

'Myth busting' laser dentistry

Lasers are fairly new in mainstream dentistry. Their benefits are still not known to many dentists and patients, and several myths about lasers still exist. Therefore, we would like to do a little bit of 'myth busting'.

Lasers cut slower than high-speed burs

This can be true for laser systems that deliver the laser through an optical fibre. In order to protect the expensive fibre, laser energy must be kept low. In order to circumvent this, Fotona's Fidelis dental laser systems utilise an articulated arm and advanced VSP Technology that allow the laser to deliver much more energy for efficient laser drilling. These lasers cut at comparable and even higher speeds than conventional high-speed burs.¹ A recent study has demonstrated that Fotona's hard-tissue Er:YAG laser cuts 3 times faster through dentine and 4.2 times faster through enamel than an Er,Cr:YSGG laser delivered through an optical fibre (Waterlase MD, Biolase).²

Lasers are 100 % painless

Ninety per cent of patients feel no discomfort at all during Er:YAG laser treatments.³ Fotona's Fidelis lasers are thus predominantly used without anaesthesia. Some procedures and certain patients require local anaesthesia and usually a topical anaesthetic suffices for some soft-tissue procedures, while larger hard-tissue procedures may require a local injection. Nevertheless, patient comfort is dramatically improved—no needles, no noise, no vibration, no numbness. In cases in which no anaesthesia is used, patients can receive treatments in all

four quadrants during the same appointment.

Lasers are a bad investment

Lasers are not inexpensive, but so is every investment in your future. Once you understand the benefits of lasers, the return on investment is obvious. With less need for anaesthesia, more treatments in multiple quadrants during shorter visits can be performed, increasing per-visit productivity. Dual laser systems, such as AT Fidelis, allow you to treat more conditions efficiently and less invasively, even those you were previously not able to treat. Combined with more patient referrals and added exposure by setting your practice apart from others, it is evident that lasers are indispensable to a modern practice.



Editorial note: A complete list of references is available from the publisher.

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