

**University Dental Hospital of Manchester**  
**Department of Child Dental Health**

**Information for Patients**

## Laser Clinic

Your child has an appointment for the laser clinic in the Department of Child Dental Health.

Laser treatment is carried out in the dental surgery under local anaesthetic. The treatment site is numbed and the laser is then completely painless. The laser is a small hand-held instrument – it does not make a noise or create a vibration. If you have requested inhalation sedation (“happy air”) - this is used during the numbing procedure but is then turned off. We do not use sedation whilst the laser is in use.

Treatment usually lasts between 5 – 20 minutes (depending on the nature of the treatment) but the appointment will be longer to allow for explanation, consent, and administration of the local anaesthetic to numb the area. In addition we will give post-operative advice so that you know what to do after the procedure.

We can only allow one parent or legal guardian in the laser treatment room with the patient. Please do not bring any other children with you as there are no facilities to look after them and they are not allowed into the surgery during laser treatment.

### Preoperative advice

Prior to the appointment your child may:

- Eat and drink before the procedure.
- Take any regular medications.
- Attend school as normal.

If your child feels unwell on the day of the appointment, please call our team to re-arrange.

### Postoperative advice

Mild pain is normal after laser treatment but this will reduce with time. Your child may take pain relief on returning home e.g. paracetamol. They are more effective if taken before the ‘numbing’ sensation has completely worn off, usually within 2 hours.

Keep your child’s mouth clean with gentle tooth brushing as normal. We also recommend the use of a chlorohexidine antiseptic mouthwash for a few days to aid healing. We will discuss instructions about how to look after the area at the end of the procedure.

Healing is usually good and uneventful after laser treatment. The wound is unlikely to bleed and will feel like a small mouth ulcer. Your child should avoid salty and vinegary foods that may sting the wound. Your child should be fine to attend school the next day.

If any tissue has been removed, it will be sent to the pathology laboratory for analysis. Your child may either be reviewed in clinic or the results will be discussed over the telephone.

## If you have any concerns

If you experience any problems or have any worries or concerns, please telephone the Department of Child Dental Health on telephone number (0161) 393 7732 between the hours of 09.00 and 17.00.

Outside these hours please contact your child's dentist or your local A& E department.