

# Perfect Smiles at Any Age

## Hi-Tech Orthodontic Treatments for Adults



“I was always self-conscious about my crooked teeth and overbite,” says Susan Redding, a 43-year-old New Jersey mother of four. Two years ago, while her two oldest children, ages 12 and 11, were in adjoining treatment rooms at their orthodontist’s office, Redding was consulting with the doctor about her own orthodontic program. “This was something I really wanted,” she explains. “I was doing it for just me.”

Approximately one million adults in the United States and Canada are currently undergoing orthodontic care, according to the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). “Untold others could benefit from treatment,” says Anna Patras, DMD, the Redding’s Sparta, New Jersey orthodontist. “People these days are busy and they worry about handling numerous orthodontist visits. They are also concerned about the discomfort and unsightliness of orthodontic appliances, and the cost.”

Dr. Patras fully empathized with Redding and her desire for an aesthetically pleasing smile. She too had waited until adulthood to get her

no alternatives. After two years of seeing her orthodontist for uncomfortable adjustments every four weeks, she was rewarded with the beautiful smile and excellent bite she sports today.

“One of my goals was to provide the most effective, cutting edge modalities to overcome adult orthodontic candidates’ hesitancy to seek treatment,” she explains. Dr. Patras was the first New Jersey dentist to offer SureSmile™. She also offers iBraces™, Invisalign®, and the newest generation of SureSmile™, lingual braces, which are worn on the inside of the teeth.

Redding recalls, “Dr. Patras laid out my treatment options and I decided on SureSmile because it was fast. At the time I was already a mother of three, so the fewer number of office adjustments I would need swayed me.”

Ilya Lipkin, DDS, an Emerson, New Jersey orthodontist in practice for a decade, notes that improved technology in recent years has drawn more adults to his office. “We went

a surgical procedure which promotes a temporary softening of the jawbone material, thereby allowing the teeth, under the influence of the orthodontic appliance, to move through the bone relatively quickly; when the tooth movement is completed the bone around the roots of the teeth restores itself.

Today Susan Redding lobbies unabashedly for orthodontics for those who need it, no matter what age. “Finally getting it done was wonderful — and amazing.” She’s now wearing a thin gold wire retainer behind her lower teeth so that her perfect smile will never regress. “I don’t feel it at all,” she adds. “My treatment was quick, easy and built fast confidence.” Depending upon the treatment and the complexity of the case, adults can expect to pay between \$5,000 and \$6,500 for straight teeth. One final note: Redding and her brood have signed on for a formal family photo shoot. Unlike past photos, she plans on flashing a broad smile.

**SureSmile™:** Robotic machinery precisely fabricates an archwire from a heat activated shape-memory alloy wire developed as part of the NASA program. SureSmile reduces both the length of treatment and frequency of office adjustments over traditional orthodontics which takes between two — to three years. Patients typically wear their braces between eight to 14 months.

**iBraces™:** Another high-tech innovation similar to SureSmile in that the wires are also robotically shaped and highly accurate. iBraces are often preferred by adults because the appliances are concealed behind the teeth. These custom braces are made of gold and are the most costly of the treatment options mentioned in this article.

**Invisalign®:** Clear appliances, or invisible braces that work slower than SureSmile to straighten teeth. Recommended for patients with mild malocclusion.



*Amy H. Berger is a freelance writer from Parlin, NJ.*



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

Hi-tech orthodontic treatment turns crooked teeth and an incorrect bite into a beautiful smile.

teeth straightened. “When I left my native Poland over 20 years ago, few people there knew what an orthodontist was, and if they had a bad jaw bite or crooked teeth, it was their bad luck. In America, everyone had a perfect smile, and I wanted one too.”

While pursuing her doctorate in dental medicine she decided to begin conventional orthodontic treatment, which at the time had

from treating five percent adults to 40 percent, with about two-thirds of them women. Self-ligating braces with wires that aren’t as heavy yet allow us to straighten teeth faster, I believe, are the main reasons.”

Also, a new adjunct technology, like Wilckodontics®, can make treatment even faster, from three to eight months on average. Wilckodontics®, also known as Accelerated Osteogenic Orthodontics™ (AOO), is