

Laser Exposure of Impacted Teeth



When a tooth fails to erupt through the gum, it may be impacted. An impacted tooth may need to be uncovered (exposed) to help it erupt in.

If the impacted tooth is close to the surface and not covered by bone, it can be exposed using a diode laser. If the tooth is much deeper, your dentist or an oral surgeon may need to surgically expose the impacted tooth.



The use of a laser to expose an impacted tooth requires some level of anesthesia. Depending on the scope and duration of the procedure, topical anesthetics (needleless anesthesia systems), or infiltration with a local anesthetic can be used.

The laser light removes a small area of the gingival tissue over the impacted tooth. There is no bleeding as the tissue is cauterized as it is removed. This portion of the procedure usually takes only a few minutes.



Once the tooth is exposed, a small button attachment is bonded to the exposed tooth surface. A flexible wire is tied to the button attachment to begin to bring the tooth into proper position.



It may only take a few weeks for the tooth to erupt into the mouth. One of the most appealing aspects of using a diode laser for minor surgical procedures is that inflammation is dramatically reduced and healing usually occurs quickly and without complication.

A diode laser can also be used for removal of excess gingival tissue to improve oral hygiene (gingivectomy) during or following orthodontic treatment.