

What Is Periodontal Disease?

“Periodontal disease is an infectious and inflammatory disease which destroys the periodontal tissues. These tissues consist of the gums and bone that support the teeth. It is a gum and bone disease. Periodontal disease affects 3 out of 4 adults. It is caused by a growing colony of living bacteria called “plaque”. The greatest cause of adult tooth loss is periodontal disease.

In the early stages of periodontal disease there is little, if any, pain; therefore, you may not notice the gradual onset of puffiness (inflammation) and occasional bleeding. Without thorough removal, toxins from plaque cause the disease process to continue. Periodontal disease left untreated may result in extensive bone destruction and possible tooth loss.

If detected in the early stages, periodontal disease can be treated and controlled.

We will refer to the timely diagnosis and treatment of the signs and symptoms of periodontal disease as Soft Tissue Management.

Soft Tissue Management

Soft Tissue Management is an individualized plan to eliminate infection of the gums and root surfaces. Your dentist, hygienist and you will choose an appropriate plan. The hygienist will perform the treatments to help eliminate infection, make recommendations to help you more effectively clean your teeth daily, and guide you through our efforts to achieve and maintain good oral health.

Scaling & Root Planing

Scaling & root planing is the treatment of the diseased root surfaces below the gum line. A routine prophylaxis (cleaning) emphasizes cleaning the teeth above the gum line in a generally healthy mouth. Root planing focuses on eliminating tartar and plaque below the gum and detoxifying the root surfaces where the disease occurs. Obtaining smooth roots and flushing out the pockets allows for healthy reattachment of the gums to the roots surfaces.

What do we hope to accomplish with Soft Tissue Management?

- Gums that do not bleed--Healthy gums do not bleed!
- Fresher breath and taste
- Gums that are not red, swollen or tender
- Learning how to effectively maintain good oral hygiene
- Reduced pocket depths
- Control of periodontal disease

What do we need from YOU, the patient, to make this treatment a success?

- Completion of the periodontal therapy as prescribed by Dr. Wirtz
- Thoroughly cleaning all tooth surfaces two times a day--brushing & flossing
- Maintenance of regular Periodontal Maintenance Therapy (PMT) visits