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Laser gum surgery

Periodontal or gum disease is a big problem affecting more than half of the adult population. Problem is, many people don't know they have it and often the traditional treatment is painful gum surgery. Now, a quicker, easier and less painful solution is available. 7's Christa Delcamp shows us how it works.

"I had no pain. I had no symptoms, no pain, but when I had a cleaning they did find that I did have very deep pockets," explains Gayle Orlando.

The dark areas on this dental X-ray are those deep pockets Gayle is talking about. Full of the bacteria that cause gum disease.

Dentist Christopher Walinski says, "There are so many studies now that correlate gum disease with heart disease and diabetes and Alzheimer's and low birth weight babies."

So, it's important to treat it. The first time Gayle was treated it involved cutting and stitching. Now there's something new, an FDA approved laser.

Dr. Walinski says, "You don't need to cut, you don't need to sew."

Rosemarie Sahady had the laser gum surgery a month ago. She says, "The amazing part was there was no bleeding, it never got swollen or discomfort."

Which means there's no down time. That's why this time Gayle is in for the laser treatment.

"The laser is used to open up the infected tissue. What happens is the laser energy cleans out the area around the neck of the tooth. All of that tissue that's infected. This is the diseased tissue that comes out of the pocket," explains Dr. Walinski.

Once the diseased tissue is removed it allows for bone to actually grow back in its place.

Gayle says, "I've had fillings that were worse than this surgery. It was unbelievable.

In many cases, if your dental insurance will pay for traditional gum surgery, it will also reimburse for laser gum surgery.

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