

The History of Air Abrasion

Air abrasion technology was introduced in the 1950s as an alternative to needle and drill cavity preparation. Although extremely popular with patients, its use faded due to a lack of suitable bonding materials. Today's technology has made it possible for your teeth to be less traumatized with air abrasion and be filled with excellent, strong restorative materials.

From Dinosaurs to Dentistry

At the same time air abrasion was being used in dentistry, new applications for this unique technology were being unearthed. All over the world air abrasion is being used in many industries and in hundreds of ways. Semiconductor manufacturers use it to help make micro-chips. Medical companies use it to sharpen hypodermic needles and for marking pacemakers. The aerospace industry uses it to repair electronic circuit boards on airplanes, spaceships and satellites. Museums use it for the restoration of priceless artifacts and prehistoric fossils.



Skull of prehistoric dinosaur
uncovered with air abrasion technology

Just imagine the same technology used for cavity preparation on your own teeth!

Air Abrasion

Cavity Preparation

No Needles, No Drills!!!!

AIR ABRASION DENTISTRY

**A gentle alternative
to a needle and a drill**



No Noise

No Heat

No Smell

Less Stress

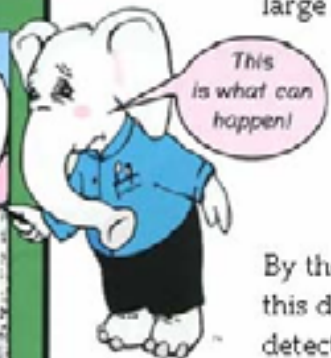
The Progress of Tooth Decay

Over the past several years, widespread use of fluoride has made the outer enamel of the tooth more decay resistant. Unfortunately, small nooks and crannies on the chewing surface are still susceptible to decay. They are often smaller than a single toothbrush bristle, making it difficult to completely clean the tooth.



This is where it can start!

When decay reaches the softer dentine, it frequently blooms into a large cavity.



This is what can happen!

By the time this decay is detected, it is deep within the tooth and has the potential to cause damage to the nerve.

Air Abrasion Dentistry....

Air abrasion dentistry is a conservative, less traumatic alternative to the high-speed drill. It allows your doctor to selectively remove decay, leaving more healthy tooth structure. The procedure can often be done without anaesthesia. Without an injection you will have fewer visits to your dentist, because he can often do more than one cavity restoration at a time.

Air Abrasion Cavity Prep...

Step One- Decay Detection



Step Two – Air abrasion preparation



Step Three – Tooth-coloured restoration.



Why Air Abrasion for Detecting Decay....

The outside...



Doesn't always show what's inside!



Hidden Decay!

Air Abrasion Dentistry can

help your dentist find hidden decay. The very fine and narrow abrasive stream can remove just the stain and debris in the 'nooks and crannies' of your teeth. Once these areas are cleaned, a special cavity-detecting dye can show where the decay is actively destroying tooth structure. Your dentist can use the same air abrasion instrument to remove this decay and then restore the tooth with the appropriate filling material.

