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## Gently Defeat the Hidden Dental Destroyer

### Comprehensive Dentistry

For patients with moderate to severe gum disease, LANAP offers a less invasive, more patient-friendly alternative to traditional gum surgery.



Eddie Thompson describes his gum disease as something straight out of a Hollywood action film.

"I had a horrible situation with my gums bleeding. If you've ever seen a movie where the hero is in a fight and then goes to the sink to rinse his bleeding mouth, well, that's what I looked like after brushing my teeth."

Although Eddie knew something was wrong, he ignored the symptoms.

"I'm not a guy who likes to go to the dentist," confides Eddie.

It was only when one of his teeth started to hurt that he decided it was time to seek dental help. He was referred to Paul T. Rodeghero, DDS, of Clearwater Family Dental.

"My friend said the doctor was gentle."

### Gentle gum surgery

Although excruciating pain is what finally drove Eddie to the dentist, it wasn't the root of his problem. Receding gums, due to severe periodontal disease, were the underlying cause.

"Dr. Rodeghero explained that my gums were receding all around my teeth, and especially so near the painful tooth."

"Eddie had a long-term periodontal situation that had not been resolved from past traditional dental treatment," explains Dr. Rodeghero.

He notes that periodontal disease can lead to other medical problems as well. "When a person has a chronic bacterial infection in their mouth, it can affect other areas of their body."

After speaking with Eddie about his dental concerns and goals, Dr. Rodeghero suggested a leading-edge treatment called LANAP (laser-assisted new attachment procedure).

"Eddie was looking for an alternative way to resolve his condition and so we decided to use the LANAP," shares Dr. Rodeghero. "Patients have less pain and discomfort with the LANAP compared to traditional gum surgery, as well as longer-lasting results."

The procedure utilizes a special laser with a wavelength specifically designed to destroy the pathogenic bacteria in the gums while leaving healthy tissue intact.

"LANAP re-sterilizes the gum pockets, resulting in a tightening of the teeth," explains the dentist. However, he notes that it may not be as successful for patients with severe health problems, or heavy smokers.

For Eddie, his treatment choice has brought better-than-expected results. The only discomfort he had during the procedure was from the Novocaine injection. Now, two weeks later, his gums are sealed and healing according to schedule.

"The coolest thing is that now when I brush my teeth, there's not a drop of blood."

His dislike of dentists has ended as well, thanks to Dr. Rodeghero's gentle touch.

"He is a great dentist who is very considerate and knowledgeable. I was in expert hands."

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