

suburban life



Advanced Dentistry of Center City, a Batra Dental Group family practice, provides affordable, comprehensive, and pain-free dental care designed to exceed patients' expectations.

page 16

+ Also Inside:
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Above and Beyond to the NEXT LEVEL

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by **BILL DONAHUE** | photo by **ALISON DUNLAP**

Most people do not particularly enjoy going to the dentist, fearing that the experience will be painful, expensive, or time-consuming—and sometimes all of the above. Pallavi Batra, D.M.D., wants people to know dental care doesn't have to be unpleasant. In fact, she leads a Philadelphia-based dental practice devoted to changing people's perceptions of what it's like to sit in the dentist's chair.

Dr. Batra is the co-founder of Batra Dental Group, along with CEO Ash Batra. At each office of the practice's three Philadelphia offices, Dr. Batra and her team provide comprehensive dental care in an atmosphere rooted in comfort, convenience, and education.

"We focus on efficient, painless dental care of the highest quality, without patients having to see multiple specialists," she says. "We have made dental care affordable being in network with most PPO Dental insurances, with compromising on the quality of dental services. At every step of the way, we fully inform our patients about any dental issues they have and make sure they know all their options to address those issues."

Advanced Dentistry of Center City offers the full gamut of dental care, from routine cleanings and preventive care to complex surgical procedures. Areas of specialty include endodontics, oral surgery, and orthodontics. As a top 1 percent provider of Invisalign for patients of all ages, Dr. Batra helps patients achieve a straighter smile free of the imperfections that contribute to tooth decay and gum disease.

Other dentists often refer their patients to Dr. Batra for procedures such as dental implants, root canals, and LANAP laser gum surgery.

LANAP, which is a less invasive alternative to the traditional "cut and suture" approach to treating severe gum disease, can help to preserve teeth that otherwise would require surgical extraction.

"We can fix whatever needs to be done," Dr. Batra says. "We specialize in full-mouth reconstructions and smile transitions, where we take someone who has no teeth and provide them with a restored smile through implants and crowns. We try to do multiple things in one visit, both to keep the cost down and to make it more convenient. That requires a lot of advance planning and organization on our part, but we do that so we can focus completely on the patient when they come in for treatment."

While the practice treats adults and adolescents of every background and need, it has become known for its skill in treating a specific segment of the population: patients who have dental anxiety, often stemming from memories of prior experiences they would rather forget.

"Before we do anything, we do our best to make the patient very comfortable," Dr. Batra says. "We address all their concerns up front, reassure them, and do everything we can to prevent them from having any pain. If they have a good first experience, then we can earn their trust and put them on the path to accomplishing their goals."

She cites an 84-year-old patient who recently came to the practice in need of significant dental work. His anxiety was so severe, he informed her that he might not be able to tolerate treatment.

"We won his confidence from the very beginning," she says. "He said, 'That was the most painless needle I have ever received.' We wound up fixing all his teeth in one sitting, without compromising quality."

State-of-the-art diagnostic technology plays a key role in providing a positive, pain-free experience. Intraoral cameras, digital X-rays, and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) offer invaluable feedback that informs a dentist's understanding of the patient's anatomy, such as surrounding bone, nerves, and sinuses. This is especially helpful for procedures such as dental implants, which is a particular area of specialty for Dr. Batra. She uses surgical guides to place the implant—and a perfect-fitting crown—with precision and predictability, and minimal postoperative pain for the patient.

"With this technology, we have far better diagnostic capabilities," Ash Batra says. "We can make surgical guides that can precisely place an implant, so we know exactly where it is going in a setting where tenths of a millimeter matter. It makes for better dentistry."

Technology also facilitates patient education, another hallmark of the practice's approach to dental care.

"We take a lot of intraoral photos and use digital scans to help patients understand exactly what's going on in the patient's mouth," Dr. Batra says. "We explain everything in great detail, whether it involves home care or a procedure a patient might need. If they need a smile restoration, we work with the lab to show patients what their new smile will look like even before they sit down for the procedure."

No matter which Batra Dental Group office a patient visits, Dr. Batra wants patients to know they can expect the same experience: affordable, painless, and superior dental care provided by compassionate clinicians who strive for perfection.

"Our practice has a culture and a system in which we are always learning and trying to do better," she says. "Our goal is to provide each patient with the best possible experience by giving them the highest-quality treatment in the shortest amount of time. We always go above and beyond in any way we can." ■

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