

Laser Periodontal Therapy

Conquering and preventing gum disease (Periodontal disease) is easier now than ever before with the Periolas and Laser Periodontal therapy.

Woodstock General & Implant Dentistry now offers Laser Assisted New Attachment Procedure (LANAP). LANAP performed with the Periolas laser, is an alternative to traditional painful periodontal surgery. Neither scalpel and nor stitches are used.

Periodontal disease is a bacterial infection of your gums. Newly published research has cited a link between periodontal disease and heart disease, respiratory disease, and premature low birth-weight babies. The question is, with all that is available to prevent gum disease, "Why do approximately 80% of American adults have it?" The answer is that many people do not realize they have gum disease because it doesn't hurt in the early to moderate disease phases.

Traditional treatment involves using sharp instruments to scrape the tartar from the root surfaces (scaling and root planing), allowing the gum tissue to reattach to the roots. However, when the disease progresses to a point where scaling and root planing would not be effective, gum surgery is indicated. With traditional periodontal surgery, the gum tissue is cut with a scalpel and pushed aside. The roots and bone are cleared of deposits and smoothed. Then the gum tissue is replaced and stitches are used while the gum heals, often resulting in long exposed roots that are sensitive, unsightly, and vulnerable to decay.

We use a new procedure to treat gum disease without cutting your gums and using stitches. It is called Laser Assisted New Attachment Procedure or LANAP for short. LANAP can accomplish the healing of your diseased periodontal tissue by using the only FDA approved laser treatment protocol.

How LANAP with the Periolase works.

After your teeth and gums are totally numb a small laser fiber approximately the diameter of a paper clip is inserted into the space between your tooth and gums. The energy from this laser light kills the bacteria that are causing your gum disease and selectively removes just the diseased tissue, leaving behind the healthy gum tissue. Then an ultrasonic cleaning instrument is used to remove the tartar from the root and tooth surfaces, washing away the debris with a steady flow of medicated solution. Finally, the laser is again passed around the gum tissue to form a natural bandage around the necks of the teeth sealing them from re infection.

What to expect with Periolase Laser Periodontal Therapy

The procedure will take two visits, each lasting 1 ½ to two hours. These must be scheduled within three weeks of each other so that the bacteria on the untreated side will not have a chance to invade the tissue and bone already treated.

You'll also need a few short follow-up appointments to check your progress.

The day before the surgery, you will be given an antibiotic & Advil.

During the procedure we will numb your teeth and gums.

We will use the laser to painlessly open the area around your teeth to thoroughly clean off any tartar and infected tissue.

At the conclusion of your appointment, we will use the laser to sterilize the tissue, promote bone regeneration and begin the healing process. The doctor will have to adjust your bite if necessary.

We will give you specific post-operative instructions. Since recovery time is less than 24 hours in most cases, you can return to work the next day.

Most patients report only slight, if any, post-surgery discomfort.

Your home care is very important, and we will make specific recommendations for your particular situation. We cannot stress enough the importance of good daily oral hygiene habits.

We will also continue three-month maintenance appointments with our hygienist to help you treat this serious disease.

Sound simple? It is!

Periolase laser therapy is now available with less pain, quicker recovery, and less scarring. In addition, 98% of laser-treated patients do not have further disease progression after five years while it is estimated only 5% reportedly do not have further disease progression after traditional gum surgery.

Laser FAQ's

Q: I have heard of other dentists using lasers to treat periodontal (gum) disease. A laser is a laser right?

A: Lasers are powerful tools that when used properly in the hands of a highly trained doctor can produce some amazing results. All lasers are different and have different functions. It's important to know what laser can perform which procedures the best. The Periolase is a specific type of laser that targets the diseased tissue and bacteria that cause gum disease while leaving the healthy tissue intact. It is also the only laser with a FDA APPROVED patented procedure for treating periodontal (gum) disease backed by university based research proving the results. No other laser can make these claims. Would you want to get Lasik surgery on your eyes done with a laser without FDA approved clearance and university backed research showing it works and is safe?

Q: What is the patented procedure and why is it important?

A: The patented procedure is called LANAP (Laser Assisted New Attachment Protocol). When you have periodontal disease the attachment that holds your tooth to the bone is lost. LANAP can actually re-attach the tooth to the bone and gums where it has been lost. It is important to know because the periolase and LANAP is the ONLY laser and procedure that has been proven to accomplish this.

Q: Is there any specific training needed to operate a laser?

A: Most lasers have little to no required mandatory training needed before a dentist or hygienist begins to use them. The Periolase laser is different. It

requires many hours of mandatory hands-on training by a doctor before it is used in private practice. This makes the laser very safe and effective in the hands of an educated and skilled doctor.

Our Doctors have gone through extensive education, training, including hands – on supervised, and testing in the proper use of lasers. This training allows you the most comfortable and safest experience possible.

What questions should I ask my dentist if they recommend laser treatment?

You should ask:

- 1.) Is the recommended procedure approved by the FDA?
- 2.) Is the procedure backed by university based research showing results?
- 3.) How much training is mandatory before operating the laser?
- 5.) Will the doctor be performing the procedure or a hygienist?
- 6.) Is there research that shows new attachment from the procedure being recommended?