

Soft Tissue Laser Procedure

Dr. ----- has recommended a soft tissue laser procedure. The laser uses light to gently remove excess or uneven gum tissue, or to expose an un-erupted tooth. This technology is common place in medicine but new to dentistry.

Dr. ----- has chosen to incorporate this advancement into his practice for several reasons. First and foremost there is very little to no discomfort either during the procedure or after. For the vast majority of patients only a topical anesthetic is necessary during the procedure and over the counter anti-inflammatory medications shortly after. Secondly, as the laser gently removes unwanted gum, it minimizes bleeding, which in turn promotes rapid healing. Finally, the actual procedure is short, usually only requiring approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Although the laser procedure done here in our office can dramatically improve your care while in braces and cosmetics after their removal, this does not eliminate the potential need to still visit a periodontist (gum specialist). Follow-up procedures to the laser outside our office can include but not be limited to cosmetic fine tuning of gum levels, re-development of healthy gum attachment, or removal of bone still interfering with un-erupted teeth.

Risks with this procedure are minimal but include some of the following:

- Loss of attached gingiva (gum tissue).
- Recession of the gum line around the tooth or in between.
- Nerve damage around the 2<sup>nd</sup> molars.
- Tooth damage requiring a root canal and crown or tooth loss.
- Asymmetry of adjacent gum lines upon healing.

Please acknowledge your understanding of the above and the answering of all your questions by Dr. ----- by signing below. Thanks!

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Responsible Party Signature Date

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