

**Patient Introduction to Laser Bacterial Reduction**  
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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 routine cleaning care to help fight periodontal disease.

Periodontal 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 Periodontal Disease is a bacterial infection in the pockets around teeth. As such, we **now** not only treat Perio with removal of mechanical irritants and diseased tissue (your normal cleaning) but are also addressing the underlying infection that causes it. With that thought in mind we recommend that all of our patients have their teeth decontaminated prior to cleaning appointments for three major reasons.

1. **To reduce or eliminate bacteremias.** During the normal cleaning process most patients will have some areas that may bleed, this allows bacteria that are present in all of our mouths to flood into the bloodstream and sometimes settle in weakened areas of our body such as a damaged heart valve or artificial knee or hip etc. We pre-medicate those patients that we know have a heart condition or artificial joints with antibiotics so that these bacteria can't cause harm to these areas. 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, diabetes etc. Needless to say anything that we can do to reduce or eliminate these bacteremias is a positive for our patients.
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 your mouth and move it to others.
3. **To kill periodontal disease bacteria** and stop their infections before they cause physical destruction or loss of attachment around your teeth.

The laser decontamination process is painless and normally takes about 5-10 minutes. We **highly** recommend that you take advantage of this service as part of your routine cleaning.

Laser decontamination is \$10 and is NOT covered by insurance. Unfortunately insurance coverage is almost always behind the leading edge in high tech health care.

Please ask your hygienist if you have any questions regarding this treatment. Please sign below if it's ok for us to perform this service for you today.

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