



Healthcare Supplement

Using ICT in dental care

The Independent Spoke to Dr Tom Mutyabule of Pan-Dental Surgery on how the clinic started; some of its initiatives and the new technologies and challenges in dental care. Below are the excerpts:

When did you start operations in Uganda?

Pan Dental Surgery was started in August 1995 with only one dental chair and has grown to 7 dental chairs with over 25 full time staff. We are located on Buganda Road, Kampala.

What prompted you to start a dental clinic?

Having graduated as a dentist it seemed the most natural thing to do. There is obviously a great demand for dental care.

What are some of the services you offer to your clientele?

We offer dental care using some of the latest technologies available. We offer digital dental x-ray services (intraoral and panoramic) which implies less dose of radiation for the patients and



Dr Tom Mutyabule of Pan-Dental Surgery.

the advantages of digital x-ray recording, emailing of dental x-ray records, consultation with colleagues anywhere in the world via email.

In terms of actual treatment we use cerec technology (computerized dentistry) where we ensure that the teeth are crowned in minutes. This was the first in East Africa (2009).

We also place implants which is the standard of care for replacing missing teeth. We were the first to introduce laser dentistry in Uganda in 2008. This can be used in treating gums and teeth whitening among others.

We also offer other regular dental services like scaling and polishing (cleaning of teeth), fillings and extractions are part of routine dental treatment we do.

What has helped you excel in what you do?

Continuous self improvement. At Pan Dental we believe in continuous re-assessment and continuous growth in knowledge and skills.

What are some of the challenges you have faced in your type of work?

Challenges have been capital investments. It is very expensive to buy new technologies and the cost of training is high. Maintenance costs are also prohibitive.

How do you handle competition?

We are always very respectful to our competitors and we try to give our clients the best we can.

As an expert on the subject, what are the major causes of poor dental health?

There are a number of causes of poor dental health which include poor home care, that's to say poor brushing, not brushing at all, and not flossing as many times as is necessary. Poor control of diet, eating sweet things cause cavities, and not getting teeth cleaned often can also lead to poor dental health and failure to seek attention of a dentist.

What should people do to avoid it?

People should, as a personal rule, brush more often (once a day is not good enough), at least 3 times a day (after breakfast, lunch and dinner). And flossing those 3 times and visiting a dental professional is also part of the routine.

Last word

Good dental health starts with the individual. "Daily dental care" at home and good dental treatment by the professional keeps dental diseases away.

ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT (CORRECTING MAL-ALIGNED TEETH)



BEFORE TREATMENT



DURING TREATMENT



AFTER TREATMENT



Cerec technology

Pan-Dental Surgery

Healthy teeth Beautiful smiles

Our services include:

Comprehensive dental services; Extraction of teeth, scaling and polishing (cleaning of teeth), replacing missing teeth in various ways (dentures, bridges, implants), re-aligning teeth (orthodontic treatment), restoring broken teeth (fillings, crowns, inlays), teeth whitening (laser bleaching) among others.

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Before



Upper teeth worn-out.

After



Upper teeth repaired in 5 hours only.

Before



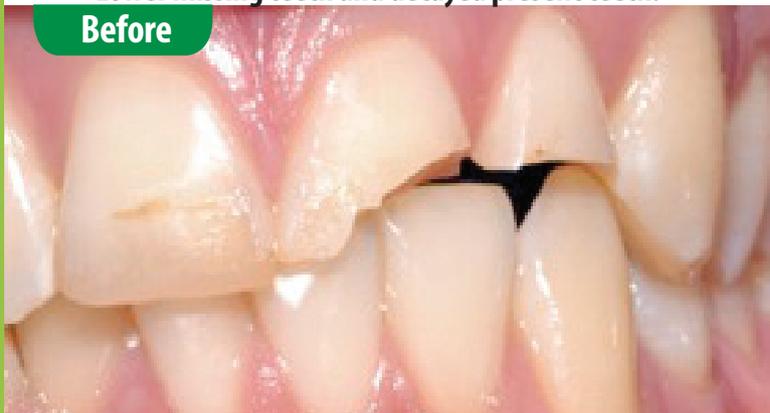
Lower missing teeth and decayed present teeth.

After



Lower teeth rebuilt and missing teeth replaced

Before



Accident case: Broken teeth.

After



Repaired in 3 hours only.

Photos courtesy of our clients with written permission.