

### **INTRODUCTION TO ENDOLASE RFT ROOT CANAL THERAPY SYSTEM**

After much research, we are pleased to announce a new addition to our arsenal of technologies and equipment: The Waterlase MD by Biolase. **The Waterlase MD system has numerous applications for cutting, removing, shaping and contouring hard and soft tissues including access preparation, cleaning and enlargement procedures related to endodontic therapy.** Recently, these clinical indications have been expanded to include **root canal disinfection after endodontic instrumentation.**

A research team from BIOLASE and Temple University, led by Dr. Roy Stevens, Professor and Chairman, Department of Endodontology, at Temple's Kornberg School of Dentistry, demonstrated that **laser light is capable of significantly reducing the level of infection by up to 99.7 percent in root canals and adjacent infected dentin.**

"The effectiveness of this treatment lends itself to improving the way that we perform root canal therapy," Dr. Stevens said, adding that the results of the team's research were of "great significance" for several reasons. "First, these **bacteria are known to be highly resistant to other disinfection** currently used in root canal therapy," Dr. Stevens said. "Second, the research demonstrates that the disinfection capability of the laser is effective at a distance into the dentin surrounding the canal, **overcoming some accessibility problems for conventional treatment methods.** Third, a **high level of disinfection can be achieved in minutes**, saving both the patient and dentist considerable time during endodontic treatment."

The finely-designed endoTips, which are approximately two-to-three times the width of a human hair and very flexible, are shaped so the laser energy is emitted in a radial pattern, **allowing the dentist to disinfect the root cavity while protecting and preserving tooth structure.** A key element of the laser therapy is that the disinfection procedure can be done quickly, in two to three minutes, compared to the 20-30 minutes required in traditional chemical treatments using sodium hypochlorite (bleach) that have been performed since the 1920s.

If you are interested in forming a study club for laser applications in dentistry please contact us.  
(985) 626-0111 or  
endocenter@gmail.com

Along with the time savings, **peer-reviewed clinical study data has demonstrated that the laser system eliminates bacteria better than the chemical methods**, thereby further minimizing the chance of a root canal failure. Using conventional methods, 4-6 percent of root canals fail, a relatively high rate for a dental procedure, causing patients to go through retreatment. In some cases, the tooth cannot be saved and time consuming and expensive restorations such as dental implants are required.

"Dental patients around the world can now be comfortably assured that there have been substantial improvements made in the root canal procedure in terms of safety and efficiency," St. Philip added. "For Biolase, this product launch provides a tremendous advantage over any of our competitors and again demonstrates that **laser dentistry is at the forefront of the advancements in the dental industry.**"

In our practice, patients have been very receptive to the concept of "Laser Endodontics" and several have known about this technology from their own research about root canal procedures. Although we have been using this system for a short time, we anticipate that this technology will revolutionize endodontic procedures in our practice and beyond.

## ICOI/IPS SPRING SYMPOSIUM IN NEW ORLEANS APRIL 22-24

Our **entire team will be attending the ICOI/IPS Symposium**. The International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) was founded in 1972. Devoted to providing implant education to the entire dental team to better serve its patients, the ICOI is not only the world's largest dental implant organization, but it is also the **world's largest provider of continuing dental implant education**.

The ADIA is a component society of the ICOI. The mission of the ADIA is to develop educational criteria and training for certification through cutting-edge, high quality programs that are affordable and interesting to all team members. As the number of implant practices in the world grows and develops, there is a need for doctors and auxiliaries to do the same. A **goal of ADIA is to introduce implants into dental practices and increase knowledge related to implants to all members of the "team"**. This approach leads to increased office production and less stress in the workplace. It also **serves to expand the scope of services and information provided to patients**.

Our clinical team members will be participating in the **Dental Assisting Implant Certification Program**, while our administrative team members are participating in the **Practice Management Implant Certification Program**. The ADIA also offers implant certification programs for hygienists, implant coordinators and advanced techniques and training programs for doctors. These comprehensive full day programs provide a wealth of knowledge specifically related to implant dentistry. **Team "cross-training" learned in these programs enhances practices and teams** around the world.

If you are interested in learning more about ICOI, visit [www.ICOI.org](http://www.ICOI.org).

### ENHANCED SEDATION SERVICES FOR YOUR PATIENTS

Our **practice has been fortunate for many years to be able to offer IV sedation** by partnering with Dr. Russell Westfall. Because of a change in malpractice policies, Dr. Westfall was forced to discontinue providing this service. Initially, we were concerned that we would not be able to accommodate those patients who really need that level of sedation in order to endure treatment. However, we are very pleased that IV sedation continues to be available thanks to the **addition of a Steve Zorilla, CRNA, to our practice**.

Steve has many years of experience in his field, and has been a long-time employee of St. Tammany Parish Hospital. We were referred to Steve by a patient of ours, who is also a CRNA, and knew that Steve has provided his services to oral surgeons in our area. Steve's expertise in his field is profound, as is his dedication to patient safety.

Because of the **scarcity of endodontists who offer IV sedation services**, we feel that this service is crucial to enable patients to receive necessary endodontic and implant services that they may not have been able to endure otherwise. Aside from patients with high dental phobia, young children and patients with medical problems, such as epilepsy and Parkinson's, **are able to receive care in an office setting**, rather than in the hospital – the only other alternative.

Patients really appreciate our ability to work around issues that have at times prevented them from receiving necessary dental treatment. Our **follow-up calls to these patients definitely reinforce the value in this service**. Thanks to our CRNA, we look forward to continuing to provide IV sedation for those in need.

**The Easter season is a great time to reflect on the blessings we receive. We appreciate being members of a skilled dental community and thank you for giving us the opportunity to share in the care of your patients. We look forward to continuing to work together in the future.**

*Catherine*