAT CAN SAVE YOUR SMILE

Endodontic treatment helps patients keep their natural teeth for a lifetime, chew efficiently and enjoy a healthy, beautiful smile. Endodontists complete dental school followed by an additional two or more years of advanced training in the diagnosis and treatment of problems in the soft inner core of the tooth. This specialized training prepares the endodontist to perform procedures including complex root canal therapy or re-treatment of existing root canals, buildups, placement or removal of posts and apical surgery. Endodontists are also experienced at determining the cause of oral and facial pain.

More than 21 million endodontic procedures are performed nationally each year, including nearly 16 million root canals. Because it is usually less expensive than extraction and placement of a bridge or an implant, root canal treatment is a cost-effective alternative to treat teeth with damaged pulp. By comparison, placement of a bridge typically requires more treatment time and may eventually necessitate further procedures to adjacent teeth and supporting tissues. Endodontic treatment has a very high success rate, and most treated teeth can be expected to last a lifetime.

According to Lori Anna Dees, D.D.S., “The thorough cleaning, germicidal treatment, filling and sealing of the interior root canal spaces is critical to the long-term success of a root canal. Patients must also follow up with their restorative dentist in a timely fashion to ensure the success of their root canal treatment.”

Sometimes, patients are referred to Dr. Dees after a problem develops with an existing root canal. After a root canal treatment, a small percentage of patients (5 – 10 percent) may notice that the treated tooth never really felt right, or their dentist may have noticed that there was a spot on the X-ray that does not seem to be healing properly. This may be because the tooth had narrow or curved canals that could not be previously treated or located, or had an infection that was unusually resistant to treatment, or too much time elapsed before the permanent restoration was placed. The tooth with the root canal could also have new decay, or a loose crown or filling that caused re-infection of the canals. Often, rather than being extracted, these teeth can have a root canal re-treatment or an apical surgery.

For patients whose prognosis with root canal treatment may be unfavorable, Dr. Dees explores other alternatives that will provide optimal results.

NOT YOUR FATHER’S ENDODONTICS

As a result of technological advances and more refined endodontic procedures, today’s patients are more comfortable during and after treatment. Advanced rotary instrumentation makes endodontic treatment much easier for the patient and more efficient for the practitioner. “The introduction of rotary instrumentation eliminated much of the discomfort that was once associated with endodontic treatment. As well, practitioners are more cognizant of patient comfort than in the past. I make it a point to make our patients feel at ease,” notes Dr. Dees, “and to always remember that a patient might be nervous or have concerns about the procedure.”

Dr. Dees and her staff are committed to quality patient care, and to providing all patients with the individual attention they deserve. Pictured from left: Shelly, Alyson and Dr. Dees.
“A number of my family members are artists. My aunt and grandmother are both artists who use paint on canvas as their medium of choice. I too, have had a passion all my life for art — when I am immersed in creating art, I am completely unaware of time. My father did not consider himself artistic, but he was a talented surgeon with remarkable hand skills and a keen ability to visualize his finished ‘creation,’ so I believe he was truly artistic! I also enjoy working with my hands and I knew before I ever chose my profession that I wanted to be able to use those skills in my work. In college, I continued to create art, but I also found science immensely interesting. For me, dentistry seemed the perfect combination of science and art. It has been a good choice — I love what I do, I’m proud of my profession, and I find it very gratifying.”
— Dr. Lori Anna Dees

In the hands of an experienced specialist, modern endodontic technology provides a significant advantage. Perhaps the most important recent development in endodontics has been the implementation of the surgical microscope. The pulp chamber is somewhat difficult to clearly discern with radiography alone, but combined with digital radiography, the surgical microscope raises the practitioner’s viewing ability to an unprecedented level.

