

*Editorial*

**Lasers : A Tool for a Periodontist**

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The intraoral use of lasers has evolved over the last 4 decades as clinical experience along with scientific investigation, has increased the body of knowledge. Light has been used as a therapeutic agent for many centuries.

The dental lasers of today have benefited from decades of laser research and have their basis in certain theories from the field of quantum mechanics, initially formulated during the early 1900s by Danish physicist Bohr, among others. Nearly 40 years later, American physicist Townes first amplified microwave frequencies by the stimulated emission process, and the acronym M A S E R (M i c r o w a v e

Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) came into use. In 1958, Schawlow and Townes discussed extending the maser principle to the optical portion of the electromagnetic field; hence, LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) was invented.

When used efficaciously and ethically, lasers are an exceptional modality of treatment for many clinical conditions that dentists or dental specialists treat on a daily basis. Patients today are aware of lasers and their advantages.

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