

# High-Tech Dentistry

BY ADAM HEADLEY

*Laser technology is revolutionizing the treatment of dental conditions*

For some, it would be the most challenging Fear Factor stunt imaginable. The sights, sounds and potential for pain dissuade thousands from seeking help when they need it.

While treatment for gum disease or tooth decay is necessary for good general health, chances are these conditions remain untreated time after time. Truth is, a visit to the dentist doesn't necessarily have to be so bad anymore. In recent years, the word "laser" has crept into our language. It has done the same thing in the medical field, and the Waterlase system marketed by Biolase is nothing short of a breakthrough in dentistry.

During 30 years of dental practice in Hixson, Dr. Jim Dick has kept a close watch on advancing technology. He was one of the first in the area to install office computers, and his practice is virtually paperless today. Digital photography and x-rays, invisible braces and other features are standards of care. Each of these innovations is significant in itself, but Dr. Dick reserves special praise for the laser.

"It is the most exciting part of all," he related. "For the first time, the laser allows us to do so many procedures both on hard and soft tissue without a shot. Surveys show that 40 or more percent of the population don't go to the dentist out of fear. To whatever extent that is justified, then we have a way that is not perfect but vastly superior to anything I've ever seen. I use the words 'a whole new paradigm,' and truly it is just that. In so many cases, you can do soft tissue, gum treatment, surgery, fillings, even



*Dr. Jim Dick's 30-year practice in Hixson has allowed him to keep a close watch on technology.*

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## Healthy Smiles for Life

# Dr. Jim Dick

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