

## ALDRICH DENTAL CARE

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“Laser Dentistry” is available for our Bradenton area patients for procedures involving tooth decay, gum disease, biopsy or lesion removal, bone surgeries and tissue surgery. Laser dentistry is a very precise tool for delivering care to all patients but it can allow care to be delivered to very compromised patients that with traditional dental instrumentation might not be possible. Laser dentistry allows Minimally Invasive Dentistry to be done. The laser takes the place of the drill, the scalpel and many procedures can be done without an anesthesia shot. The laser lessens or eliminates the pain and discomfort of many dental procedures. As a result, our patients experience comfortable, pleasing, and stress-free cosmetic and restorative dentistry.

“Laser Dentistry” Is a term that is used to describe a group of dental lasers used for a variety of dental procedures. In our practice we are offering treatment with two different lasers, the VersaWave™ and the DioDent MICRO 980™. Laser dentistry uses state-of-the-art dental technology to deliver energy through a highly concentrated beam of light. This light beam and the energy it generates are what take the place of the traditional dentistry tools. A soft-tissue laser like the MICRO 980™ can be used to recontour the tissue, make bloodless incisions, and perform periodontal tissue treatment. Laser dentistry helps with the removal of tooth decay and placement of fillings. VersaWave™ upgraded DELight™ [Erbium yttrium aluminum garnet (Er:YAG)] laser will with water and air remove tooth decay without heat or vibration. The VersaWave™ laser is virtually pain-free, so no anesthesia shot is required and no drill is used. With laser preparation and decay removal less of the tooth is removed than with traditional removal methods. Lasers can be used to remove tooth-colored fillings. When gums need to be reshaped, either because of disease or for cosmetic reasons, lasers are used to reshape the gums and remove and kill the bacteria causing the gum disease. Because of the healing properties and the less invasive nature of the lasers, there is less bleeding and swelling of the gum tissue than with traditional dental treatment methods. Lasers also have the unique ability to create an anesthetic effect on the tooth and stimulate the cells to speed healing. The VersaWave™ dental laser system has FDA approval for both hard-tissue and soft-tissue applications.



### When I Visit My Dentist, Will I be treated with the Laser?

Not necessarily; although the laser is a very useful dental instrument, it is not appropriate for every procedure. It is frequently used in conjunction with other instruments. Please ask Dr. Aldrich about the role of laser therapy in your dental treatment.

### *Dentistry is now DELightful!*

If you have tooth decay, you want to treat it as soon and as painlessly as possible. Dr. Aldrich has made a commitment to your dental health by offering the VersaWave™ dental laser. The VersaWave™ Dental Laser offers you the opportunity to have a safe, anxiety-free dental experience, without drills, and in most cases, without anesthesia.

### How does the laser work?

The VersaWave™ laser removes cavities and treats soft tissue problems with the energy of light. The specialized light produced by the VersaWave™ laser is selectively absorbed by the cavity or soft tissue. In the case of treating a cavity, the laser gently removes the decay, leaving more of the healthy tooth in tact.



## How is the laser different than the drill?

The drill is a very powerful tool, and the vibration, frictional heat of the rotating bur and large hole it produces causes discomfort. Anesthesia is almost always needed. The VersaWave™ laser is an alternative which offers the patient the latest in technological advances. The laser light works to destroy and remove the decay without the uncomfortable vibration and resulting discomfort. Rather than a drilling sound, you hear only a gentle tapping.

Because lasers use steady and concentrated light to remove unhealthy tooth structure, they have several advantages over the traditional dental drill. We then carefully move the laser over the damaged or decayed portion of your tooth. We use an air and water spray to cool the teeth we are treating. After preparation, teeth are usually restored with one of the new white dental cosmetic filling materials that can be bonded to the teeth. With the hard tissue laser, we can remove some kinds of old fillings, repair cavities, and prepare teeth for bonding. It allows us to remove the smallest amount of tooth structure and place strong, natural looking dental cosmetic restorations in the shortest amount of time. The laser creates a highly effective bonding surface on the tooth, studies have shown the strength to be nearly the same as enamel to dentin. The laser has a stimulated healing effect and thus decreases healing times.

