



PATIENT INTRODUCTION TO LASER BACTERIAL REDUCTION

We are constantly learning and striving to advance the standard of patient care in our office. As such, we have recently added a new procedure to your professional teeth cleaning to help fight gum disease and infection.

Gum disease affects approximately 80% of adults and is a growing epidemic in our society. Understanding of this disease has increased greatly over the last few years. We now know that gum disease is a bacterial infection in the gums surrounding the teeth. We treat gum disease with the removal of mechanical irritants and diseased tissue (your normal cleanings) but now we can address the underlying infection that causes it!!! We recommend that all of our patients have their gums decontaminated with the diode laser during their cleaning appointments for three major reasons.

1. **To kill gum disease bacteria** and stop the infection before they cause physical destruction or loss of bony support around your teeth. Laser decontamination decreases the bacteria count from 1 billion to just one hundred!!!!
2. **To prevent cross contamination** of infections in one area of your mouth to other areas. Decontamination minimizes the chance that we may inadvertently pick up bacterial infection in one area of our mouth and move it to another.
3. **To reduce or eliminate bacteremia** during the professional teeth cleaning process most patients will have some areas that may bleed. This allows bacteria (pathogens) that are present in all of our mouths to flood into the blood stream. Latest research shows that these oral pathogens have now been linked to a number of other diseases such as cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, low birth weight babies, and diabetes. Needless to say, anything that we can do to reduce or eliminate bacteremia is positive for all our patients.

The laser decontamination process **is painless and normally takes about 5 minutes**. We highly recommend that you take advantage of this service as part of your teeth cleaning.

Laser decontamination, when combined with the cleaning, **is an additional \$25**. Unfortunately, this treatment is not covered by insurance plans. Insurance companies and the coverage they provide are lagging behind the leading edge of state-of-the-art health care.

Please ask your hygienist, or any of our educated team members, if you have any questions regarding this treatment.

_____ **Yes**, please add this to my regular cleaning. _____ **No**, please ask me at my next cleaning.

Signature

Date

Printed Name