



We are excited to publish our second quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to provide you with helpful information and to stay connected with you throughout the year.

Let's get to it!

Laser Focused **Dr. Chris Poore**

As lasers continue to gain attention in periodontics and peri-implant therapy, it is important for clinicians to understand that not all lasers are the same.

The wavelength of a laser determines how the energy interacts with tissue, water, pigment, calculus, and even implant surfaces. In other words, the wavelength largely determines what the laser can do safely and effectively.

For example:

- Diode and Nd:YAG lasers are attracted to pigment and blood, making them useful for soft tissue treatment, bacterial reduction, and hemostasis.
- Erbium lasers, such as Er:YAG and Er,Cr:YSGG, are highly absorbed by water and hydroxyapatite, which allows them to remove calculus, debride root surfaces, and detoxify implant surfaces with less heat production.
- CO₂ lasers are primarily used for soft tissue surgery because of their strong interaction with water in tissue.

Current evidence suggests lasers can be helpful adjuncts to conventional periodontal therapy, particularly for reducing inflammation, improving patient comfort, and assisting with soft tissue management. However, lasers are not a replacement for scaling and root planing, surgical access, or long-term periodontal maintenance. Outcomes remain highly dependent on proper diagnosis, biofilm control, patient compliance, and clinician technique.

As laser technology continues to evolve, understanding the strengths and limitations of each wavelength is essential. Choosing the correct laser for the clinical objective—not simply “using a laser”—is what ultimately drives predictable periodontal outcomes.

Laser Type	Common Brand Examples	Primary Uses in Periodontics
Diode	Picasso, Epic X, Gemini	Soft tissue therapy, bacterial reduction, sulcular decontamination, hemostasis
Nd:YAG	PerioLase MVP-7, LANAP Protocol Systems	Pocket disinfection, removal of inflamed tissue, soft tissue management
Er:YAG	LiteTouch, Fotona LightWalker	Calculus removal, root surface debridement, peri-implantitis treatment
Er,Cr:YSGG	Waterlase MDX, Waterlase iPlus	Hard and soft tissue therapy, implant surface detoxification, osseous contouring
CO ₂	Solea, DEKA Smart US20D	Gingivectomy, frenectomy, soft tissue excision, hemostasis

LASER TYPES:

Nd:YAG



Er,Cr:YSGG



Diode



CO2



Er:YAG



Beyond Cosmetics: Functional Applications of Botulinum Toxin in Dentistry

Dr. Frank Kajiwara

Botulinum toxin is often associated with cosmetic facial treatment, but its therapeutic applications in dentistry continue to expand. In carefully selected patients, neuromodulators can serve as a useful adjunct for managing hyperactive smile dynamics, parafunctional habits, and chronic muscle-related orofacial pain.



One increasingly common indication is management of the “hyperactive” or excessive gingival display smile. In these cases, the issue is not altered eruption or vertical maxillary excess, but rather overactivity of the elevator muscles of the upper lip. Small doses of botulinum toxin placed strategically near the levator labii superioris and levator labii superioris alaeque nasi can reduce excessive lip elevation and decrease gingival display during smiling. Results are typically visible within 1–2 weeks and may last approximately 3–4 months. For patients who are not ideal surgical candidates—or who prefer a minimally invasive option—this can provide meaningful improvement in smile balance and patient confidence.



Gummy Smile before and after. When BOTOX® is injected into the upper lip muscles, it prevents the lip from rising too high.

Botulinum toxin also has growing relevance in the management of bruxism and masseter hyperactivity. Patients with chronic clenching often present with muscle hypertrophy, tension headaches, fractured restorations, tooth wear, muscle tenderness, and TMJ-related discomfort. By partially reducing the strength of the masseter muscles, neuromodulator therapy may help decrease parafunctional loading and improve associated symptoms without significantly affecting normal function.



As pictured above, following BOTOX® treatment of the masseter muscles, the patient demonstrated noticeable jawline slimming with improved facial contour, along with relief of muscle tension and associated symptoms, resulting in greater comfort.

Importantly, botulinum toxin should not be viewed as a stand-alone treatment for temporomandibular disorders or bruxism. Occlusal factors, airway considerations, stress, sleep quality, and behavioral habits still require comprehensive evaluation. However, in properly selected patients, it can be a valuable adjunctive tool alongside splint therapy, restorative management, and conventional periodontal or dental treatment.

In conclusion, as dentistry continues to move toward interdisciplinary and minimally invasive care, functional facial neuromodulation is becoming another option that may improve both patient comfort and overall treatment outcomes.

Did you catch our 2025 CE event?

Last November, we hosted our second annual continuing education course. It was a pleasure connecting with so many of our referring doctors and hygienists.

Clinical Highlights:

- **Peri-Implant Disease Management:** Dr. Poore provided excellent insights into diagnosis, prevention, and treatment strategies.
- **Guided Tissue Regeneration:** Dr. Frank hosted an in-depth discussion highlighting current techniques and clinical considerations.



Save the date! Our 3rd Annual CE Event is Thurs. November 12, 2026.

Announcing a new and larger location!

The Regal Room

420 E Britton Road

on Britton Road, just east of Broadway Extension.

2.5 HR CE credits – dinner & drinks provided. PRIZES!!!

Our 1st year we reached capacity in 4 days!

Our 2nd year, we filled up in 2 days!

Be sure we have your email. Invite will be sent in October.

Through this newsletter, we aim to provide you with timely clinical insights, practice updates, and educational resources to support your team and your patients. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership!