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## Gateway to the future laser dentistry: Facts and applications

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Laser technology has been successfully incorporated in many fields of modern dentistry during the last decade. As a new tool in dental practice, laser technology has positively expanded the scope of attractive, painless dental procedures and effectively found its way into the mainstream of dentistry. Yet, its clinical performance and procedural limitation represent one of the most controversial topics of recent dental literatures and conferences discussions. This presentation will review the scientific concept of photo-ablation theory and its application in dental field. Moreover, it will discuss the laser tools and delivery modes as well as the safety measures required for using this technology in different dental setups. This presentation will also review the use of laser in the various disciplines of dentistry and discuss which specific lasers should be used for each of those disciplines. Finally, the presentation will review criteria that will help dentists to select the right laser for their practice. This presentation will achieve the following objectives: General overview of the basic concept of laser application in modern dentistry; demonstrate the biological rationale for the use of laser in dentistry; identify the types of laser-tissue interaction; differentiate available laser wavelengths used in dentistry and identify the specification of each wavelength; and identify the most important laser applications in dental practice including the recommended techniques, advantages, disadvantages and limitations.

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## Oral health provides a path to improved healthcare and reduced cost

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Many aspects of primary care are failing, which has increased the burden on chronic care. Primary care could mitigate these failures by capturing pertinent information about how consumers manage their oral health over time. The behaviors, habits and lifestyle choices that impact oral health are also risk factors for common chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiac problems and obesity. This oral health information could be used by primary care as an early alert signal of issues with long-term health and quality of life. As a consumer behaviors, habits and lifestyle choices are very significant to their health journey, a logical first step is to enable consumers to become competent health managers. This web solution will also bring the patient's oral profile to their primary care provider and demonstrate oral health measures to payers. These benefits will establish benefit of oral health to systemic health and beyond. These insights indicate that a patient's oral health profile could significantly benefit primary and chronic care management. I call this oral health profile, comprised of the patient's information confirmed by the outcomes of their dental examination, Smart Data. Smart data can provide benefits to improve population health and reduce disparities and inequities for consumers and improve collaboration across healthcare.

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