



Sunshine Dentistry

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USA Dentistry **STERILIZATION** and **SAFETY** Laws

Dental Treatment is Exceptional in the USA!

Regulatory Bodies in the USA include:

- Arizona State Dental Board
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- OSHA

Regulatory requirements in the USA include:

- Three days minimum **CONTINUING EDUCATION annually**
- **ANNUAL X-Ray** Inspection to limit excess radiation exposure

Sterilization and Safety in the USA includes:

- Instruments are autoclaved: heat **and** pressure sterilized
- Sterilization is calibrated by independent testing service to ensure the autoclave is killing all bacteria and viruses.
- Sterile water is used for surgical procedures
- Needles are only allowed to be used once and discarded following federal procedures.
- Gloves **AND** mask must be changed and discarded after each patient and necessary during patient treatment to maintain high sanitation.
- Dental Chairs must be cleaned & disinfected after each patient.
- Immunization **REQUIRED** by staff against transmittable diseases such as Hepatitis C to ensure theirs and your safety

Not all countries require Dentists to carry malpractice insurance. The USA does. Malpractice insurance protects and pays you, should you receive improper, illegal, or negligent treatment from a dentist.

Dental Tourism: How Far Would You Go for A Crown?

(excerpts from an article by Thomas P. Connelly, D.D.S.)

- **Operating Costs** — Yes, going to the dentist in Mexico will be cheaper. Sometimes a lot cheaper, but let's understand why.
 - Under Mexican law, a dentist does not need malpractice insurance — this reduces their overhead by varying amounts compared to their American counterparts.
 - In addition, there is no OSHA in Mexico. Sterilization monitoring systems and standards are NOT in place (if they even exist). Your local dentist's fees have to take these standards, which all cost money to maintain, into account.
- **Recourse** — You will have little to no recourse with a Mexican dentist. Like I mentioned above, malpractice insurance is virtually non-existent in Mexico, so odds are, they don't carry it. Plus, international laws make suing across borders very difficult (if not impossible). In short, if something goes wrong, the best you might get is an "I'm sorry."
- **Follow-up Care** — Unless you wish to go back, you won't have any.
- **Work Quality** — Dentistry is a very microscopic science. If the crown margins (where the crown meets the tooth) are not properly sealed, they will fail very quickly (and often lead to infection). Again, I have seen this firsthand repeatedly. Now, maybe I'm just seeing the bad ones (after all, these patients came to me with an issue) — I'm quite sure there is good, professional dental work done in Mexico. But (and again, this is more my opinion as a Cosmetic Dentist than anything else), you are really taking your chances.
- **Materials Used** — The alloys that I use (for example, to reinforce the crown under the porcelain) are FDA regulated. In Mexico, the materials comprising the alloy are not regulated and can contain almost anything. I've heard complaints (firsthand) about sickness, bad taste and more coming from inferior alloys that leech into the saliva and similar.

One more time — this is not a universal statement, but yes, I've seen it, so I'd be remiss if I did not mention it. The cost of doing business in the U.S. (required malpractice insurance, OSHA standards, FDA regulations on materials and similar) add to the fees. But trust me — you want these things in place. I know that's not all that helpful when you pay \$1,000 for a crown that I (seemingly) worked an hour on, but American dentists are hardly making "\$1,000 an hour". Take away the FDA regulations, malpractice insurance and other expenses, and I could at least somewhat compete price-wise with my Mexican counterparts. But you are losing all of your safety assurances and route to recourse. Not a good tradeoff, in my opinion.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thomas-p-connelly-dds/dental-tourism_b_866391.html