A Patient's Guide to DIAGNOdent

What is one of the biggest threats to your oral health?

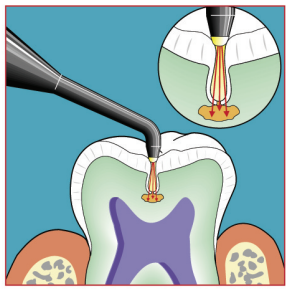
- Hidden or sub-surface cavities represent one of the biggest challenges for dental patients.
- Fluoridation has improved the oral health of the nation, but it also has hardened tooth enamel for millions of dental patients. Harder enamel means decay often begins below the tooth's surface instead of on the tooth's surface.
- Hidden or sub-surface cavities are much more difficult to detect than other types of decay.
- The human eye, a dental explorer or even X-rays alone can't detect many forms of hidden cavities until they have caused extensive damage to the tooth.



Conventional methods of diagnosing dental caries such as manual probing are often ineffective in detecting enamel defects.

What are we using to detect these types of cavities?

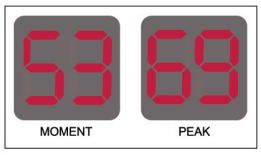
- DIAGNOdent is an extremely accurate aid to detect caries (the disease process that causes cavities and decay)
- It uses a laser to scan teeth for cavities hiding under the tooth's surface.
- DIAGNOdent helps the dentist "see" hidden cavities and treat them before they spread and enlarge.



Use of the DIAGNOdent as well as traditional protocols allows dental technicians to successfully detect the presence of occlusal decay and properly treat the tooth structure.

Why are we using DIAGNOdent?

- To provide the best oral health care possible for you.
- To detect hidden caries (cavities) before it spreads and causes decay throughout your entire tooth.
- By detecting cavities at the earliest possible stage, we can treat the infected tooth structure, preventing unnecessary loss of vital tooth structure or loss of the tooth itself.
- Before using a sealant, DIAGNOdent can be used to verify that the tooth's structure is healthy.
- The DIAGNOdent is reliable, accurate and non-invasive. It has been awarded the Seal of Acceptance by the American Dental Association.



The peak reading is the highest value obtained during a scan of the mouth while the moment reading reflects the value detected in real-time.

How does it work?

- The dentist or hygienist scans your teeth with the DIAGNOdent laser wand during your normal six-month hygiene visit. Teeth must be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to scanning.
- DIAGNOdent's laser harmlessly shines into the tooth to identify and measure hidden decay.
- A healthy tooth will have a low reading on the display. A tooth with hidden decay will respond with higher numbers.

Is DIAGNOdent safe?

- Yes, the DIAGNOdent is safe for both patients and staff. The DIAGNOdent uses light energy – similar to that of a laser pointer.

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KaVo DIAGNOdent® Laser Caries Detection Aid