

Tooth Decay – HealOzone

Personal Statement – Andrew Solecki

My area of interest in this technology appraisal is how HealOzone will benefit people who suffer from dental anxiety, fear or phobia especially for those who are, due to personal circumstances are unable to afford private treatment where HealOzone may be available.

I run Beyond Fear, which is a dental phobia self-help resource and also have a support line in the evenings. The aim is to enable people to get themselves to the point where they can seek professional help.

It is well known that dental caries can have a significant impact on individual's life. The situation is made even worse when fear prevents people from seeking treatment. Avoiding treatment leads to further problems, more distress and can lead to long-term complications. Not only does it affect their dental health it affects their self confidence and self-esteem.

HealOzone treatment is reported to:

- Be pain free
- Eliminate the need for drilling
- Eliminate the need for injections

This being the case it would certainly benefit many of the people I work with. Out of the top 10 fears gathered via Beyond Fear these three figured extremely highly.

- 1) Pain
- 2) Needles
- 4) The drill

I appreciate that HealOzone treatment may not be suitable for all types of decay. However, even if it was able to reduce the level and amount of invasive treatment people needed it could make the difference between people managing to get to a dentist for treatment or not.

I believe that with people who suffer from dental phobia a softly-softly approach is the best way to enable them to regain confidence in themselves and the dental profession. If HealOzone were able to stop or even reverse decay this would give them a basis on which to build. At least they would be able to see some progress and realise that dental treatment does not have to be as bad as they feared. Even if eventually they did need more invasive treatment further down the line they would at least have got back into the system.

Also, many of the people I deal with report bad childhood experiences as the seed for their dental fear. If HealOzone were readily available for children then this would be a much better start for them.

I believe that HealOzone could be advantageous to many people who currently live in fear of dental treatment. Many people I deal with believe their teeth are in a far worse shape than they actually are and often need only fillings. If subsequently these teeth could then be treated with HealOzone then so much the better.

If pain free solutions were more available then it would make it easier for them to take the first step.

It has been said that restorative dental treatment can now be provided “pain free” apart from the pain of a local anaesthetic injection, this may be true. However for some people the thought of that pain does stop them from seeking treatment in the early stages. These early stages could well be the time when HealOzone could be used. If they knew that there were treatments available that did not need injections they would be more able to attend treatment.

It is not only people suffering from dental phobia who could potentially benefit from the introduction of HealOzone it would also be of advantageous for the people suffering from needle phobias.

I can see many advantages for the people I work with if this treatment was more accessible. I hope that it is appreciated how something like this could well improve the quality of people lives and this is taken into account alongside the clinical facts and statistics.