



Dentist's air-abrasion system on the cutting edge

No more agonizing over dentist's drill

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The dreaded dentist's drill is moving over for a new state-of-the-art system coming to a Peterborough dental clinic next month.

Dr. Chris Moore, a 30-year-old dentist currently working in Pembroke, is setting up practice with Peterborough dentist Dr. Jim King and will be bringing an air-abrasion system called Kinetic Cavity Preparation (KCP) with him, said Moore in a telephone interview.

"What KCP does essentially is take away (tooth) decay without the drills," he said. "It's new. It's cutting edge. It's proven."

Like a miniature sandblaster, the equipment propels microscopic particles of aluminum dioxide at the tiny grooves on teeth and blows away the decay lurking there, said Moore, while creating a surface that can be filled. The sound of a drill is enough to strike fear into the hearts of many dental patients but, with KCP, the only sound a



Dr. Chris Moore

patient hears is suction, said Moore.

KCP doesn't give off the distinctive burning smell associated with drilling and usually does not require freezing, he added.

The KCP system is not for tartar, preparation work for veneers and crowns or for very deep cavities; its role in preventative dentistry is to solve smaller tooth decay problems before they become serious and to

minimize patient discomfort, said Moore.

Air abrasion is not new but has become more practical now that new filling material, which is replacing silver fillings, is able to flow into the smaller grooves made by the KCP system, said Moore.

A problem with the white fillings is only about a two-millimetre thickness can be "cured" (hardened) at one time and each 40 to 50-second cure causes the material to shrink, said Moore.

Dr. Moore's system may be the only one in Peterborough but Dr. Scott Connors of Lindsay has had one for about a year, said Connors receptionist Julie Carchidi.

Moore's KCP system also comes with what is called a Plasma Arc Curing (PAC) light, whose high-intensity blue light cures the filing material in 10 seconds. That eliminates much of the shrinkage and gives a tighter seal, he said.

The unit is expensive — it costs about \$30,000 — but patients will be paying no more for the treatment than they do for a filling now, said Moore.

Moore, who will be moving to Peterborough with his wife and two children, will join Dr. King at his Park Street North clinic May 18 and will be accepting new patients.