

Filling Cavities Painlessly Using "Air Abrasion"

Looking into today's dentistry, you will find many advances in technology which provide new and improved options for the dental patient. One of the latest and most popular of these is "air abrasion". Air abrasion allows cavities to be filled painlessly without an injection or drilling.

What is Air Abrasion?

Air abrasion technology has been around for many years, but only in the last few years has it found everyday usage in the dental office. This technique uses an air/powder stream to remove unhealthy tooth structure. It is basically a very fine sandblaster.

Advantages of Air Abrasion

- It's painless.
- It is conservative. The dentist can remove stain and decay without traumatizing the rest of the tooth.
- It is fast! In the time you might

wait for a tooth to become numb, the cavity is filled.

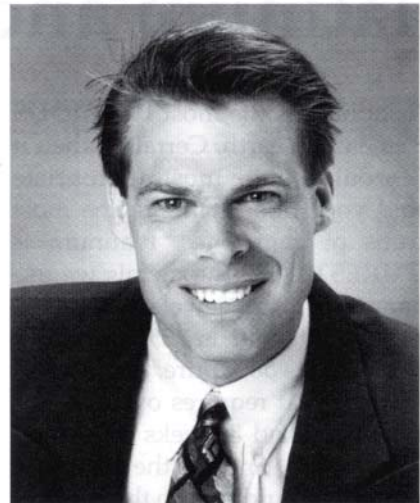
- It's not scary. It does not look, sound, or feel like the dental drill.
- It is esthetically pleasing. Cavities can be filled with tooth colored fillings which blend nicely with the natural tooth.

Air abrasion is most useful for treating small cavities on the outside of the teeth. It is not as useful for very large cavities, cavities between teeth (which can only be seen by x-rays), or for removing metal fillings.

Great for Kids and Adults

Kids today are getting fewer cavities than the children of previous generations. The most common is the small occlusal or biting surface cavity. Air abrasion is the ideal tool to make the child's dental visit fast and painless.

For adults, air abrasion encourages "microdentistry". That is, treating



"If you have any questions regarding this article or other dental questions, Dr. Goodman may be reached at (310)377-0966."

cavities in the very early developmental stages, rather than waiting until the problem is bigger.

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