Skipping Mexico: Americans Head to Istanbul for Veneers, Says Dental Clinic Doctor Turka

Nearly 9.6 million US adults have gone abroad for dental care. Istanbul clinic Doctor Turka says its American patients want a new smile, not just a cheaper one.

doctor turka

Doctor Turka Dental Studio, Istanbul-Ataköy

ISTANBUL, TURKEY, October 27, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Nearly 9.6 million American adults have travelled abroad for dental care, according to a June 2026 report by the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, and most of them went because treatment costs less outside the US. The usual assumption is that they head south to Mexico. Istanbul dental clinic Doctor Turka says the Americans who contact it tell a different story.

The team behind the clinic has handled more than 50,000 patient conversations over ten years in health tourism. Based on that experience, it estimates that very few of its American patients mention Mexico at all. Most are not looking for the cheapest repair either. The treatment Americans ask about most is porcelain veneers and full smile makeovers, often called a Hollywood smile.

Insurance is the common thread

According to the Doctor Turka team, nearly every American patient says their dental insurance does not cover implants or cosmetic work, or that they have no dental insurance at all. Those who ask about full-mouth implants typically bring US quotes of around 30,000 to 50,000 dollars for both jaws.

"American patients usually arrive with a clear picture of the smile they want and a price they cannot justify at home," said the Doctor Turka team. "They are not shopping for a border town deal. They are comparing the planning, the materials and the result, and they want to see all of it in writing before they book a flight."

The same risks apply

The clinic warns that the risks seen in the UK's "Turkey teeth" stories apply to Americans too. Veneers should not mean filing healthy teeth down for crowns, and a smile that is too white or too bulky is the result of a poor plan, not of the country.

"A good veneer plan keeps as much natural tooth as possible and matches the shade to the face," the team added. "If a quote puts crowns on every healthy front tooth, ask why."

Before booking, Doctor Turka advises American and Canadian patients to get written answers on which teeth are treated and why, whether each tooth gets a veneer or a crown, which materials and implant brands are used, how many trips the treatment takes and how aftercare works once they are back home.

The clinic explains how it plans a Hollywood smile in Turkey and publishes its dental costs in Turkey on its website.

The figures attributed to Doctor Turka in this release are estimates by the clinic team based on its patient conversations; they are not the result of a formal survey.

About Doctor Turka

Doctor Turka is a dental clinic in Istanbul-Ataköy for international patients from the United States, Canada, the UK and Europe. It offers porcelain veneers, smile makeovers, dental implants and crowns. Every treatment is planned with a 3D scan and digital smile design, and patients receive a written plan with the price before they travel.

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