

Increased growth rate forecast for

## Global dental lasers market

The global dental lasers market is projected to register a staggering compound annual growth rate (CAGR) throughout the forecast period 2017 to 2022. Global revenues from the market are anticipated to exceed US\$600 Mn by the of the forecast period. Increasing disposable income of people across economies including Germany, France, the US, the UK, Italy, and Spain, has driven adoption of expensive procedures of cosmetic dentistry, such as dental lasers. This factor is expected to fuel demand for new innovative technologies as well as products associated with dental lasers.

Dental Clinics are estimated to remain the largest end-users of dental lasers in the global market. Factors such as the rise in use of handheld, portable, and handpiece lasers equipped with hybrid functions, and rapid adoption of advanced technologies are expected to favour demand for dental lasers in dental clinics.

North America is poised to remain the most lucrative market for dental lasers, with sales projected to exhibit a double-digit CAGR over the forecast period. The incidences of dental problems, along with the growing geriatric population have surged significantly in the region. More-

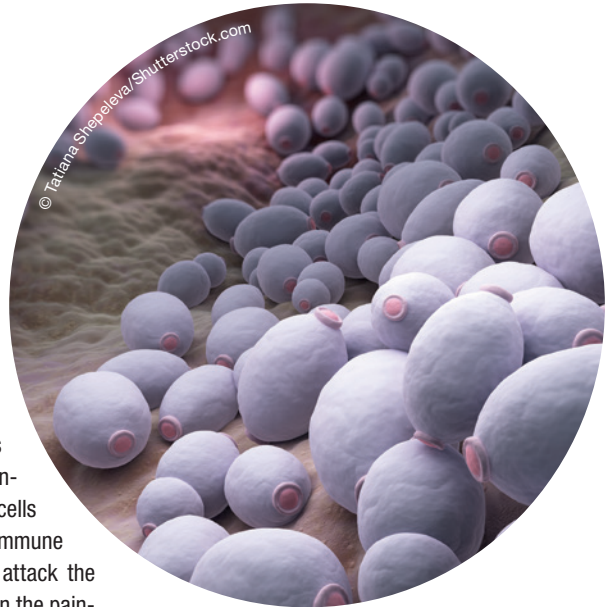
over, adoption of lasers has been rising tremendously for dental surgeries, providing patients with lesser chair time, quicker healing, and minimal pain.

Mechanism behind

## Oral candidiasis discovered

A recently discovered peptide toxin has been identified by a team of UK and US researchers as the cause of the development of oral candidiasis, also known as oral thrush. The substance, called "Candidalysin", which is produced by the *Candida albicans* fungus, was found to punch a hole into cells lining the mouth, thus triggering the immune response. Helper immune cells then attack the otherwise harmless fungus, resulting in the painful infection.

In their study, the researchers used a combination of human oral epithelial cells cultured in laboratory dishes and mice infected orally with *Candida*, to show the central importance of Candidalysin. Discovered in 2016 by Prof. Julian Naglik of King's College London in the UK, the toxin is the first peptide toxin identified in any fungus that was



found to infect humans. Understanding its role in the infection mechanism in the mouth could eventually lead to better treatments for the condition and other fungal infections, the scientists said. They added that, despite millions of fungal infections worldwide, there are no commercially available anti-fungal vaccines.

Using near-infrared light to

## Identify high-risk arterial plaques

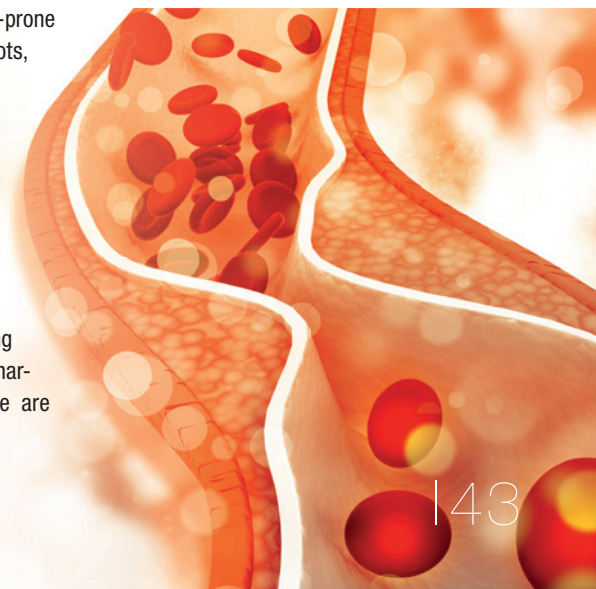
Patients at risk of heart attacks and strokes may be spotted earlier thanks to a diagnosis tool that uses near-infrared light to identify high-risk arterial plaques, according to research carried out at WMG, University of Warwick, the Baker Institute and Monash University. The scientists observed that when they increased the wavelength of the light currently used to visualise the fatty build-up found in arteries (atherosclerotic plaques) they could selectively identify the rupture-prone deposits, which commonly lead to blood clots, heart attacks and strokes.

While some fatty deposits or plaques can remain stable for years, other high-risk cases develop complications, such as bleeding into the plaque, which leads to the formation of cracks and rupture of the fatty plaque. This can result in blockages in the blood vessels causing a heart attack or stroke. Current imaging techniques are able to identify some characteristics of high-risk plaques but none are

generally accepted as reliable methods for selectively detecting the dangerous plaques.

After further investigation with clinical trials this method of imaging technique with laser light could be used to assess unstable fatty arterial plaques and could be used to monitor the effectiveness of the drugs used to prevent heart attacks or strokes.

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