

# Show Me

by Wm. J. Schlotz, D.D.S.



Last in this space we made the claim that technology and techniques are on the market that can help make dentistry quicker, less costly and with higher quality, similar to Lasik eye surgery in the medical field. DDS adoption, however, of this philosophy is slow. The vast majority of dental offices still align themselves with two traditional practice management styles: One being the traditional high-quality with high-fee style practices, the other being the high-volume, speed-dentistry type that, in my opinion, leads to frustrating results.

Unfortunately, dental fees in 2009, by and large, are not, thus far, generally on the decline. Yet, today, road-tested technological advancements and innovative techniques are here that enable better care at reduced fees. This is where we left off last. Examples and evidence, as well as print space, however, were lacking.

Growing up in the Windy City, where ethnic charm (think: Da-Bears) and bluntness reigns, it seems I'd be hearing "Put up or shut up" at this point. Here in Missouri we're, not as gruffly, but even more concisely, likely muttering Show Me already. Either way, we thought you'd never ask.

Single Visit Crowns (SVC) are a great example of a better technique that allows for a permanent tooth protective restoration to be completed in one visit – without the usual 2-3 week temporization period and the obligatory extra visit, or two, if needed. Dentists can opt to purchase and train in various SVC technologies. Fees are actually rising with usage of some systems (ie Cerec), yet with others (Belleglass) fees can be relaxed by over 30%, while not sacrificing quality. We have tried both the Cerec and the Belleglass systems and have adopted usage of the latter. Very important to us, Belleglass restorations can be accomplished in a minimally invasive way without traditionally aggressive tooth preparation.

Other techniques/technology such as "Kor Deep Bleaching", Ultra-Thin Veneers, and Guided Implant Placement are even more examples of exciting advancements in dentistry greatly benefiting patients. For example, a tearfully happy patient avoided the high fees of porcelain veneers with the new Kor Deep Bleaching technique. Her story and pictures can be seen on our website, [TheConservativeDentist.com](http://TheConservativeDentist.com).

LANAP (PerioLase laser) and Perio-Protect (soft, flexible trays) are minimally invasive and especially cost sensitive options for the many afflicted with periodontal (gum) disease. LANAP has plenty of positive research backing its treatment claims. And, even more telling, a higher percentage of gum specialists (periodontists) vs general dentists are purchasing the PerioLase laser and learning the LANAP technique in 2009 than ever before. This implicit endorsement of the technology & technique by gum specialists is interesting and telling.

Our perspective is that of an office offering general dentistry. Other general dentists have differing philosophies and specialists such as periodontists have their own beliefs. We implore patients to ask questions and we try our best to completely answer them, importantly, with many treatment options offered. Understand that there are differences in dentistry. Don't be afraid to initiate a dialogue along these lines with your dentist. Questioning proposed treatment choices in dentistry should no longer be taboo, if it ever was.

Keep Smiling...And Ask your DDS to Show You.

*Dr. William J. Schlotz, DDS*

*Plaza Health Dentistry 314.843.0500*

*9420 Watson Road, Crestwood.*

*[TheConservativeDentist.com](http://TheConservativeDentist.com)*