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Injection-free, pain-free dentistry now in South Africa

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The revolutionary Biolase laser technology is now available in South Africa, providing consumers with injection-free and pain-free dentistry. It is safe for children, the elderly, special needs individuals, chemotherapy patients and pregnant women.



Dr Nico Verloop with a young patient.

The main reason most people dread visiting the dentist is because of the anticipated pain and discomfort. Finally, there is a legitimate alternative. Laser dental technology provides injection-free and pain-free dentistry for many procedures including fillings, root canals, implant surgery, gum disease, teeth whitening, smile design, paediatric tongue tie surgery and many other procedures.

Distributed by SciVision South Africa, the Californian-based Biolase WaterLase iPlus Dental Laser, as well as the Biolase EPIC Laser, presents a cutting-edge alternative to traditional dentistry that can painlessly eliminate the most dreaded aspect of going to the dentist - injections, drills and sedation. Biolase laser technologies are rapidly changing the way people view and experience dentistry.

Peter Doubell, SciVision CEO explains, "When using this dental

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technology, there is no friction and heat caused by traditional drilling, hence many procedures can now be done painlessly with no anaesthetic, enabling patients to leave the dentist's room without any numbing or hindering side effects. WaterLase technology is extremely versatile and is able to treat both hard and soft tissue. Because WaterLase dentistry requires less to no anaesthesia, (therefore no injections), multiple procedures can be done simultaneously on different quadrants of the mouth - eliminating multiple appointments. Its non-contact method guarantees mostly painless procedures. The Biolase laser technology is literally taking the fear factor out of dentistry."

According to SciVision, patients will experience little to no pain or discomfort during or after laser dentistry procedures. Dentistry and surgery is faster with better recovery, no swelling, bruising, antibiotics or painkillers needed in most cases. With the new technology, patients' treatment is done in less time with no facial numbness when going back to the office or school.

Pretoria East's Dr Nico Verloop, the first dentist in South Africa to use the Biolase Waterlase iPlus believes that there are many important benefits associated with WaterLase dentistry. "Standard mechanical dentistry is often accompanied by fear and pain by the patient. Although pain may be reduced by local anaesthesia, fear of the needle, noise, and vibration of the tools cause discomfort for many patients. With WaterLase, for the first time many common dental procedures can be performed without local anaesthesia. WaterLase allows the clinician to do dental work unobtrusively, while reducing bacteria."

Dr Sam Thandar, Johannesburg's first dentist to use the new laser already treats numerous patients. Laurence van Niekerk, a patient, comments, "The anxiety before the procedure was worse than the actual procedure. There was no injection and no pain. There was no drilling or vibration, just a faint popping sound and fine water spray, which felt a bit cold, but that's all."

Dr Thandar explains, "The most common comment from patients after having laser dentistry is 'Wow, is that it?' Children immediately like the laser, as it makes no drilling sound and its painkilling ability is welcomed. Nowadays it is very rare when a WaterLase dentist has to give an injection to a child. Why should children and adults suffer through painful and distressing procedures when there is a quick and painless solution available?

Laser dentistry treatments are virtually painless, cause minimum bleeding and swelling, are less invasive and allow for the preservation of healthier tooth structure during cavity removal. Very importantly, it also helps remove the fear of going to the dentist as there is less need for drills, scalpels and injections. WaterLase is also one of the only effective treatments for deteriorating implants."

How it works

The machine sprays a mixture of air, water and laser energy through a special hand piece. The laser energy causes tiny water molecules to heat and explode, cleaning away diseased tissue directly under the laser light. Dr Thandar adds, "In essence the water molecules and laser energy stream cut the tissue or tooth, literally vaporising the decay. A popping sound can be heard when the water molecules pop open. There is no heat, vibration or pressure. The water then cools down the tooth surface, bone or tissue being worked on. The hand piece never comes into contact with the body."

The laser energy is emitted from the hand piece with the tip held just



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millimetres away from the tooth or tissue. Because there is no bleeding and almost no post-operative pain or swelling when using laser dentistry, it now replaces much of the surgical work traditionally done with a scalpel.

