

What is a Group Dental Practice?

Have you ever noticed that some dental offices have only one dentist in the building while others have multiple physicians? A group of dentists is called a group practice. Let's talk about this unique type of dental practice, what they're all about, and how we're different from the rest.

Why Do Group Practices Exist?

A group dental practice usually includes both general dentists as well as specialists. Some of the goals of a group practice are to:

- Offer a wide range of dental services for patients of all ages in a single location
- Create the best possible treatment outcome for patients through cooperative care
- Remove the stress/fear of going to a different location for special dental procedures

Group practices may have as few as two dentists or they may operate on a larger scale. It all depends on the individual practice and its structure.

How Common Are Group Practices?

While group dental practices are growing in number they still make up only a small percentage of dental practices in the United States. According to the Health Policy Resources Center, only 31 percent of dental practices in 2010 were group practices. This figure is up 24 percent from 2006, so the numbers are steadily increasing year after year.

But those numbers also illustrate that most dentists today are still operating as solo practitioners. These dentists practice general dentistry or a particular specialty like pediatric dentistry or endodontics, and employ only a small staff of hygienists and dental assistants in their office.

What Makes Rodeo Dental's Group Practice Different?

Many group practices are nothing more than a group of dentists sharing the same building. But at Rodeo Dental, we don't build our practice that way. Our group practice is actually five dental practices combined into one, which means our patients can get everything they need in one place. This includes:

- **General dentistry** for cleanings, fillings, check-ups, gum care, and oral health education
- **Endodontics** for root canals and other tooth/jaw problems
- **Pediatric dentistry** for infants and children
- **Orthodontics** for braces, Invisalign, and oral appliances
- **Implant therapy** to replace missing teeth
- **Restoration** for tooth whitening, veneers, and bridges
- **Oral surgery** for more complex cases

Because we work hard to cover the entire spectrum of dentistry, we rarely need to refer patients anywhere else. This helps decrease patient anxiety because they are already familiar with the office, which is a great thing when the American Association of Endodontists reports that approximately 80 percent of Americans are afraid of the dentist!