

Information regarding your LANAP procedure

Congratulations on your decision to invest in good health! Untreated periodontal disease contributes to tooth loss by destroying the gums and bone around it. Additionally, periodontal disease contributes to diabetes complications, stroke, heart disease, pre-term low birth weight babies, Alzheimer's Disease risk, respiratory disease and much more. Treating your active periodontal infection gives you the best chance at saving your teeth and insures fewer medical complications. The mouth and the body are closely related!

Laser Assisted New Attachment Procedure (LANAP) is an exciting and innovative way to treat active gum disease. The use of laser energy allows your Ueno Center Specialist to remove infection, eliminate inflammation, gain reattachment of gums to teeth, and in many cases, achieve bone regeneration. This method is less invasive than traditional open surgery techniques, which means a quicker recovery time and less post-operative pain!

In order to ensure the best outcome after a LANAP procedure, it is very important to keep on a strict maintenance/cleaning schedule. Doing so allows our Oral Wellness Team to monitor your gum health and address areas of breakdown as soon as possible. Like many medical conditions, periodontal disease is not completely eliminated but must be well managed. Research has shown that the best long-term clinical outcomes of active periodontal therapy come with frequent maintenance. Once your active LANAP therapy has been completed, you will require a three-month cleaning schedule, which may be alternating cleanings/recalls between our office and your general dentist. This schedule offers the strongest possibility for long-term oral and systemic health.

Because maintenance is so important, most of our patients will have another round of deep cleanings approximately 3 years after their laser procedure called scaling and root planing (SRP). This is a non-surgical treatment that allows us to clean beneath your gums to remove any bacteria that may have traveled beneath the gum line since the LANAP surgery was done. Also, many of our patients benefit from a custom tray called Perio Protect. These are trays that are worn for 10-15 minutes daily and infuse a medicine beneath the gum line to kill bacteria. SRP and Perio Protect, along with your regular maintenance/cleaning visits will ensure the best long-lasting results of your periodontal care.

LANAP has an extremely high success rate, and if you are one of the rare cases that do not get a positive response to LANAP, your doctor at the Ueno Center will retreat your previously treated site at no cost within a 3-year period if you have kept all of your 3 month recalls and you are a non-smoker, or have quit smoking, and your diabetes is under control. Smoking and diabetes are the leading causes of gum disease and failure of LANAP and need to be controlled to get a positive result from your treatment. In the unlikely instance that an area is not responsive to LANAP therapy and excellent home care, a bone graft procedure may be required to achieve full periodontal health; this will be determined at the end of the three-year period. If needed, this will be a separate and billable procedure.

LANAP is a predictable and non-invasive treatment modality to treat your active gum disease. A healthier mouth can lead to a healthier body. With all of the new research connecting disease in the mouth to disease in the body (especially heart disease and diabetes), there has never been a more important time for you to treat your gum disease than now. If you have any questions regarding your LANAP procedure, proper home care and how to stay on your 3-month recall, please contact our office with any questions.