Dr. Dees uses a Global operating microscope to provide additional magnification and fiber-optic illumination for micro-surgical and non-surgical location procedures, as well as cleansing, treating and filling the interior root canal spaces. The operating microscope provides greatly enhanced precision and clarity in many clinical situations, from the inspection of crown preparations to complex endodontic, periodontic and oral surgery procedures. The microscope helps Dr. Dees identify cracks and detect calcified or additional canals, facilitates the removal of posts or repair of perforations, and aids in periapical surgery.

In addition to preserving the teeth, the endodontist can also help restore the aesthetics of a person’s smile. Because teeth are naturally translucent, older root canals that darken can sometimes cause the

SAFETY, PRECISION AND EXCELLENCE

As a result of improvements in anesthesia medications and technology, modern endodontic treatment is very safe. As an endodontist, Dr. Dees is trained in the treatment of patients with chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or stroke, and the risk of complications for these patients has been reduced over the last decade.

Dr. Dees' front office is available to assist patients with scheduling, insurance and financial arrangements to make treatment as convenient as possible.

deserve. After treatment, patients are reassured that they can reach Dr. Dees on her cell phone in case of a question or concern, and she calls them after a visit to check on their recovery and answer any questions about post-operative care.

Patients who have never had a root canal, or whose last root canal experience was several years ago, may be understandably concerned about comfort. In fact, most people who have root canal treatment today describe the experience as no more uncomfortable than having a filling. The old perception that a root canal is a painful procedure is left from decades ago when there were fewer, less effective methods available to keep patients comfortable. In truth, root canals actually provide pain relief by removing unhealthy tissue within the tooth. In addition, intensive research efforts have yielded improved technologies and methods of anesthesia and pharmaceutical pain control that effectively minimize discomfort during a root canal.
Lori Anna Dees, D.D.S. grew up in Fort Worth, TX, and received her B.A. degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1995. After college, she worked as a dental assistant in Fort Worth in a practice catering to fearful patients. She earned her D.D.S. degree from Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas in 2000. For the next two years, Dr. Dees practiced general dentistry in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In June of 2004, Dr. Dees received her Certificate of Endodontics from the Louisiana State University Health Science Center at New Orleans. Once her specialty training was complete, she returned home to Texas to practice endodontics. Dr. Dees is a member of the American Association of Endodontics, the American Dental Association, the Dallas County Dental Society and the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex Endodontic Society. Dr. Dees lives in Dallas with her two standard poodles, Lucille and Alexander.

Patients who request or require sedation for their endodontic treatment have a quiet, peaceful recovery area where they can be observed and monitored.

tooth to appear discolored. Modern root canal treatment need not compromise the natural beauty of the tooth. If a tooth that has been treated with root canal therapy becomes dark or discolored over time, Dr. Dees may use small crystals of a chemical oxidizing agent that can be placed within the coronal portion of the tooth to remove the discoloration. This procedure, referred to as internal bleaching, may be done once or several times, depending upon the degree of the discoloration.

Dr. Lori Anna Dees received her Certificate of Endodontics from the Louisiana State University Health Science Center at New Orleans. She enjoys dentistry and finds it to be the perfect combination of science and art.

REASON TO SMILE

“Endodontics is a fantastic field,” Dr. Dees explains. “It’s very rewarding to help people find relief from pain and preserve their natural teeth, which are still superior to replacements in many ways. With today’s sophisticated endodontic care, many patients can realistically expect their natural teeth to last a lifetime.” For dentists and patients alike, that’s a reason to smile.

Dr. Dees opened her specialty practice, Mesquite Endodontics, P.A., in April 2005. Hers is currently the only endodontic practice serving the Mesquite area. “I’m pleased to be able to meet the needs of patients here in Mesquite, and I truly enjoy working here,” notes Dr. Dees. “It’s a wonderful, friendly community.”

Mesquite Endodontics is located at 1515 N. Town East Boulevard, Suite 142 in Mesquite, providing fast, convenient access for neighboring communities from east Dallas and south Garland to as far as Greenville and Athens. For more information about endodontic treatment or to make an appointment, call (972) 270-4456 or visit www.mesquiteendodontics.com.

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