



USC Faculty Dentist Warns: Veneers Won't Fix Gum Disease

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Avra Dental, a Ventura cosmetic and general dentistry practice led by USC dental faculty member Dr. Tariq Jabaiti, DDS, is addressing a common misconception among cosmetic patients: that porcelain veneers can correct or conceal periodontal disease. They cannot, and bonding veneers over inflamed or infected gum tissue can accelerate the underlying condition.

The question surfaces often in Ventura's cosmetic consultations, where patients arrive focused on staining from hard water and daily espresso yet remain unaware of bleeding gums or early bone loss. Periodontal disease is a bacterial infection of the gums and supporting bone. Veneers are thin porcelain shells bonded to the visible surface of a tooth ? a cosmetic restoration that assumes a healthy foundation beneath it. Treating one does nothing for the other.

"Gum health is the foundation for any cosmetic result, so we evaluate it before we ever discuss veneers," said Dr. Jabaiti, DDS, a faculty member at the USC Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry. "Our approach focuses on treating the disease first, then building a smile that lasts on stable, healthy tissue."

Placing veneers over active periodontal disease can trap bacteria at the gumline, complicate cleaning and shorten the life of the restoration. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly half of American adults age 30 and older show signs of periodontal disease, meaning many cosmetic candidates carry an undiagnosed condition into the consultation. Avra Dental screens every veneer candidate for gum health and bite issues first, a sequencing choice reflected in the practice's 4.8-star rating across more than 490 verified Google reviews, where patients consistently cite thorough explanations and no pressure to accept unnecessary work.

The warning signs patients overlook are often subtle: gums that bleed during brushing, persistent bad breath, tenderness or a gumline that appears to be receding. Left unaddressed, these can progress to the bone loss that ultimately loosens teeth. Cosmetic dentistry cannot reverse that process, which is why the practice treats a candidacy exam as a full health assessment rather than a formality ? a distinction that matters most for patients who have been steered quickly toward high-cost cosmetic work elsewhere.

When periodontal disease is present, treatment typically begins with a deep cleaning to remove bacteria below the gumline, followed by a healing period and re-evaluation before any cosmetic step is considered. For patients set on veneers, that sequence can feel like a delay, but it protects both the investment and the long-term health of the teeth beneath it.

"When someone invests in their smile, they deserve to know it's built to last," Jabaiti added. "That means being honest about what needs to happen first, even when it isn't the answer a patient came in hoping to hear."

For patients whose gums are healthy, Jabaiti uses biomimetic design and conservative preparation ? typically removing only 0.3 to 0.5 millimeters of enamel ? to create natural-looking results built for the realities of active coastal living. Ventura residents weighing porcelain veneers, and those who want their gum health assessed before any cosmetic work begins, can review candidacy and request a consultation with the practice's cosmetic dentistry team at <https://www.avradental.com/dental-services/veneers/>.

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About Avra Dental

Avra Dental is a general and cosmetic dentistry practice in Ventura, California, serving Ventura County since 2019. Led by Dr. Tariq Jabaiti, DDS, a faculty member at the USC Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, the practice offers preventive, restorative and cosmetic care, including veneers, dental implants and periodontal treatment, with an emphasis on conservative, transparent care. Avra Dental is located at 1708 S Victoria Ave, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. Phone: (805) 941-1001. <https://www.avradental.com/>

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For more information about Avra Dental, contact the company here: Avra Dental Dr. Tariq Jabaiti 18057653206 Avradental@gmail.com 1708 S Victoria Ave B, Ventura, CA 93003, United States

Avra Dental

Led by Dr. Tariq Jabaiti, DDS (USC faculty), Avra Dental brings honest, high-tech care to Ventura, CA. From cleanings to cosmetic and no-drill prepless veneers, we explain everything and never upsell. 800+ five-star reviews. Your trusted Ventura dentist.

Website: <https://avradental.com/>

Email: Avradental@gmail.com

Phone: 18057653206

