



Spread some **simple goodness** with
NEW Becel® Vegan margarine [learn more](#)



Money

Coffee, tea or root canal?

By **HANK DANISZEWSKI**

Last Updated: 6th November 2009, 2:15am



Dentist **Nohora Martinez** has opened Riverpark Dental in Byron. Patients can enjoy a scenic view, a massage chair, TV, and a hand paraffin wax while she works on their teeth. **(Sue Reeve, Sun Media)**

A lot of folks see a day at the spa and a trip to the dentist as polar opposites.

Dr. Nohora Martinez is trying to change all of that with her new dental and orthodontic practice in Byron.

Riverpark Dental has the look and feel of a spa. The interior, which features curved surfaces and indirect lighting, was designed by a Colorado firm to be serene and relaxing.

Patients can stretch out in a massage chair in the waiting room and have a cup of green tea or coffee.

Martinez said it is all designed to make dental care as pleasant and relaxing as possible.

"I got tired of people telling me that they hated going to the dentist. I wanted something different," she said.

Her husband Matt Bladowski helped her design the practice. He said Riverpark Dental is targeted at patients with a lot of anxiety about dental treatment and women who enjoy the spa experience.

Martinez said many patients are simply nervous letting a stranger poke about in their mouth so she tries to make the service as transparent as possible.

Patients are greeted by her team of specialists who are fluent in Arabic and Spanish.

Martinez explains the dental procedures and all fees ahead of time in an "education room" equipped with a video screen.

"There are no surprises. They don't have to have any treatment until they are ready," she said.

The dental treatment rooms have windows covered with tranquil forest murals. The patient chairs have a built-in massage unit and a video screen for TV and DVDs.

During their dental procedure, patients can have a paraffin wax treatment for their hands.

"Sometimes there's a problem. The patients are so relaxed they fall asleep and it's hard to work on them," laughs Martinez.

Martinez is a native of Colombia, and has 12 dentists in her extended family.

She was only 15 when she started studying dentistry at the Pontificia Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia and opened her first practice by 21. By 26 she has completed her specialty in orthodontics.

Her husband persuaded her to emigrate to Canada in 2003 and she attended the University of Western Ontario to requalify to practise in Canada.

Bladowski said there are plans to install a massage room in the office so patients can have a full body massage before or after their dental treatment.

hank.daniszewski@sunmedia.ca