

# laser dentistry

Congratulations – your dentist has made a commitment to advanced dental care by performing less invasive and more precise procedures using laser treatments.

Lasers allow dentists to perform more accurate procedures, in less time, with less pain, and little to no anesthetic. The diode laser your dentist or hygienist uses seals off blood vessels and nerve endings, preventing bleeding and greatly reducing postoperative pain and swelling inside the mouth. The FDA has cleared the use of dental lasers in treating the conditions mentioned in this brochure.

## Are lasers safe?

The diode laser is a tool that has been used in dentistry for over 20 years.

Each year lasers are perfected with more sophisticated technology for more accurate procedures. Dental lasers are required to comply with international safety regulations.

## Will I be provided with eye protection?

As a precaution, your dentist or hygienist will provide you with the required safety glasses before any laser procedure. These glasses have been specially designed to protect your eyes for added peace of mind.

## How do dental lasers work?

Laser energy is a form of light that is highly focused and monochromatic, or one color. A monochromatic color allows laser light to be set at a certain wavelength to attract certain molecules.

In laser dentistry, these molecules are hemoglobin, water, and melanin - the molecules that make up your gum tissue.

Because the laser is only attracted to your gum tissue, it's a very safe tool to use. It will not affect hard tooth structure or any metal you may have in your mouth. It only affects the area of tissue your dentist wants to treat.

## Are dental lasers better than a scalpel or other traditional surgery tools?

A laser is more precise, causes less pain, and prevents bleeding better than traditional tools used on soft tissues. The highly focused laser light cauterizes nerve endings, coagulates blood vessels, sterilizes the surgical site, and increases the speed of healing. Instantly cauterizing nerve endings greatly reduces pain during the procedure and after.



# laser gum procedures

common procedures performed in laser dentistry



BEFORE



AFTER

## reshaping a gummy smile

Would you like a more attractive smile? Your dentist will gently and precisely shape the excess tissue that surrounds your teeth, exposing more of the tooth surface.

This procedure is often performed on the front teeth to optimize tooth proportions for aesthetically pleasing results. The procedure is quick and painless.



BEFORE



AFTER

## gum disease therapy

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research estimates that two out of three American adults currently have some form of gum disease.\* Evidence also suggests there is a cause and effect relationship between gum disease and an increased risk of heart attack, stroke or other heart-related issues.\*\*

Dental laser treatments are a safe and effective way to treat gum disease. Traditional methods involve painful, invasive surgery. A laser allows a non-surgical approach, killing bacteria and removing diseased tissue with little to no discomfort. Laser treatments allow better healing and regeneration of healthy tissues.

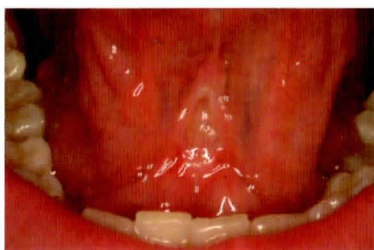
\*Third National Health & Nutrition Examination Survey (N HANES III) 1988 - 1994

\*\*Abstract Journal of Periodontology 2007, Vol. 78, No.2, Pages 322 - 327





BEFORE



AFTER

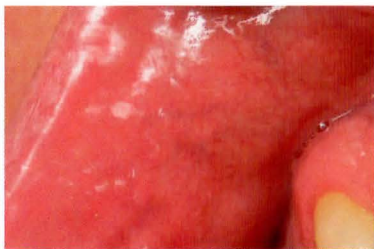
## easing tongue & cheek attachments

Do you or someone you know suffer from a tongue tie? With a laser, a dentist can perform a simple procedure to remove unwanted tissue attachments that can cause speech impediments or gum recession.

This laser procedure is gentle, bloodless, and pain-free in most cases.



BEFORE



AFTER

## cold sores and canker sores

Lasers are often used to treat cold sores before they have a chance to cause you discomfort. The next time you feel one developing, call your dentist and prevent the problem before it occurs.

Laser treatment can be used in the same way to treat canker sores. Within seconds, the sores are desensitized before they cause you any more pain.