

WATKIN DENTAL ASSOCIATES

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Explanation of Laser Procedures and Benefits to Patients

Here at Watkin Dental Associates, we are committed to bringing our patients the highest standard of care. We aim to stay abreast of the newest technology and procedures. Recently we have integrated lasers into our dental office. The laser is a versatile tool in the dental industry. As a replacement for the scalpel, the laser creates a more comfortable experience for the patients. It ensures a precise cut, minimal or no bleeding, and fewer stitches for dental procedures. Laser wavelengths set at specific power levels can also effectively destroy bacteria because of their photo-thermal effect on the cell wall. And unlike other dental methods, the laser also promotes healing.

Not only will our dentists be using the laser for procedures, but our hygienists will also ask you before your cleaning if you would like laser treatment. We have known for years that gum infections are caused by bacteria that attach to the tooth surface and imbed into your gums. Current treatment involves removal of plaque and calculus deposits on the teeth. Today with dental lasers we now can better treat gum disease by effectively killing bacteria beyond where our instruments can reach. We recommend laser bacterial reduction with your dental hygiene therapy appointments for the following benefits:

- Reduce or eliminate bacteria: Bacteria enters your blood stream during dental appointments. We know that bacteria contributes to systemic disease such as heart disease, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and different cancers. Laser bacterial reduction (LBR) prior to your appointment will kill bacteria that will otherwise be introduced into your system during the appointment.
- Keep tissues in the mouth healthy for longer periods in between cleanings. Laser treatment helps prevent the fast repopulation of bacteria following your hygiene appointment.
- Stimulation of healing – laser energy helps stimulate healing in your tissues during and after your hygiene appointment.

Laser bacterial reduction is painless and takes a few minutes at the beginning and end of your hygiene appointment. Unfortunately, insurance does not always keep up with the need of those they provide coverage for. **Our fee is \$30. And is typically not covered by insurance.**