

Dr. Jennine K. Huet

Compassionate Dentistry

By Dorothy McConachie



Dr. Jennine Huet knows that many people have a fear of dentists because they have had painful experiences in the dental chair. She also knows that the teeth and mouth are windows to the health and well-being of the entire person.

To help reconcile the need for treatment with the fear of care, Dr. Huet practices compassionate dentistry to make the process of receiving quality care as comfortable and non-traumatic as possible.

While few would list going to the dentist among their favorite things to do, Dr. Huet wants her patients to enjoy the experience as much as possible. Everyone in the office from the receptionists to the hygienist is dedicated to meeting the patient's needs with warm compassion. That is why Dr. Huet provides heated, soothing, lavender-scented neck pillows. Chilled eye masks relieve puffiness so the patient leaves the office looking refreshed. Complimentary hot paraffin hand-softening treatments make the experience almost like going to a spa.

A DVD monitor is available so the patient can view a movie while undergoing treatment.

All of this pampering is to facilitate the serious side of dental care. Over 80 percent of adult Americans suffer from destructive oral bacterial infections, often without any symptoms. These infections may take the form of cavities, which only present pain and symptoms once they have invaded the nerves. Then the treatment is more serious as well as more expensive than when detected early.

Periodontal (gum) infections can



cause irreversible, permanent jawbone damage. Periodontal disease is sometimes an early warning sign of undiagnosed heart disease. Dr. Huet routinely performs oral cancer checks, and hypertension screening. On many occasions she has referred a dental patient to his/her family physician for follow-up of potentially serious conditions that she detected during a routine oral exam. Symptoms of such conditions as diabetes often manifest themselves first in the mouth before appearing elsewhere.

"It is not just about teeth," Dr. Huet says. "It is about the well-being of the whole person."

When treatment is necessary, it is performed with skill and compassion using the latest innovations in comfort dentistry. A new form of dental anesthetic called Articaine is available for those that need more than the traditional forms of numbing. Dr. Huet also employs the latest technology in drill-free dentistry, laser cavity detectors, low-radiation digital X-rays, "white" fillings and a multitude of cosmetic dentistry procedures.

To keep abreast of advances in dentistry so she can always provide the utmost in quality care, Dr. Huet routinely completes 100-200 hours of continuing education each year, even though only 12 hours are required annually. She is one of the few dentists who has finished a general practice residency which consists of advanced training in oral surgery, ENT, hospital anesthesiology, and orofacial trauma. She graduated from the prestigious Misch Implant Institute and has been awarded a fellowship in implantology by the International College of Oral Implantology. She also studied at the world renowned Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education. She will be receiving a fellowship to Fellowship of the Academy of General Dentistry this summer.

Having children herself, she knows how hard it can be to get to the dentist during normal working hours.



To accommodate her patients' busy schedules she also offers appointments as early as seven in the morning and as late as seven in the evenings several days a week. To be closer and more convenient to her patients, and to treat more of her friends and neighbors in the Woodlands, her office will be located in the Woodlands at 3115 College Park Drive, Suite 105 beginning at the end of January.

In addition to family dentistry, Dr. Huet also practices cosmetic dentistry. This is one area where she has seen dramatic changes in people's lives. One patient would not smile and would always place her hand in front of her mouth whenever she spoke to hide the black holes in her teeth. After the restoration of her teeth, her self-esteem escalated. "She just glowed!" Dr. Huet says.

Knowing that there are many others who need this type of work and cannot afford it, she volunteers at the Community Clinic. Dr. Huet is requesting that members of the community email or write her office with information about someone who needs a dental makeover but who does not have the funds to pay for it. Her

goal is to periodically select a deserving person to receive these services at no charge.

"It is only right and fair that as a health care professional I give something back to the community," she says. "After this move, I want to do more of this." As one patient says, "With today's technology available it isn't too hard to find a dentist who does 'good work', but it is extremely hard to find a good staff and doctor who work hand in hand to provide a comfortable atmosphere and 'great work'."

Dr. Huet treats all ages from children to geriatrics.

It is her compassion and her skill that enables Dr. Huet to "get it right the first time" so patients will discover that quality dental care is non-threatening, comfortable and maybe even enjoyable.



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