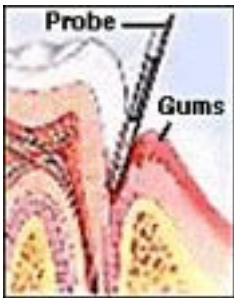


Periodontal Disease

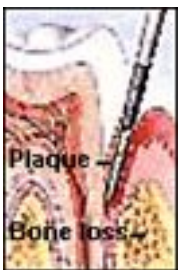
Periodontal disease, or gum disease, is a leading cause of tooth loss in adults. Mainly caused by plaque bacteria, it is usually painless in the early stages. Regular dental visits are essential to maintaining gum health and timely diagnosis and treatment when needed.

The early stage of gum disease is called **gingivitis**. Advanced periodontal disease is a more serious condition with warning signs like: persistent bad taste, permanent teeth that are loose or separating; changes in the way your teeth fit together when you bite.

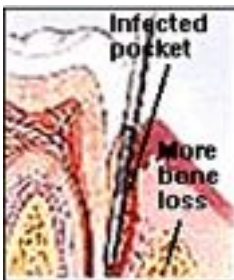
There are many forms and stages of periodontal disease. Most common are:



◀ **Gingivitis**
 The earliest stage of gum disease, often characterized by bleeding, tenderness, swelling and redness of the gums. A toothpaste or mouthrinse may be used to help reduce bleeding and inflammation for mild gingivitis.



◀ **Periodontitis**
 A more advanced stage of gum disease involving bone and ligament surrounding the teeth. If left untreated, it can damage the bone and supporting tissues. Your gum separates from the tooth and the bone level deteriorates.



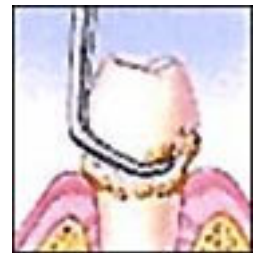
◀ **Advanced Periodontitis**
 Further progression of periodontitis with major loss of bone support. Your gums recede farther and separate. Pus may develop, bone loss continues and your teeth may loosen or fall out.

TREATMENTS

Your dentist will examine you for periodontal disease during each routine checkup. A **periodontal probe** will be used to determine if there is any breakdown in the gum tissue attachment or if **pockets** have developed between your gums and teeth.

Treatment will depend upon the type of periodontal disease and how far the condition has progressed. Treatment options include:

Scaling removes deposits above and below the gumline ▶



◀ **Root Planing** smooths rough root surfaces so the gum can heal. Local anesthesia may be used.

Oral Irrigation directs liquid below the gumline to flush out toxins and germs to help restore the gums to health. ▶



If deep pockets are found and bone has been destroyed, your dentist may recommend **periodontal surgery**.

A proper program of brushing, flossing and regular professional cleaning will help fight plaque accumulation and gum disease, and help you keep your teeth for a lifetime.

Be sure to follow the special home care instructions provided by your dental professional.

They Feel Their Best with You and Crest.