

# Dental Equipment

- The high speed drill was introduced in 1951 and rotates at 4-500,000 rpm. It is therefore vibration free. At such speeds it requires water to cool the drill bits and turbines.
- The autoclave is used to sterilize all dental instrumentation. It was first invented in 1879. It works by combining high pressure (double atmospheric pressure) with heated steam in a vacuum. At 134 degrees C an autoclave can sterilize in 3 minutes what a hot air oven would take 2 hours. Hot is a poor medium to achieve sterility.
- The dental autoclave sterilising cycle is usually set for a minimum 11-15 minutes at 134 degrees C in the vacuum at the end of each cycle a print out record is given to verify sterility.
- Autoclaves remove bacteria, viruses, fungi and spores.

**Please do not hesitate to contact staff with any enquiries**