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Something to SMILE About

THE WORLD OF MODERN DENTISTRY IS CHANG-ing rapidly. So fast in fact that treatment options today are dramatically more advanced than what was offered just a few years ago. Patient comfort and satisfaction have never been better!

What makes today's dental office state-of-the-art is utilizing the many capabilities of the dental laser, called the Waterlase. In a unique combination of laser energy and water, the Waterlase gently and precisely removes decay, allowing the dentist to keep your teeth healthier longer!

There are other benefits of using the Waterlase Laser (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation). You may have heard about dental lasers discussed in the media lately. It is now possible to have a comfortable dental visit with much reduced need for shots and drills. In addition to comfort, the laser makes teeth less likely to ever need crowns and/or root canals in the future. Unlike traditional drills that produce heat and vibration (the main causes of most pain associated with the drill), the laser does not cause: the buildup of heat or vibration, micro-cracking, and can actually decontaminate the tooth surface as the cavity is being removed.

There are other types of lasers that allow today's modern dentist the opportunity to provide exciting new services. Besides the Waterlase, some lasers are used to do gentle "gum lifts," (a re-contouring of the gum line) and perform other soft tissue (gums) procedures that previously



required a specialist's referral. Now they can be performed during your scheduled appointment. Are you worried about gum disease and have been told you need gum surgery? With the new laser-assisted therapy, surgery can be avoided in many cases. The procedure is minimal, patient friendly, and the results are very positive. Given the fact that gum disease has been scientifically proven to be directly related to an increase in heart disease and other ailments, it's a good idea to have healthy teeth AND gums!

Other lasers help to diagnose cavities, sometimes YEARS earlier than conventional methods. If you are like most of us, there have been times when you needed a rather large filling, even though the cavity wasn't detected at your last checkup six

months ago. Chances are, that although the cavity was too small to be visible on an x-ray, it was getting bigger and bigger every month.

Fortunately, there is a laser cavity detector that is proven to find cavities much earlier, before they get too big. The small cavities can then be gently removed with the Waterlase and a small invisible filling can be bonded in place with another type of laser. This laser is used in the bonding process, creating a very strong seal between filling and tooth.

Modern dentistry is providing patients and dentists alike with advanced dental laser treatment that makes going to the dentist more enjoyable, predictable, and comfortable. What lies ahead will be even better. Yes, the glass is now full!