## What Are the Advantages of Laser Treatment Over Other Forms of Surgery?

In most instances lasers remove gum tissue without causing bleeding. The laser seals blood vessels and nerve endings. There may be less pain and swelling postoperatively. Because lasers can control the amount of bleeding, the surgical area is kept relatively dry which improves the dentist's visibility. There is also less risk of spreading blood-borne diseases and less trauma to adjacent teeth and tissues. Lasers used for cavity preparation often reduce or completely eliminate the need for local anesthetic.

## Will I still need anesthesia?

Probably not! In clinical studies 96% of patients required no anesthesia when the VersaWave™ dental laser was used to remove decay. This means that you will not have to spend time waiting for numbing to take effect or to wear off. Additionally, multiple teeth in different parts of your mouth can be worked on in ONE visit. You may still choose to have anesthesia, while avoiding the sound and vibration of the drill. The aspect of laser surgery that most people appreciate is its comfort. While no treatment is always painless, the laser may reduce the need for postoperative pain medication and may reduce swelling and bleeding.

## Is the laser safe?

Absolutely, the treatment has proven to be appropriate and safe in over tens of thousands of applications throughout the world. The laser is ideal for both adults and children.

## What else can the laser treat?

The VersaWave™ laser is effective for soft tissue procedures on the gums, cheeks and tongue with less pain, less bleeding and faster healing times. The laser is also being used in a variety of endodontic procedures for example: Root Canals and Apicoectomy Endodontic Micro-Surgery. Laser dentistry is used to remove tissue for biopsy, and to remove mouth lesions and lessen the pain caused by canker sores.

The laser is used for many soft and hard tissue procedures. These include: the elimination of speech problems caused by a tongue-tie which prevents normal tongue movement; the uncovering of partially erupted wisdom teeth; the removal of lip pulls often seen in both young and adult orthodontic patients; and the gentle removal of swollen tissues caused by medications you must take to correct or control medical problems.

A laser may also be used to perform biopsy procedures for taking small tissue samples to identify apparently benign tumors or other lesions found in the mouth.

Lasers are utilized during crown lengthening procedures which involve removal or reshaping of excess gum tissues around crowns or veneers to provide adequate tooth shape for properly fitting restorations. Many other gum abnormalities can be addressed with laser treatment.

## How are Lasers Used to Treat Gum Disease?

There are a variety of lasers that can be used to treat periodontal disease.

- Lasers can be used to remove inflamed tissues within a periodontal pocket.
- Lasers can be used to trim away diseased gum tissue.
- Lasers can even remove muscle pulls and benign tumors.

- Lasers can be used to increase the length of a tooth above the gum line so that crowns can be properly placed.
- Laser treatments may be more comfortable than treatment with conventional instruments.
- Lasers reduce the need for pain medication and may reduce swelling and bleeding.
- The gum tissue may be removed without bleeding and swelling because the powerful light beam seals blood vessels and nerve endings.

Gum disease occurs when bacteria attack the supporting soft tissues and bone around your teeth. These bacteria cause a body reaction which is responsible for the breakdown of the fibers that connect the tooth to the bone and create a space that dentists and hygienists call a periodontal pocket. These pockets are difficult to keep clean and the result is infection leading to the loss of bone. The main cause of gum disease is poor oral hygiene. If left untreated, the supporting bone is destroyed and the teeth may eventually become loose and painful.

### What Can A Soft-Tissue Semiconductor Diode Laser Do?

#### DioDent MICRO 980™ Soft-Tissue Dental Laser

Indications for Use for the DioDent MICRO 980™ (Gallium Aluminum Arsenide semiconductor diode [AlGaAs]) Soft-Tissue Dental Laser Incision, excision, ablation, vaporization, and hemostatis of oral soft-tissue, including the following:

- Excisional and incisional biopsies
- Exposure of unerupted teeth
- Fibroma removal
- Frenectomy and frenotomy
- Gingival troughing for crown impressions
- Gingivectomy
- Gingivoplasty
- Implant recovery
- Incision and drainage of abscess
- Operculectomy
- Reduction of gingival hypertrophy
- Soft-tissue crown lengthening



### Is my Dentist Competent to use a Laser?

Dr. Aldrich is a member of the Academy of Laser Dentistry and has certification in Erbium laser (2005), Diode laser (2005) and Neodymium laser (1990) lasers wavelengths. Dr. Aldrich received training from The Academy of Laser Dentistry, The College of Clinical Laser Dentistry at the Nash Institute and from The Florida Dental Association.