

# Dental FAQs – Common Patient Questions (Concise)

## **What is dentistry?**

Dentistry focuses on the care of teeth, gums, mouth, and jaw. It helps prevent and treat oral diseases.

## **How often should I visit a dentist?**

Most people should visit every six months. Your dentist may suggest more frequent visits.

## **Why is oral health important?**

Good oral health prevents pain and infection. It also supports overall body health.

## **What causes bad breath?**

Bad breath is commonly caused by poor hygiene or gum disease. Smoking and dry mouth also contribute.

## **What is a cavity?**

A cavity is damage to tooth enamel caused by decay. It develops when acids weaken the tooth.

## **What causes tooth decay?**

Bacteria produce acids after consuming sugar. These acids slowly break down enamel.

## **Can cavities be prevented?**

Yes, brushing, flossing, and fluoride help prevent cavities. Regular checkups are essential.

## **What is gum disease?**

Gum disease is an infection of the gums and bone. It is mainly caused by plaque buildup.

## **Why do gums bleed?**

Bleeding gums usually indicate inflammation or infection. Proper oral care can reduce it.

## **Is gum disease serious?**

If untreated, gum disease can cause tooth loss. It may also affect general health.

## **How often should I brush my teeth?**

Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste. Brushing removes plaque and bacteria.

## **Is flossing necessary?**

Flossing cleans between teeth where brushes cannot reach. Daily flossing prevents gum disease.

## **What is a dental filling?**

A filling repairs a decayed tooth. It restores normal shape and function.

## **Is sensitivity normal after a filling?**

Mild sensitivity is common after fillings. It usually goes away in a few days.

## **What is a root canal?**

A root canal removes infected pulp from a tooth. It helps save the natural tooth.

## **Is root canal treatment painful?**

Modern root canal treatment is usually painless. Discomfort is minimal and temporary.

**When is tooth extraction needed?**

Extraction is required for severely damaged or infected teeth. It may also relieve crowding.

**What should I do after tooth extraction?**

Avoid smoking and eat soft foods. Follow your dentist's care instructions.

**What are dental implants?**

Dental implants replace missing teeth with artificial roots. They provide strong support.

**Are dental implants safe?**

Dental implants are generally safe and long-lasting. A dental evaluation is required.

**What is teeth whitening?**

Teeth whitening removes stains and discoloration. Professional whitening is safest.

**Are dental emergencies serious?**

Severe pain, swelling, or bleeding needs urgent care. Early treatment prevents complications.

Disclaimer: This document is for educational purposes only and does not replace professional dental advice.