



SEE YOUR DENTIST

New Device Brings Pain-Free Fillings TM

(NAPSA)—Filling a need for dental patients who want to avoid the dreaded shot of novocaine before drillings is a new dental tool that lets them eat and talk normally right after their dental appointment.

The new tool, called the WaterlaseTM, harnesses the power of water allowing dentists to tackle any procedure that requires drilling. Unlike earlier versions of laser devices that worked only on soft tissue, Waterlase works on both hard and soft tissue. With its HydroKinetic[®] technology, the dental lasers can perform a variety of dental procedures, including cavity preparation, caries removal and tooth etching. Because it does not cause heat or vibration in the mouth, the Waterlase eases the pain and anxiety of patients who fear the vibration and high-pitched whine of traditional tools. In contrast, the new device makes a gentle “tapping” noise.

A spokesman for BIOLASE TECHNOLOGY, the company that manufactures the device, reports the product was first introduced to the marketplace in 2000 and is already being used by 1,150 offices across the U.S. However, it is still new in many communities.

Dr. Dan McEowen, a dentist with 19 years of experience, is always looking for new tools that will let him work smoothly and keep his patients at Hillandale Dental Partners comfortable. This new tool helps him to serve

more patients in less time. While the new device is expensive—\$50,000—he’s not charging more for the work he does, yet he’s making patients happier about being in the dentist’s chair.

“Recently, I finished seven fillings, including removing some gum tissue, on a 65-year-old patient using no anesthesia,” says Dr. McEowen. “She didn’t have any discomfort, and she walked away amazed!” Dr. McEowen points out another major benefit of the new laser: patients can eat and talk after dental work without drooling. Drooling is often a side effect of the numbness experienced from traditional anesthesia. The Waterlase is also good news for children’s dental care, he adds. “It eliminates the pain and noise often associated with cavity filling—so we can anticipate a new generation of patients who have no fear of the dentist,” he says.

According to Leslie Charleton, practice administrator at Hillandale Dental, only a few other local dental offices are using the Waterlase. Yet more area practices may want to adopt the new device as Dr. McEowen shares his experience with fellow practitioners in Prizm Dental Partners—a multi-speciality partnership representing some 45 future-thinking dentists in Washington, Maryland and Virginia.

More information about the Waterlase is available at www.prizmdentalpartners.com.