

## Improvements in Dentistry

The latest in dental laser technology now makes possible the detection of cavities so small the human eye cannot see them. The Diagnodent uses a small laser to measure laser fluorescence within tooth structure. A healthy tooth exhibits little or no fluorescence while a tooth with decay exhibits fluorescence proportional to the degree of caries. A pen like probe simply glides over tooth surfaces constantly checking the health of the tooth. A number scale and an alarm signal the operator when there are signs of hidden decay. This new technology is completely safe and pain free.

While X-rays can be invaluable in helping us diagnose decay, their use in detecting beginning decay on the chewing surface is limited. The Diagnodent helps prevent the spread of decay. Measurements from Diagnodent, together with conventional diagnostic tools and valuable professional judgment, help determine whether to monitor suspect areas over time and treat them with preventive therapy such as fluoride and sealants, or to restore them with minimally invasive techniques such as drill-free air abrasion, (microdentistry), which preserve more of the tooth.

This revolutionary new machine allows more accurate diagnosis while virtually eliminating any discomfort during the exam, saves the patient both time and money and promotes optimum oral health. Written by J R Edwards and Dr. Chris Edwards, Smile Design Center, Viera.

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