

Oral Medicine Information Packet Bennett Family Dentistry

"Dealing with tough medical conditions can zap your energy and even create further conditions, such as dental issues, to deal with. Instead of ending up frustrated and having to try to explain your issues to your dentist and medical doctor, come in and see me to get all of your dental-medical needs taken care of. As a dentist specializing in oral medicine, I am able to help you navigate your medical and dental conditions simultaneously to get you feeling healthy and comfortable."

- Dr. Cindy Fulenwider Greene, DMD



What is oral medicine?

Oral medicine is a specialty within the field of dentistry that bridges the gap between dentistry and the medical field. Patients with complicated medical conditions often develop jaw and mouth pain, canker sores, and other side effects from disease, medication, and radiation treatments. An oral medicine specialist cares for mouth, jaw, and salivary gland conditions with non-surgical treatments.

In addition to earning a dental degree, dentists who specialize in oral medicine also earn a medical degree, making them qualified to diagnose and treat dental diseases that arise from non-dental medical conditions.

The first step to receiving the care you need is to come in for a free consultation with me. I will conduct an examination and ask you for your full medical history, including your symptoms and any medications you have taken. Once we sort through all of your issues we can discuss treatment options and ways to manage your condition.

What are the benefits of using an oral medicine specialist?

Smoother process: A dentist who specializes in oral medicine not only is educated in dentistry, but in complex medical conditions as well. You won't have to try to explain your dental issues to your medical doctor or your medical issues to your dentist – the oral medicine specialist is fully aware of the relationship between the two.

Accurate diagnosis: Many general dentists have a limited knowledge of oral medicine, and medical doctors are even further removed from this information. The combination of extensive knowledge of dental issues and a range of medical conditions helps the oral medicine specialist make a quicker and more accurate diagnosis.

Perspective: Knowing both the medical and dental aspects of various diseases and the toll the symptoms and medication side effects take on you provides the oral medicine specialist with a unique perspective on what you need to be feeling your best.

	Oral Medicine Specialist	General Dentist	Medical Doctor
Treats dental conditions	Yes	Yes	No
Treats medical conditions	Yes	No	Yes
Has access to both the dental and medical communities	Yes	No	No
Has studied the dental aspects of complex medical conditions	Yes	Maybe	No

Is an oral medicine specialist right for me?

An oral medicine specialist can treat just about any dental issue you have that stems from a medical issue. There are many conditions the specialist can help you with, including:

- **Osteonecrosis**
- **TMJ disorders (temporomandibular joint disorders)**
- **Dry mouth**
- **Halitosis (bad breath)**

You can benefit from consulting a dentist who specializes in oral medicine if you are dealing with a medical condition or medication that affects the health of your mouth.

Does my insurance cover oral medicine treatment?

The cost for treatment by an oral medicine specialist varies on a case-by-case basis. If you come in for a free consultation, we can provide you with an estimate and various alternatives for financing your treatment. For more details simply ask a member of our administrative staff.

Fees for oral medicine are often billed to medical insurance rather than dental insurance. To find out how your treatment will be covered, call the number on your medical insurance card, and also call your dental insurance company. If your company offers an FSA (Flexible Spending Account), then you may be able pay for your treatment that way.

There are also third-party financing options such as CITI Health Card. You can apply by calling 1-866-843-2330 from our office or from your home. When you come in for your free consultation, we can discuss which payment plan might be appropriate.

Why should I see Dr. Greene for my oral medicine needs?

Trust

Professional radiation oncologists trust Dr. Greene and refer their patients to her. You can take comfort in the fact that other doctors recognize Dr. Greene's expertise in the field of oral medicine, and know that you are in excellent hands.

Convenient Comprehensive Oral Care

As the only dentist in the Gainesville area who specializes in oral medicine, Dr. Greene offers you the ease of receiving the medical treatment you need without having to go out of your way. Because Dr. Bennett's staff is fully qualified to treat any dental condition you may have, you won't have to waste your precious energy going from dentist office to dentist office to get the care you need.

Compassion

Dr. Greene understands that undergoing treatment for cancer is hard, and will give you the support and high quality care you need. Our calming office will help ease any anxiety you may have during your treatment, and our sympathetic staff will treat you with respect.

How do I get started?

To get started, first call our office at **(770) 532-4555** or go to <http://www.TheGainesvilleDentist.com/schedule-online> to schedule an appointment for a free consultation. I look forward to giving you the superior care that you deserve.