

## Hidden Cavities - A Hidden Danger

THE DECAYING DANGER OF 'HIDDEN CAVITIES'

LOS ALTOS, CA. --(HealthNewsDigest.com) -- For years, dentists have been testing out the latest technological devices for -getting to the root- of where cavities lie. Locating hidden decay before it destroys tooth structure is a major goal for dentists. Dr. Bruce Hartley, a cosmetic dentist and Director of the Peninsula Center For Cosmetic Dentistry, located in the San Francisco Bay area, is also an expert on diagnostic equipment that show the true measurement of the amount of decay a patient has and how it can be prevented from spreading.

Dr. Hartley says, "Dentists are going to great lengths to catch cavities at an early stage. Cavities often hide along fissure lines, or inside biting or occlusal surfaces. The result of the old method of detecting dental decay is that only the biggest cavities are found." What is most concerning to patients is having a dentist diagnose cavities that are hidden beneath the hard surface enamel. Early detection, in the surface of the enamel, will prevent diseases from spreading through microscopic abnormalities in the base of the hard tooth structure to underlying softer surfaces.

Detecting cavities in the past has typically been done through X-rays and uncomfortable probing instruments, such as an explorer, but this only lets dentists see the decay that lies on the surface of the tooth. Fortunately, there have been rapid advancements in dental technology that allow for eliminating decay and dental disease in the early stages. As Dr. Hartley explains, "The DIAGNOdent laser uses a small laser diode to inspect your teeth, comparing reflection wavelength against a known healthy baseline wavelength to uncover decay. The process is very simple. We begin by getting a reflection from a healthy tooth to give us a "no decay" reading. Next we examine the other teeth, aiming the laser at the surfaces of all of the teeth." This laser treatment provides a quick, comfortable and highly accurate diagnosis of any hidden decay that might be present and prevent the spread of disease before it destroys the tooth from inside.