

Patient Information: Laser Periodontal Therapy™

Thank you for choosing Progressive Implantology & Periodontics for treatment of periodontal disease. Your comfort, the quality of your care and ensuring a predictable outcome are our foremost priorities.

Health risks. You have been diagnosed with periodontal disease, more commonly referred to as gum disease. Periodontal disease causes the breakdown of the bone and gum tissue surrounding your teeth. Failure to address this potentially serious condition can result in loose or lost teeth. Recent research links gum disease with heart disease, stroke, diabetes and pre-term labor.

An estimated 80% of American adults have some form of periodontal disease.

Treatment options. There are several ways to address periodontal disease, including deep scaling, antibiotic therapy and traditional periodontal surgery (gum amputation). Recent scientific advances have produced a new, minimally invasive, virtually bloodless, FDA-approved treatment approach—Laser Periodontal Therapy.

The procedure. Laser Periodontal Therapy is a relatively painless, patient-friendly procedure for treating periodontal disease. When you arrive for your appointment you'll be asked to complete a patient information form. Once comfortably seated in a treatment room, the doctor will explain the procedure in as much detail as necessary and conduct an examination of your gums, probing to ascertain the extent of the problem.

Once complete, the doctor will use small instruments to remove tartar buildup. Then, a small amount of light energy from the laser will be directed through a tiny fiber, which is gently placed between the gum and tooth to remove diseased tissue. With each surface treated, the laser seals the "pocket" to encourage healing.

Most patients experience little to no discomfort. For you, this means less pain, less bleeding, less swelling and less tissue removal compared to traditional gum surgery. In fact, you can expect to return to work the day after surgery.

Post-treatment. We may prescribe antibiotics to prevent the possibility of infection and Motrin (Ibuprofen) to control inflammation and swelling. You may begin taking the ibuprofen the day before your laser treatment appointment.

Follow-up care. Periodontal disease is a chronic infection. While Laser Periodontal Therapy is an excellent form of treatment, it is not a cure. There is no cure for periodontal disease. The goal of Laser Periodontal Therapy is to reverse some of the damaging effects of the disease and help you maintain a healthy mouth and preserve your teeth. Therefore, your home care is very important.

We will make certain recommendations regarding your home care. This will include a prescribed mouth rinse and electronic Sonicare® toothbrush. The importance of good daily hygiene habits cannot be stressed enough. In addition, you will require follow-up care from the dental hygienist every three months in order to maintain your oral health.

One of the contributing factors of periodontal disease is the trauma from tooth to tooth contact. It may be necessary for you to begin wearing a night guard following your treatment. We may also need to make minor adjustments to your teeth so that they all bite together with an even amount of force.

