

Odyssey Diode Laser Treatment

Lasers have been in medicine since the 1960s and have seeped into most medical fields since then. Introduced to dentistry in 1989, they are used to treat an array of conditions with virtually no pain and extraordinary precision, Laser dentistry now takes treatment of gingival conditions such as periodontal disease and cosmetic gum contouring to a new level of advancement.

The type of laser the practice has invested in is called an Odyssey Diode Laser. This laser generates a single stream of electromagnetic energy to bare glass fibers, known as a fiber-optic system. This fiber-optic system then delivers the energy directly to the targeted hard/soft tissue site. Depending on the intended procedure, the laser can be used for direct or indirect contact with the specified tissue. The lasers precise access to the site creates a clean path for dentists that would otherwise be difficult to access, all while minimizing bleeding, swelling, and post-operative discomfort.

Laser dentistry can serve many purposes from cosmetic needs to severe periodontal disease. It is estimated that 200 million Americans have periodontal disease, the major cause of tooth loss in adults. Periodontal disease starts off innocently as neglected bacterial plaque between and around the teeth, an opaque film which eventually hardens, forming tartar or calculus on the teeth. In early stages, this is called gingivitis and is characterized by red, swollen gums that bleed when you brush your teeth. Many people also experience bad breath and an unpleasant taste in their mouths. Unchecked, gingivitis progresses to periodontitis, a much more serious form of the disease where pockets are formed, separating teeth from the gums and supporting bone structure.

Without treatment, infection becomes severe and pockets deepen, resulting in bone and tooth loss. Dr. Yankie and her hygienists are certified to operate the Odyssey Diode Laser safely and effectively. When used during hygiene appointments, the laser naturally seeks out the diseased tissue and not only eliminates bad bacteria but also stimulates the sick tissue to heal itself. It helps to break up the tartar, quickly eliminating the infection and the pockets of gum and bone disease, providing a patient friendly, minimally invasive procedure that's a great improvement over traditional treatment!

Our eyes are sensitive to laser, so we will ask our patient to wear glasses for the laser procedure, which we will provide.

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