

As seen in
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THE CITY



Dr. Nima Shayesteh, **DENTAL** COSMETIC & IMPLANT CENTER

When Dr. Nima Shayesteh began working in El Paso, he was disheartened by the dentistry he encountered on his patients. "That's what motivated me to open my own practice and deliver honest, quality work that was not as available in El Paso."

For our interview, I had to wait on Dr. Shayesteh for 40 minutes while he was tending to a patient. "I was busy avoiding a root canal," he explains after apologizing to me. "It takes time to do good work. Anyone who would have seen the x-ray on the patient I was just treating would have decided on root canal therapy. And the doctor wouldn't have been wrong: the x-ray warrants said treatment. But, clinically, I do everything I can to save the tooth and avoid a root canal. So I spent considerable time doing a filling that should have taken less time. I kept the tooth vital, and it will do well. Not only that, I just saved her from spending over \$1,800 to restore this tooth with a root canal followed by a crown. I don't believe many in this business truly go to those lengths for the patient."

Hearing Dr. Shayesteh speak about dentistry for an hour, explaining his entire outlook on patient care is both calming and intense. He

tells me about the time he was fresh out of Boston University, commuting two hours through Los Angeles traffic each day just so he could take home less money working at an office that did honest work. The delight he takes in telling me how they are using the latest state-of-the-art technology in order to improve the conservative abilities and economy in his work recalls Steve Jobs giving a keynote speech.

How serious is he about all this? First, he uses a highly reputable dental lab on the west coast to fabricate all porcelain cases, paying overnight shipping fees and selecting the highest quality materials at no added expense to his patients. Second, he offers mild to moderate sedation for both large surgeries and/or anxious patients. All for their comfort and at no cost. Finally, he never stops staying current with his education, attending weekend workshops out of El Paso and mini residencies at USC—his latest being a comprehensive surgical and restorative implant training program. "It's all worth it," he says, "When a patient leaves the office happy knowing that the restorations that were done on them will last them decades, without the worry of having to replace

them in just a couple of years." For the two years now that he and former classmate and associate Dr. Tamir Shams have been practicing at (now two) Picasso Smiles offices, patients are experiencing a level of care unheard of in the area.

I had to find out: Why the name Picasso? "During my externship in dental school, the head professor, a prosthodontist, expertly skilled in restoring complex cases and achieving correct and comfortable bites, would see my work. And I was a perfectionist. I would do crown preparations & fillings with great precision and art making the tooth anatomically correct. He would oversee my work and go, 'Ahh...it's Picasso! It's Picasso!' And very quickly, my peers started calling me Picasso."

Picasso Smiles

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