

# Ask the dentist

By Drs. Ronald & Todd Powell

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*Advertorial*

## Stop the Gagging

**Question:** I am going through extensive dental work and dread the impression part of the work for I have a hyperactive gag reflex. What are my alternatives?

~George from Crystal Lake

**Answer:** Dental impressions and Tom Cruise jumping up and down on Opera's couch announcing his love for Katie Homes is enough to make a cigar store Indian wretch up a donut or two.

To stop the gag reflex, squeeze the notch between your pinky and ring finger knuckles of your non-dominant hand while the impressions are being taken. Have your dentist use fast setting, flavored impression materials in custom trays that avoid the palate, if possible. Swallowing a topical anesthetic gel before the work can also help.

We will be attending a demonstration of i-Tero, a digital scanner that might replace all the goop us tooth doctors are famous for. This device "claims" to scan your prepared teeth into a computer and then mill a 3-D model of your teeth, ready for crown, bridge or veneer fabrication by the dental lab. Until we are sure the new method is workable, consider the suggestions we are currently using.



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