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Laser surgery NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Luxar Laser Surgery Success Story Series: Dental / Oral Surgery

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Luxar Laser Surgery Success Stories Series...

by Alex Vitruk, LSN Editor

Mark Docktor, DDS
Hoboken, New Jersey

"I've tried both diodes and electrosurgery; they simply don't compare! ... the CO_2 wavelength is far superior for soft-tissue surgeries."

Our exclusive interview with Dr. Mark H. Docktor presents another prime example of the successful incorporation of the Luxar CO_2 surgical laser; this time within **Dental / Oral Surgery**. Dr. Docktor utilizes his LX-20SP extensively for soft-tissue modifications such as gingivectomies, operculectomies, and troughing around the tooth. "The laser enables us to achieve some really dramatic results for soft tissue", the doctor begins. "By sealing blood vessels, lymphatic vessels and nerve endings, my laser enables me to operate with a dry surgical field; meanwhile, the clinical benefits of reduced pain, minimal bleeding, and faster recovery for my patients cannot be stressed enough..." To illustrate his points, Dr. Docktor presents me with a sequence of photographs relating to various procedures performed with his Luxar CO_2 laser: in **Sequence I below**, Dr. Docktor demonstrates the clinical effect of CO_2 laser ablation. As seen in image 1, the patient had a hormonal issue related to endometriosis that wasn't revealed until several years later. To treat the issue, the Luxar laser was utilized to ablate the involved edematous gingival tissue (image 2). "There was no bone loss periodontally", the doctor adds. Image 3 shows how the site healed two weeks later. "This is a non-touch, neat and clean surgery", Dr. Docktor explains. Finally, Image 4 reveals what the doctor calls "an amazing soft tissue response within a two to three-week period."

Upon seeing these photographs, I inquire about the doctor's perceived differences between CO_2 lasers, diodes and electrocautery.

"I've tried both diodes and electrosurgery; they simply don't compare!" he exclaims. **"They're sloppy, messy, there's more bleeding... the CO_2 wavelength is far superior for the soft-tissue surgeries I'm doing."**

Sequence I: Effects of CO_2 Laser Ablation

1 2 3 4

More Inside

Dr. Docktor states that "the laser is great for creating symmetry by eradicating excess tissue; i.e. for gingivectomies, it's great to beautify the tooth by exposing it".

In **Sequence II**, the patient exhibited assymetrical gingival height and no mirror image of front teeth (Image 1). The treatment involved gingivectomy / recontouring tissue with the Luxar laser (Image 2). The next image reveals the same-day aesthetic result (Image 3). Images 4 and 5 reveal the healing of the gingival tissue with nice symmetry.

Sequence III: Dr. Docktor performed laser gingivectomy in order to create symmetry on the front teeth (Image 2).

Image 3 presents an incisal view showing wear and tear as well as the position of the teeth. Image 5 displays the upper and lower provisional restorations on this full mouth rehabilitation case. "With this laser, I can additionally reshape the gum line by erasing excess tissue", the doctor explains.

At the end of our interview, Dr. Docktor sternly asks me, **"Alex - do you want to know what my only complaint is?"** While I linger over the surprise question, the doctor breaks the silence – **"It's that I don't have another one for my second office!** If only I had two lasers for both offices – I wouldn't have to always transport it, take it in, wheel it around all the time…"

Sequence II: CO_2 Laser Gingivectomy and Recontouring Tissue

1 2 3 4 5

Sequence III: CO_2 Laser Gingivectomy and Creating Symmetry

1 2 3 4 5