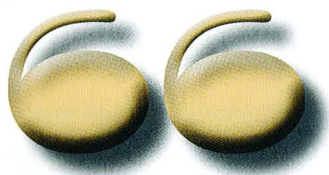
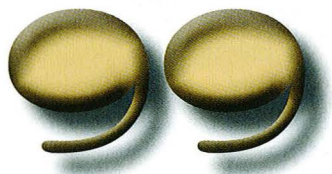


The LANAP Protocol and Orthodontics: Offering Patients Hope Through Collaborative Treatment Plans



For about one-third of the price, patients can keep their teeth intact and enjoy a quicker recovery period with little pain through LANAP and orthodontic treatment.



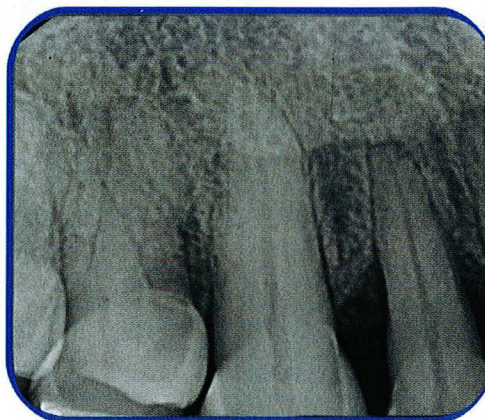
By Todd McCracken, DDS, MALD

For even the most “hopeless” cases of periodontal disease, the (Laser-assisted New Attachment Procedure) LANAP® protocol can be a life-changing treatment option. Over the past 12 years using the LANAP treatment, I’ve had countless patients walk through my practice’s doors ready to face the dreaded decision of pulling most or all of their teeth, or succumb to traditional gum surgery, only to be surprised and grateful when they learn that there is an alternative. I don’t view the LANAP protocol as a last-resort judgment; I see it as a first-line of defense to help save teeth, spare patients from pain and, ultimately, give them something to smile about.

The LANAP protocol is nothing like traditional gum disease treatment. It’s less invasive, more comfortable and offers faster recovery with significantly less pain. In traditional surgery, we know that a scalpel is used to peel the gum tissue back to sanitize the periodontal pocket and shrink the pocket depth by cutting away the infected tissue. Reattaching the gum tissue to the root surface of the tooth often requires bone grafting as well. Hearing the details of this procedure can make any patient

cringe — and candidly, many of them suffer in silence for years just to avoid this “barbaric” approach to treatment. The LANAP protocol, on the other hand, doesn’t require the use of scalpels or sutures. Instead, it uses innovative laser technology with the PerioLase® MVP-7™, which operates on a wavelength that can differentiate between the healthy gum tissue and diseased tissue, allowing selective removal of the harmful bacteria responsible for gum disease.

I’ve been working with the LANAP protocol for more than a decade now, and I am thrilled to have recently joined forces with orthodontists to create even more positive outcomes for periodontal disease patients. It’s no surprise that gum disease can make teeth quite mobile and using orthodontics can provide a great deal of control to hold teeth in firmly, giving gums the opportunity to heal around ideally placed teeth. I believe that the combination of the LANAP protocol and orthodontics is a truly innovative concept, and my recent patient story is a testament to its success.

**Pre-Op****7 Months Post-LANAP® Protocol**

Case Study

A 42-year-old female patient recently came to my practice for a “second opinion.” A long-time gum disease sufferer with advanced periodontal disease, she’d been told by countless dental professionals for nearly two decades that there was simply no way to save her teeth — they’d have to be pulled. The patient, distraught, put surgery off for years due to fear and uncertainty.

Although her condition was late-stage and complex, including several super-erupted teeth, I felt the LANAP protocol was still a viable option for her. After a complete periodontal work-up and consultation with an orthodontist, we proceeded to perform the treatment and followed up just a few days later with orthodontic procedures — which helped push her loose teeth back into place and begin the healing process. Much to her amazement, the patient’s recovery time after the LANAP procedure was very brief and adding brackets took very little time. The patient, finally free from pain, will complete this unique collaborative treatment plan within two to three years. While the final results aren’t instant, her

outcome truly is a 180-degree difference from her original prognosis. Most importantly, she is now pain free and has kept most of her natural dentition.

The concept of a “collaborative treatment plan” isn’t common practice yet, but it should be. In fact, most dental professionals won’t consider adding orthodontic brackets to their periodontal patients until the first year post-periodontal surgery has passed. Many clinicians view the combination of periodontology and orthodontics as a potential complication, mostly due to the concern that the orthodontic brackets may pull out loose teeth.

In comparison, for my patient, we added her braces just days after procedure — ultimately “splinting” the teeth with more control and precision than could be achieved without orthodonture. I firmly believe that brackets should be placed quickly and used for controlled stabilization. Brackets and wires in conjunction with the LANAP protocol may be viewed as an atypical protocol, but this unexpected treatment combination has already proven itself to be an innova-

tive new standard in enhancing patient outcomes — even in the most challenging, hard-to-treat cases.

Financial implications are a significant factor for patients to consider. Many unknowing, desperate sufferers immediately turn to dental implants, which involve extensive costs and procedures. For about one-third of the price, patients can keep their teeth intact and enjoy a quicker recovery period with little pain through LANAP and orthodontic treatment.

Dr. Todd McCracken has been in private practice since 1997. He received the honor of Master from the Academy of Laser Dentistry and is a frequent lecturer and teacher at Millennium Dental Technologies, the Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry, Baylor Dental School and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He is a certified trainer for the LANAP® protocol. Dr. McCracken has also served as a clinical consultant to several dental manufacturers to help develop new products and technologies. He can be reached at lasersmiledr@verizon.net. Millennium Dental Technologies Inc. is an exhibitor at FND14; visit them at booth #1118 in the Exhibit Hall.