

For almost a decade now, we've been telling you about the Valley's "top doctors." It's a popular issue, and every year we do it, we get a lot of calls asking for a similar ranking of dentists. Of course, we also get requests for "top strip clubs," but there isn't a groundswell like there is for dentists. And when you think about it, the request for dentists makes sense. The same challenges you face in finding a good doctor apply to dentistry – unless you have a recommendation from a friend or relative, you're usually limited to the names in the Yellow Pages.

So, with that in mind, we present our first-ever compilation of the Valley's best dentists. As it is with "top docs," our ranking is based on the peer-review system – that is, dentists rate the dentists. To come up with our list, we surveyed 1,500 area dentists, who were asked to name the top practitioners in seven specialties, including general dentistry, orthodontics and endodontics. In all, we ended up with 96 dentists – the top vote-getters in each specialty are listed alphabetically.

Although the men and women in this ranking come highly recommended, there's no guarantee they'll be right for you. But, you have to start somewhere, and that's where our list comes in. We hope you find it useful.

GENERAL DENTISTS

Bradford M. Allen
13470 N. 83rd Ave.,
Peoria, 623-412-9600

Daniel A. Allen
4025 W. Bell Rd.,
Phoenix, 602-978-0200

Larry G. Allen
3231 S. Country Club Wy.,
Tempe, 480-831-6333

Karl J. Baker
500 W. Southern Ave.,
Mesa, 480-962-0900

Roger A. Briggs
7054 E. Cochise Rd.,
Scottsdale, 480-948-7670

Arthur H. Chal
4715 N. 32nd St.,
Phoenix, 602-957-5000

Michael J. Cooley
1200 W. Warner Rd.,
Chandler, 480-899-0222

Kathleen Crowley
5750 W. Thunderbird Rd.,
Glendale, 602-547-1916

Dennis Cufone
7500 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd.,
Scottsdale, 480-419-7900

Brett A. Dameron
12320 N. 32nd St.,
Phoenix, 602-992-1384

Paul D. Douglas
10630 N. Scottsdale Rd.,

Scottsdale, 480-948-3680

William F. Gioia
7550 N. 19th Ave.,
Phoenix, 602-864-1984

Mark S. Hamblin
6755 E. Superstition Springs
Blvd., Mesa, 480-981-
3311

Michael L. Johnson
6812 E. Brown Rd.,

Sheldon Lynn Sullivan
3333 E. Baseline Rd.,
Gilbert, 480-507-1993

Eric G. Marloff
2058 S. Dobson Rd.,
Mesa, 480-831-8800

Sheila G. Naik
6615 W. Happy Valley Rd.,
Glendale, 623-566-8011

Gus G. Nopoulos
11230 N. Tatum Blvd.,
Phoenix, 602-404-1414

E. Leslie Pospisil
2076 E. Southern Ave.,
Tempe, 480-838-3315

W. Brian Powley
10565 N. Tatum Blvd.,
Paradise Valley, 480-
443-1100

Virginia L. Price
4425 N. 24th St.,
Phoenix, 602-468-1135

Robert J. Price
7227 N. Dreamy Draw Dr.,
Phoenix, 602-861-1245

Steve P. Purtell
6945 E. Sahuaro Dr.,
Scottsdale, 480-443-3339

AT THE ROOT OF GOOD HEALTH

When your mother said your mouth could get you into trouble, she was right. But not necessarily in the way you might be thinking. You may not know it, but the state of your mouth could be affecting the state of your health, and some Valley dentists are employing a new device to help get to the root of the problem.

The device, called the Cavitat, scans the jawbone to detect cavitations, or infections. Cavitations can occur at old extraction sites, or under root-canal teeth. The unhealthy sites produce toxins that can affect a person's general well being, and are usually diagnosed and treated by biological dentists – those who are concerned with the impact the mouth has on the entire body.

The device works by sending sound waves through the bone. The waves, which are detected by a sensor, locate areas of bone loss or destruction. Once the signal is captured, it's sent to a computer, where it's converted into a three-dimensional color image.

The Cavitat was developed by Colorado-based engineer Bob Jones of Cavitat Medical Technologies, who suffered from osteonecrosis on multiple sites of his jawbone. While not painful, the condition made him feel extremely tired. Jones' symptoms subsided and his condition dramatically improved once his diseased marrow was removed.

The cost of a Cavitat test can vary, but it's generally \$25 per site or \$125 per quadrant (one-quarter of the mouth), plus a consultation fee.

For more information about jawbone infections and their relationship to some diseases, visit altcorp.com or maxillofacialcenter.com. For more information about Cavitat, visit cavitat.com. For more information about biological dentistry, call 800-311-6265.

—Karen Kline