Dr. Seeth and her Associates at Bolingbrook Dental Care are committed to your dental needs. We value patient education and would like to give you basic information about the importance of what we look for with regular exams.

Most dental problems start small, but if let go, can grow very rapidly, involve major treatment, and can become more expensive. Regular checkups every six months enable our doctors to catch dental problems such as Plaque, Gingivitis, Cavities and Cracked or Leaking Fillings, <u>before</u> they become serious conditions.

<u>Plaque</u> is a film of bacteria that constantly forms on your teeth and can harden in as little as 24 hours to become tartar. Even with proper brushing and flossing, most people are not able to remove all the plaque on their own. Without regular checkups, your gums can become inflamed which makes them swell and bleed. This is called Gingivitis. Gingivitis is reversible, but if not treated can lead to Gum Disease, which can cause an infection, receding gums, bone loss and even tooth loss.

<u>Cavities</u> are bacteria that lie between and on the surfaces of your teeth. Without proper brushing and flossing, these bacteria can lead to tooth decay/cavities. A small cavity can be easily fixed, but if not detected early with regular checkups, they can grown into the inner layer of the tooth and reach the nerve, causing pain, swelling, infection and possible tooth loss. Cracked or Leaking Fillings can also lead to more decay/cavities. Unless treated early, they can lead to major treatment such as Root Canals and Crowns. This treatment can be avoided if detected early.

Also, many people do not realize that other medical conditions can affect your dental health. Remember to keep your dentist informed with your current medical history to assure proper treatment.

Lesson Learned! You can expect more than "just a dental exam". Regular cleanings and exams help to detect and prevent all of the conditions we mentioned.

For more information about your dental health, please visit our website at <u>www.bolingbrookdentalweb.com</u>.

You can also read more articles about our office, including "Frequently Asked Questions", which can also help you learn more about the basics in dentistry that can help you and your family!