



10 Questions you should ask at a **COSMETIC DENTAL CONSULTATION**

By Dr. Todd C. Snyder

Since most patients choose a dentist to perform cosmetic dentistry based on reviews and price, these questions might come in handy for when you are interviewing dentists to perform your cosmetic dental procedures.

Realize that comprehensive cosmetic dentistry is not taught in dental schools, and most students come out of school having not performed any cosmetic dental procedures at all.

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR COSMETIC TRAINING?



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- Was the training done in a one-day or weekend class or over many weeks or months?
 - Was it held in a school, or dental facility, or hotel?

This is important because you want someone that has done many cases and has a lot of practice, with supervision and guidance from dentists with lots of experience.

WHEN DID YOU COMPLETE THE COSMETIC TRAINING PROGRAMS?

This speaks to the time frame it was done. Was the training recent or have they been doing it for a while now? How recently they received their training helps determine the level of practice they have had in the area.

This is an important question to ask, as you don't want someone practicing on you if they have only taken a couple weekend programs with little real-world experience.



LECTURES OR WORKSHOPS?



Did they just listen to lectures in person or online or did they get to perform procedures on models or on live patients while under the guidance of a trained dentist?

This goes back to the first question as there are many lectures on how to do veneers, but you want someone that has had practice doing the actual work on models under supervision.

DID SOMEONE ELSE GRADE OR CRITIQUE YOUR WORK?

To provide feedback on if the work was performed properly or where it needed improvement.

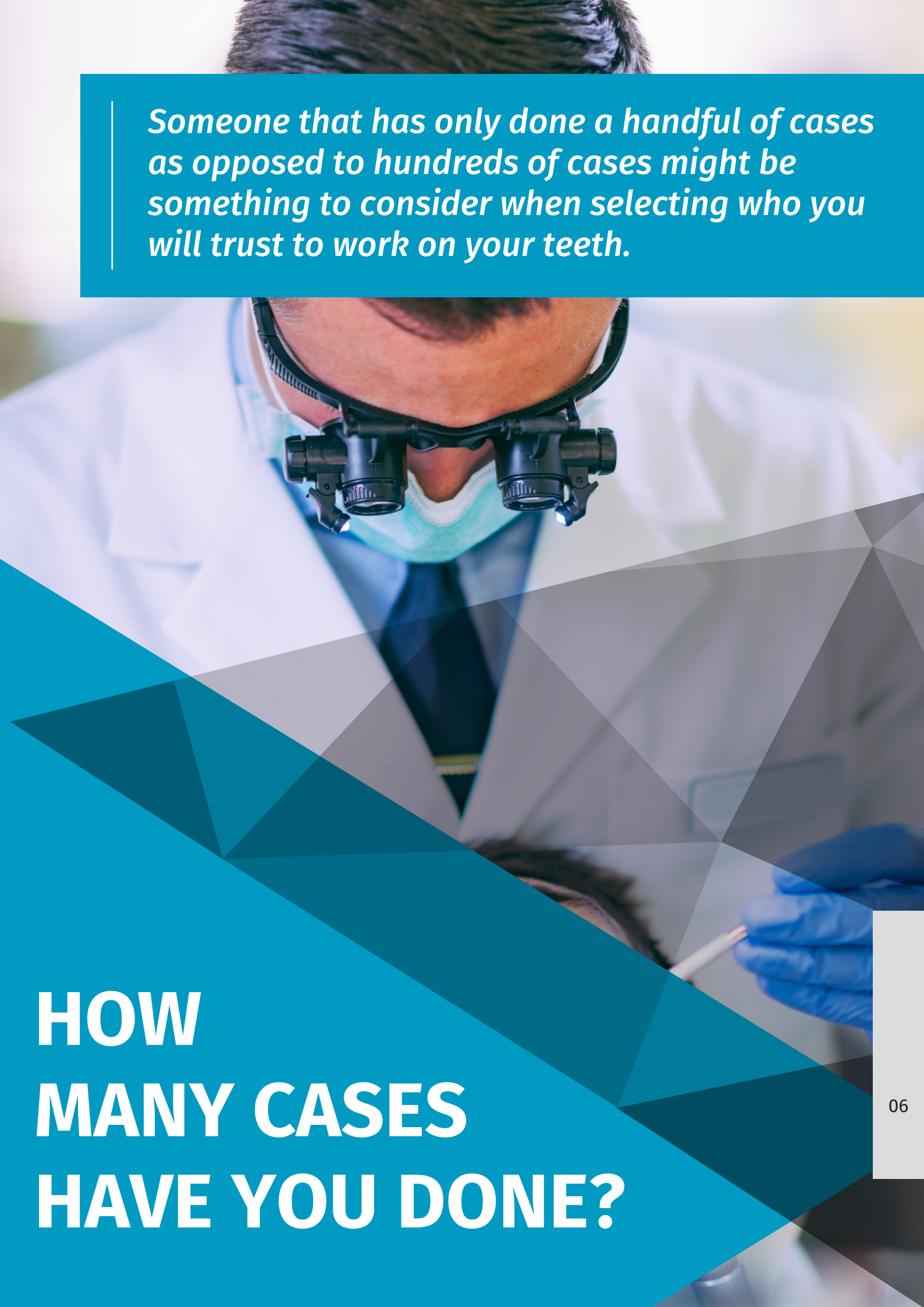
Many dentists reduce too much tooth structure which can damage your teeth long-term, or shorten their lifespan.





Although there is no minimum, one would hope that they would have taken numerous classes to become competent at the many aspects of cosmetic dentistry.

HOW MANY PROGRAMS DID YOU ATTEND?



Someone that has only done a handful of cases as opposed to hundreds of cases might be something to consider when selecting who you will trust to work on your teeth.

**HOW
MANY CASES
HAVE YOU DONE?**

DO YOU OWN OR USE ARTICULATORS?

Most dentists that do a lot of cosmetic and bigger cases will typically own a lot of articulators to handle the workload. Having one or none may suggest that they do not do enough cases regularly to necessitate owning them. Also, not using one suggests a poor lack of knowledge on how teeth work in function.

If someone is doing a lot of cosmetic dentistry, they will have photo documentation of many different types of cases and techniques. If they cannot show you examples of before and afters of numerous cases to demonstrate their level of skill, mastery, and quality of product that you would receive, then you might want to look for additional consultations that can show you actual photos of cases.

CAN I SEE PHOTOS OF NUMEROUS CASES?



DO YOU HAVE ANY AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS, ACCREDITATIONS, OR FELLOWSHIPS IN COSMETIC OR AESTHETIC DENTISTRY?

Since Cosmetic Dentistry is currently not a specialty, most dentists will claim they do cosmetic dentistry. However, to be Accredited or a Fellow with the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, or to be a member/Diplomat of the American Board of Aesthetic Dentistry is a rigorous task that only a few dentists have achieved, showing that they are dedicated to learning and providing a higher caliber of cosmetic dentistry having gone through an actual testing process.



DO YOU HAVE ANY VIDEO TESTIMONIALS?

It could be beneficial to hear from a few patients as to their experience, and how they felt having gone through the process. It's just another way to determine if it is going to be the right fit for you.