

## **Laser Perio Consent Form:**

### RISKS OF LASER PERIO THERAPY

- A) All periodontal surgeries can result in gum recession.
- B) Gum recession is particularly problematic in the smile zone
- C) Gum recession is unattractive and exposes more of the tooth roots as the gums shrink
- D) Gum recession causes pain and cold sensitivity due to exposed root surfaces.
- E) Surgery in the gums can lead to infection that may require antibiotics or further surgery
- F) Pain and discomfort is normal after any periodontal surgery.
- G) Bleeding is normal after periodontal surgery.
- H) You will be prescribed medicines such as antibiotic pills and pain killers that can cause allergic reactions and nausea.
- I) There is some slight risk of irritation or injury to facial nerves that provide sensation to the lips and chin.
- J) Dental anesthesia requires needles and injections that cause stress and pain, if you have an underlying heart, cardiovascular condition or other disease then the stress of dental anesthesia can cause many adverse reactions including but not limited to epinephrine reaction with palpitations and loss of consciousness, heart attack, stroke, aneurysm, death, etc. You must be willing to assume these risks if you undergo dental anesthesia. Please consult with your physician if you are unsure about this decision.

### DESIRED BENEFITS OF LASER PERIO THERAPY:

LASER PERIO THERAPY is designed to eliminate or substantially reduce periodontal pockets that are diseased and contributing to further periodontal disease progression.

- A) Improved visualization of the laser detached gum pocket soft tissue linings to aid scaling and root planing for removal of tartar (calculus).
- B) Re-attachment of the laser treated gum tissues to the roots by promoting growth of new bone and/or root surfaces. Laser Perio treatments are generally less painful than flap surgical procedures.

### ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES:

Alternatives of laser perio surgery have been explained to me.

#### A) Non-surgical root planing

After local anesthetic injections of my gums, root surfaces are scaled and deep cleaned (planed) to the bottom of any gum pockets by hand or ultrasonic instruments to remove bacterial plaque on teeth and root tartar (calculus) deposits.

#### B) Periodontal flap surgery

After local anesthesia injections, flap surgery involves surgically incising my gum tissues. After the gums are flapped and surgically lifted away from my teeth, underlying diseased gum tissue is curetted out, roots planed, diseased bone trimmed and/or grafted. Finally the flap of gum tissue is closed with sutures.

#### C) Complications

Periodontal surgery treatment risks include post-operative bleeding, infection, swelling, sinusitis and in surgeries close to facial nerves on rare occasions numbness and/or pain of the lip, chin and gums.

### III. Laser Perio Therapy KNOWN COMPLICATIONS

Laser Perio Therapy post-surgical complications, if any, are usually milder, less severe and not as long lasting as conventional periodontal flap surgery complications.

#### IV. NO GUARANTEE

Laser Periodontal Therapy, as with all periodontal procedures, may not be entirely successful in gum pocket reduction or new attachment. Success is not guaranteed.

V. We recommend second opinion from a local periodontal specialist (Dr. Fields in Reston VA).

#### V. NON-TREATMENT RISKS

Doing nothing can worsen my periodontal disease including increased gum pocket depth which predisposes to early (premature) teeth loss, infections, and abscesses. Lost teeth require replacement with costly implants, crowns, bridges, or partial/complete dentures

#### Legal Fees:

The dental company is entitled to claim legal fees and lost wages incurred for any situation where legal action against the dental company is initiated and ultimately unsuccessful.