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### Lasers: A revolutionary change in periodontics

Lasers are one of the most captivating technologies in dental practice since Theodore Maiman in 1960 invented the ruby laser. While considerable progress has been made in the area of mechanical cutting, dental patients are still afraid of the noise and vibration produced by the mechanical action of the air turbine or ultrasonic scaler's. From the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until now, there has been a continuous upsurge in the development of laser-based dental devices based on photomechanical interactions. The pathogenesis of periodontal disease and the methods of treating it have undergone radical changes in the past 30 years. The current model for periodontal disease includes microbial components, host inflammatory responses and host risk factors that contribute to the advancement of this disease. Soft tissue lasers are a good choice for bacterial reduction and coagulation in the treatment sequence and are an excellent choice to be used in a periodontal involved sulcus that has dark inflamed tissue and pigmented bacteria. Evidence suggests its use in initial periodontal therapy, periodontal surgery, dentinal hypersensitivity, perio-esthetic surgeries and more recently it's utility in salvaging implant which opens up a wide range of applications. Thus laser systems applying the ablation effect of light energy which is completely different from conventional mechanical debridement, may emerge as a new technical modality for periodontal therapy in the near future. This presentation aims at exploring the basics of laser physics and its wide applications in dentistry and periodontology.

### Biography

Mallika Sethi is working as an Associate Professor in Periodontology. She has completed her Mastership and Diploma in Lasers by Society for Oral Laser Applications, University of Vienna. She has also completed Comprehensive Implantology Program (ICOI), University of Murcia, Spain. She has also been an External Examiner in Periodontology. She has been awarded with the prestigious Fellowship of Academy of Oral Implantology. She has been conferred consecutively with the award of excellence committed to dental excellence, India. Her international poster at 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Malaysian Society of Periodontology, Kuala Lumpur, was one amongst the four posters selected from India.

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