

High Tech Dentistry Boosts Comfort for Children & Adults

The family-focused practice strives to provide its patients with the most minimally invasive, high quality care possible. Hinsdale Dentistry's Biolase lasers, the WaterLase iPlus and the Epic, help the team achieve these goals – and set the practice apart.

After 22 years at the same location, Dr. Peter Harnois and the Hinsdale Dentistry team decided they needed a new space, one where they could really showcase their technology and enhance the patient experience. Between the relaxing atmosphere and the engaging learning process, Hinsdale Dentistry makes patients active partners in their care.

Dr. Harnois, Drs. Chirban and Kowalczyk, and their 14 team members made the move one year ago. Today, patients are pleasantly surprised when they walk through the office doors. The practice rests in the woods, overlooking a beautiful pond that patients can see from inside the window-filled rooms. Each of the eight operatories provides a private space where patients can unwind from their stressful days. The rooms are equipped with large, patient-facing monitors, giving all an opportunity to learn more about recommended procedures and engage with treatment possibilities. When properly informed, patients are better able to make the right decisions about their oral health, and to communicate the ideal end result.

"The key to this is to properly educate them and to give them all their options," says Dr. Harnois. "With our practice's

'look, listen, and learn' philosophy, we're able to find out what they want. We're really geared toward understanding patient goals."

The right technology

Because Hinsdale Dentistry has a strong family focus, each team member aims to offer patients the most minimally invasive treatment possible. Technology allows them to make this a reality. From digital x-rays to digital impressions to laser dentistry, the practice stays on the cutting edge.

This has been the practice's philosophy since the opening of its original downtown Hinsdale location in 1969. Dr. Harnois can't help but remember his interview with now-retired partner Dr. Donald Thorne in 1982, and how impressed he was with the practice's level of technology. Keeping up with that innovation standard remains a priority for the entire team at Hinsdale Dentistry. Says Dr. Harnois, "That's exactly what we're doing with the practice now: always keeping technology at the forefront of what we're offering to take better care of our patients."

Laser dentistry meshes perfectly with the practice's philosophy of care, and Biolase's WaterLase technology

has been part of Hinsdale Dentistry's armamentarium since it was first released.

The move to laser dentistry

When the first version of the WaterLase was released in the late 1990s, Dr. Harnois and current partner Dr. Thorne were among the first in the country to bring it into a practice. When they saw it at the Chicago Mid-Winter Meeting, it just made sense. Instead of damaging patients' teeth with a drill, they could use laser energy paired with a water spray to perform precise work. There was nothing holding them back from the switch.

"We had a demo the day after Mid-Winter and we purchased it on the spot," said Dr. Harnois. "You could see where things were going. Dr. Thorne taught me that if it's good technology and working for the benefit of the patients, we get it."

They began using that first version immediately, and patients loved it. They appreciated the fact that they didn't have to use anesthetic and that procedures were so much simpler and pain-free.

Back then, Dr. Harnois didn't anticipate how much the technology would evolve in the coming years. In 2005, he upgraded to the WaterLase MD, which offered tooth-cutting speed that was roughly half the rate of a high-speed drill. Now, in 2013, he has upgraded to the latest version, the WaterLase iPlus, which cuts as fast as a drill and offers features that impress patients and dentists alike.

All the pain associated with hard tissue procedures stems from friction created by a metal drill bit. With the iPlus laser, all tooth cutting is performed

with frictionless water. What does that mean for patients at Hinsdale Dentistry? First (and most excitingly): no pain. Second: often, no anesthetic shots at all. "We have a huge pediatric following and have treated all the kids in our practice's families for over 40 years," says Dr. Harnois. At the current forefront of that pediatric care is no shots, no pain, and metal-free fillings for almost every pediatric patient at the practice. "Why traumatize any child with a needle injection if it's not necessary?" Another significant advantage of laser dentistry is that it preserves as much of your child's tooth structure as possible. With the iPlus laser, the decayed portion of the tooth is removed without grinding away any healthy tooth structure (which can happen with drilling). The same concepts apply to adult teeth, and to anxious patients of any age.

The latest in laser technology

Laser dentistry is continually a major draw for Hinsdale Dentistry's patients.

On the practice website, Drs. Harnois and Chirban demonstrate the difference between a drill and the WaterLase, letting patients hear how they both sound. For patients seeking a high tech practice—especially those with children—experiencing the difference firsthand helps them understand the benefits of laser dentistry. No matter what technology is being used, Dr. Harnois finds it is key to educate current and potential patients on the resulting benefits. Visit the site at www.hinsdaledentistry.com to see powerful examples of laser capability, and to learn more.

Introducing: The Epic

In addition to the WaterLase iPlus, Hinsdale Dentistry has incorporated Biolase's newly released Epic laser into treatment. This soft-tissue diode laser has been a huge asset, especially when it comes to whitening.

Dr. Harnois finds that "It is the home run of the century for whitening. The laser cuts a 1+-hour procedure down to about 20 minutes. Laser energy cures and activates whitening gel, kicking it into gear. Each quadrant cures for 3 minutes, the procedure is repeated twice, and the patient is done in less than 30 minutes. You get the patient out of the chair quicker, with less sensitivity, and you get great results. It's the best system to date for how well it works."



Pain-free, shot-free laser dentistry for child and adult patients at Hinsdale Dentistry

The right products make all the difference! Patients love that Dr. Harnois and Hinsdale Dentistry team offer the latest and greatest products (like the WaterLase iPlus) to help make their experiences pleasant and keep their time in the dental chair brief.

Dr. Chirban details the pain-free, shot-free procedure to her pediatric patient before getting started.

Dr. Chirban and Jackie treat their relaxed, calm patient without requiring local anesthetic. She receives 3 metal-free fillings.

Another happy patient! The typical response from Hinsdale Dentistry's young patients after laser treatment with the WaterLase iPlus is a thrilled one: "Look, mom! My fillings are done and I didn't need any shots!" With this, children move forward feeling great about dentistry.

The team at Hinsdale Dentistry is dedicated to providing patients with the best possible care. That means offering cutting-edge technology in a relaxing, comfortable setting.



DR. PETER HARNOIS

graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in 1982 and has been with what is now known as Hinsdale Dentistry ever since. The practice first opened in downtown Hinsdale in 1969 and has changed

locations twice, the last move happening about a year ago. The high tech, family-focused practice serves about 5,000 patients and has a staff of 14.



DR. ZIVILE Z. CHIRBAN

graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in 1982, and is currently a member of the Illinois State Dental Society and American Dental Association. Dr. Chirban's goal is to assist her patients in acquiring and maintaining beautiful

smiles. She is passionate about keeping apprised of the latest developments in her field to ensure that her patients receive the best possible care.



DR. MICHAEL KOWALCZYK

graduated with honors from Emory University in Atlanta and obtained his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Kowalczyk completed a post-graduate residency at the University of Florida where he gained skills in wisdom teeth extractions,

surgical implant placement and sedation dentistry. In 2013, he received his Fellowship in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists.