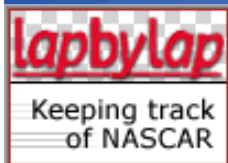


[HOMEPAGE](#)[NEWS](#)[WEATHER](#)[SPORTS](#)[HEALTH](#)[CAMS](#)[PROGRAMMING](#)[LUTHER'S PAGE](#)[SAFE FAMILIES](#)[ABOUT WDEF](#)[ADVERTISING](#)[SEARCH WDEF](#)

WDEF-TV
3300 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37408
423-785-1200 tel
423-785-1273 fax

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)[Email this Story](#)

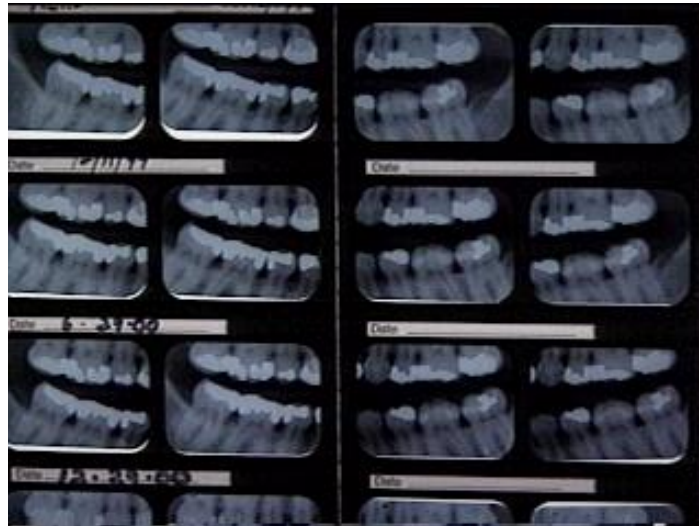
New Way To Fight Cavities ***Early Detection, No Drilling***

By Rachel Oesch
WDEF-TV News 12
May 14, 2002

Even if you're up on your dental hygiene, the odds of living a cavity-free life are not in your favor.

News 12's Medical Reporter Rachel Oesch shows us new tools that can help spot cavities earlier than conventional methods.

So early, in fact, that fixing a potential problem may not require any drilling at all.



New cavity detection techniques may stop the drilling.

If you cringe at the mere thought of going to the dentist, three new early cavity detection tools are now available. They can help dentists minimize, even avoid, the need for drilling away tooth decay.

Dentist Ramin Tabib, DDS. "Because of hidden decay, you can go through your life without noticing any cavities until it's really damaged the tooth."

The diagnodent device uses a laser to illuminate, or fluoresce the tooth.

Dentist Ramin Tabib, DDS. "If it's a healthy tooth, the tooth does not fluoresce. But if it's a tooth with a decay, it fluoresces. And that fluorescence comes back through the unit with a number."

And the higher the number, the greater the decay. Another tool now available is the difoti fiber-optic, digital imaging system.

Dentist Ramin Tabib, DDS. "It sends a safe light through the tooth... illuminates the whole tooth, and areas that are decayed, the light does not penetrate well through it, and it shows up on the computer screen."

Last but not least, the cavity risk test, or CRT. It measures the patient's saliva production

and uses samples to measure levels of two cavity-causing bacteria.

Dentist Ramin Tabib, DDS. "The saliva's actually put on a culture dish and the culture dish is specific for these two bacteria that can cause the cavities."

High levels along with low saliva production may signal the need for cavity countermeasures to prevent problems down the road and help reverse the ones already in progress.

Dentist Ramin Tabib, DDS. "Sealants are placed in certain areas where cavities are not formed yet, but they're in great risk of forming at some point."

New, high-tech tools that are worth smiling about.

Other Cavity Fighters

Other new cavity-fighters include fluoride varnishes and long lasting, bacteria-busting rinses. These new dental tools can reveal cavities before they show up on dental x-rays. And unlike x-rays, they do not expose patients to any radiation. But, experts say, they should not replace x-rays as part of a complete dental exam.

Visit Ramin Tabib's website at: www.nyctsmiledesign.com