Doubell concludes, "Biolase products increase patient treatment acceptance, allows for early disease detection and intervention, promotes health and reduces anxiety and expenditure. We are seeing our laser education efforts starting to bear fruit as more and more dentists realise the benefits of acquiring the systems in bringing pain-free, innovative dentistry to the patient. It is an exciting time for the evolution of dentistry in South Africa and we're proud to be part of making this leading technology available locally."

What does it cost?

As there are no specific medical costing laser codes, patients simply pay according to the regular procedure code. The medical aids pay for, or towards certain procedures - whether they done with traditional tools or the hi-tech laser. Each practice will have its own fee structure for specific procedures, but in most cases, it will be similar to the fee that would have been applicable with traditional tools such as scalpel blades, drills and sutures. Furthermore, not all lasers are the same, therefore be sure to look for a certified Biolase laser dentist.

To view the CNBC video, go to <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=kVTORZbZyk4>. For more information, go to www.scivision.co.za.

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Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and the initial stockpiling of food and other items, government regulation of the prices of basic food and medical goods has received significant attention...

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South Africa's Covid-19 strategy needs updating: here's why and how

Decision-making at the early stages of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (the coronavirus causing Covid-19) was constrained by a paucity of medical evidence and epidemiological data. Knowledge gained over the past two months can therefore inform the next phase of the strategy....

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It is important to wear and remove a mask properly...

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Geo mapping technology has proved its worth in managing the spread of Covid-19, by providing access to real time information, especially in South Africa's densely populated communities...

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The Covid-19 pandemic - and the resulting lockdowns - have had a major impact on research at institutions across the world, and universities in particular...

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The government needs to relook at its Covid-19 lockdown and testing strategy, because it's not going to stem the tide of community transmission...

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Sizwe Nzima, founder of Iyeza Health, shares his experience of the current Covid-19 crisis and how his organisation is navigating these unusual times...

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Huge delays in Covid-19 test results

Two Cape Town doctors have independently said that Covid-19 results from the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) are taking at least a week to reach patients. Private sector tests are now taking up to 72 hours...

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While people can handle change, uncertainty can seriously drive up stress and anxiety levels, especially around the world of work...

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There are many parallels between Covid-19 and HIV/Aids. There are both highly infectious novel viruses that have which reached pandemic proportions very quickly, and, at this point, there is no vaccine against either of them...

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The animated videos provide essential workers in manufacturing, retail and supply chain industries with information on Covid-19...

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A potentially prolonged, gradual easing of national restrictions combined with the invisible and ever-present threat of the virus is causing a lingering sense of uncertainty for many South Africans...

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Many countries, including South Africa and Nigeria in Africa, are moving to make it mandatory to wear non-medical cloth masks when people are outside their homes...

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The public health crisis resulting from Covid-19 has not only turned the spotlight on the basic human right of access to healthcare, but also on the need for people to take personal responsibility for their health...

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Why a campaign to champion all vaccines matters now more than ever

World Immunisation Week is celebrated in the last week of April every year. The aim is to recognise

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Manic multitasking is a part of nearly any entrepreneur's everyday job description...

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On 2 April, Sierra Leone reported its second Covid-19 case. The government reacted quickly, the country was on lockdown for 72 hours and borders were closed...

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The South African Housing and Infrastructure Fund (SAHIF) has pledged to provide 50 temporary housing structures that will provide shelter for 200 South Africans...

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Almost all African countries have reported cases of the new coronavirus disease (Covid-19). To contain the disease, they cannot rely just on doctors and nurses, who are already in short supply and at high risk of infection in the workplace...

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Lockdown has succeeded in flattening the curve

The nationwide lockdown has dramatically flattened South Africa's Covid-19 curve, allowing the country time to reinforce its healthcare infrastructure, Health Minister, Zweli Mkhize said in a technical briefing...

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#OnTheFrontLine offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the lives of the healthcare warriors tackling Covid-19 head on. Dr Kerrin Begg is a public health medicine specialist at Stellenbosch University...

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