

2018 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SPECIAL SECTION

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Story by Bob-Ale-Ebrahim
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Nothing makes Dr. Brandon James happier than to see a patient smile. As a Prosthodontist, his entire career is based on giving people their smile back. Prosthodontics is a dental specialty that pertains to the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the oral function, comfort, appearance, and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/or oral and maxillofacial tissues. “Prostho” comes from the Latin root that means to add to or replace; “dontist” derives from the Greek word for tooth, “odon.”

A prosthodontist is a dentist who has completed dental school plus three additional years of advanced training and education in an ADA-accredited prosthodontic graduate program. They specialize in treating and handling dental and facial problems that involve restoring missing tooth and jaw structures. A prosthodontist is highly trained in cosmetics, dental implants, crowns, bridges, dentures, temporomandibular disorders (TMJ/TMD), and more.

Dr. James grew up in Weatherford, Oklahoma, and went to the University of Oklahoma for Dental School. He did his specialty training in Prosthodontics at the University of Texas, San Antonio. He began practicing in Kansas City in 2008. There are six practicing Prosthodontists



Brandon A. James, DDS

Prosthodontic Specialist



in Kansas City today. When asked what makes you different, Dr. James explains, “We want to know your Why? What does that mean? We understand that you want or need your teeth worked on, but many times they’ve never been asked why? Is it to proudly walk your daughter down the aisle? Is it to go to your favorite restaurant once again with your spouse? Is it to confidently go to that school reunion? Is it to start LIVING AGAIN?”

Patients choose a Prosthodontist because you need to go to a specialist that is extensively trained in state-of-the-art techniques to treat complex dental conditions and restore optimum function and esthetics. “The most common thing we treat is missing teeth. It could be from normal wear and tear, trauma, a car accident or be congenital where the patient never developed a tooth and wants to get it fixed,” shared Dr. James. “Other reasons range from someone who is not happy with their smile or want a cosmetic procedure. We’re in the business of smile development which includes: porcelain veneers, crowns, cosmetic dentistry, dentures, partials, teeth whitening and prosthetic dental implants,” added Dr. James. “We’re like the quarterback of a dental team trained to handle the difficult cases.”

“You’ve seen advertising for ‘Teeth in a Day’ or ‘All on 4.’ That’s what we do here and second to Clear Choice, our office has done the most cases in the Kansas City area. We take cases that your regular dentist believes is beyond their scope and should be in the hands of a specialist. Our job is to treat people holistically. We transform patient’s belief systems, where they think their teeth were so far gone that there was no alternative but dentures. Today, with dental implants, patients do have options,” he commented. “The patient thinks many times that their situation is hopeless and we’re responsible for changing their lives. Now they have fixed, permanent teeth and there isn’t any greater investment than a smile. It can open doors in getting that promotion you’ve been seeking. After the

procedure, our patients go to that wedding, graduation or reunion without being embarrassed,” he stated.

“Patients can now go into that job interview or promotion with confidence,” emphasized Dr. James. The bread and butter of his practice is anything prosthetic. This is what he calls smile transformations. The goal is to make it so the patient’s teeth aren’t the limiting factor in how they live their life.

A lot of patients are fearful of getting dentures because they’ve heard they float around in your mouth or when you bite into corn on the cob the dentures will come loose. Dental Implants enable you to eat whatever you want, when you want. “Patients that can really benefit from Dental Implants are the ones who have been holding on to their last few teeth and are trying to avoid getting dentures. There is a viable option that they can get the quality of life that they expect for themselves that their natural teeth have provided,” noted Dr. James.

When asked if any past patient treatments stuck out to him, Dr. James replied, “I had a patient who was a high school student and he and his sister were in a terrible car accident. He lost a lot of his teeth. He went through a process of rehab, grafting and multiple surgeries. It was a long process for everyone involved but we gave him his smile back. He has now graduated from college and is now a motivational speaker. He talks about his life, his experiences and how if he had not had the dental surgeries he probably wouldn’t be doing what he’s doing and his life would be completely



different,” expressed Dr. James. “I also treated a very well-known Christian recording artist from Nashville who came to our practice for treatment. He was missing teeth and we gave him dental implants. His ability to earn a living was dependent on his voice, his singing and his speech. I was nervous and the stakes were high. His teeth turned out great and on his latest CD he gave us a devotion and thanked us for the work we had done. It’s the relationships you form with your patients that get me excited about coming to work every day and it can be very special,” beamed Dr. James.



“Cosmetic Dentistry is like an art form. You sculpt and see things three-dimensionally. With modern technology, prosthodontics is every bit artistic as it is dynamic in nature. With digital photography, you can tell how to sculpt a tooth and treat a patient. The lab and the ceramist are the artists who will design your smile. We have a lab on site and you’re going to meet with both the doctor and the ceramist. We talk about how we will sculpt and design what your finished enhancement is going to look like. That customized plan and the artistic vision is what is going to give you the utmost level of treatment,” explained Dr. James.

“The thing that I’m most proud of is that people in the dental community know and respect our work enough to refer their patients, their family and even themselves to us. I take that as a compliment. What I’m most proud of is the dental community’s belief in us. Our practice is completely referral based,” emphasized Dr. James. There are thousands of people who could benefit from the efforts of a Prosthodontist. Patients should seek advice from a Prosthodontist to see what treatment options are out there to get from point A to point Z. ●



PROSTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

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