

POST TREATMENT EXPECTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH LASER SURGERY

The diode laser uses radiant energy to heal periodontal disease. The laser works two ways: 1) It removes diseased tissue and 2) It decontaminates the periodontal pocket by killing the bacteria remaining there. Laser therapy is used in this office after scaling and root planning.

Expect the treated area to be sore and tender for 4-7 days. Take pain medications like Advil or Tylenol every 3-4 hours for discomfort, which is normal, and to be expected. If the treated area involves the tissue around the last tooth on the upper or lower then you may experience a “sore throat” type of discomfort 1 or 2 days after treatment. **NO SMOKING FOR SIX (6) HOURS AFTER TREATMENT.**

The treated area will bleed and be tender when you clean it. This is normal and should subside in 7-14 days. If the area is extremely sore during cleaning, you may rinse with Chloraseptic prior to your cleaning routine. If you have questions about your plaque control recommendations, do not hesitate to ask so your instructions are clear to you. The successful outcome of laser treatment is dependent upon home care plaque control that you provide on a daily basis.

It is normal to experience hot, cold, or sweet sensitivity immediately after treatment. Commonly after surgery the tissue shrinks and the root surface is exposed. This can be treated with fluoride or desensitizing toothpaste. If sensitivity persists, please call for an appointment for evaluation. You may also be prescribed fluoride to prevent decay on the root surfaces.

You may notice for the first 3-4 days that the treated area will be sensitive to hot, spicy, acidic and sharp foods. This does not imply that you may not have them, just be careful.

If you have been prescribed antimicrobial mouth rinse and or antibiotics be sure to continue the therapy as directed. As usual, if you have any questions about any of your treatment, do not hesitate to direct your concerns to us as soon as possible.