



LEWIS I. ELSON, D.D.S., P.C.
Cosmetic, Implant and Restorative Dentistry

Fall 2006

NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to send you our annual Fall/Winter Newsletter to update you on the new and exciting changes in our office.

I am most pleased to send you this reprint from the September 2006 issue of Long Island's Elements magazine, regarding the uses of lasers in my office. As stated in my previous newsletters, my office always strives to be at the forefront of that which is the most advanced in dental technology. Being interviewed and recognized by the magazine is most rewarding. I hope you enjoy the article.

The "Waterlase Laser" replaces the standard dental drill for many treatments and best of all it is usually done without a "shot". It is also used for advanced techniques in cosmetic dentistry. It is truly an amazing innovation. Supplementing this laser, we also have the Diagnodent Laser, which is highly effective in the diagnosis of cavities as well as the Argon Laser that is used for cosmetic bleaching and bonding. The laser bleaching process achieves whiter teeth in one dental visit.

As stated last year, communication between the dentist and the patient is readily available because of internet access. Our website provides the latest information on all the different uses of lasers as well as cosmetic and implant dentistry. Please visit my website at DrElson.com and kindly leave your email address for further communication.

Now that the year is coming to a close, I remind all of my patients who are due for their regular exam, those who are overdue and patients considering cosmetic changes to please call the office to schedule an appointment...little problems become big problems.

For those of you who have dental insurance, please make sure to maximize your benefits for the year 2006.

We would like to thank you for your referrals to our office. Please share all of our great changes with your family and friends.

As the holiday season approaches, we want to wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LE' with a flourish.

Dr. Lewis I. Elson and Staff

elements

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF FINE LIVING

WELLNESS

WHO'S LOOKING AFTER YOUR SMILE?

DENTAL TREATMENTS ON THE CUTTING EDGE

STACY H. KAYE

Describe your dentist. Do the words "cutting edge" or "laser technology" come to your mind? If the answer is no, then perhaps you need to reevaluate who's looking after your smile.

Laser dentistry, practiced by a small but growing number of dentists on Long Island, is changing the way patients view trips to the dentist.

"Smile makeovers and dental care are advancing all the time," says Dr. Lewis I. Elson, who practices in Great Neck. "Patients should expect their doctors to be using the techniques that work the best and cause the least harm." One of the instruments Dr. Elson uses is called The Waterlase®. By utilizing laser energy and water, this instrument enables the dentist to cut through both hard and soft tissue, most often without the need for other anesthesia like Novocain or nitrous oxide.

The laser, Elson points out, is extremely precise and operates without vibration, thus causing less trauma to the patient. The laser also allows the dentist first to numb the area and then to remove the decayed tooth by

generating a strong ray of light. This allows the dentist to work on much smaller areas of the tooth or gum without disrupting the surrounding healthy area. Elson says less trauma and the lack of cutting mean both less downtime and less pain for patients.

Another advantage of laser dentistry is that teeth exposed to the laser become sterilized, preventing bacteria from being trapped under the new filling and from entering the blood stream.

But perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the new technology is its lack of friction, noise and bleeding compared with the conventional drill. It's speculated that the vibration caused by drilling can cause small cracks in the tooth. This means that while one problem is being solved, another may be developing.

LASER DENTISTRY, PRACTICED BY A SMALL BUT GROWING NUMBER OF DENTISTS ON LONG ISLAND, IS CHANGING THE WAY PATIENTS VIEW TRIPS TO THE DENTIST.

"Everything we do is to make the experience better for the patient" says Dr. Richard Richman, DDS, who also practices laser dentistry in Rockville Center.

Dr. Richman points out that whether he's reshaping a gum line, whitening teeth or filling a cavity, all these procedures are made easier for the patient by new technologies.

"I like to say the information [about my practice] is passed from one smile to another," says Richman. "We cannot promise that every case can be treated with the laser, but I'd say most of them can."

Like Elson, Richman uses other state-of-the-art equipment to show his patients where the potential problem areas are in their mouths and what can be done to fix them. The use of an intraoral camera provides patients with a view of their teeth and gums from a television monitor mounted on the wall. These detailed pictures allow the dentist to explain procedures before they take place, highlighting the problem area in great detail.

Both dentists credit the use of this technology to relieving the stress often associated with going to the dentist. "Patients want to see and know what's going on [in their mouths]," says Richman.

X-rays are also changing. Digital radiography and Panorex (or panoramic) x-rays are some of the latest machines that produce instant x-rays with 90 percent less exposure to radiation. "It's about promoting a better environment for the patient, so they'll want to come in and take care of their teeth," says Elson.

Dentists say the cost associated with these new procedures is similar to the conventional methods. And while the instruments are more expensive to purchase for the dentist, the procedure often takes less time with the new equipment. -

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