

START TREATMENT RIGHT AWAY

Is My Periodontal Infection Treatable?

Fortunately yes. Most infections can be effectively treated. However, success is very dependent on you doing your part. This includes following our instructions and also starting treatment without delay.

Additional Instructions

You now have a serious dental problem which tends to progress in bursts of activity. From this point on, it is important that you follow our instructions, which may include:

1. More frequent periodontal cleanings.
2. Additional oral hygiene care.
3. Periodontal treatment.

The Good News

In most cases the progress of periodontal infection can be stopped and the damage repaired. With prompt treatment, the gums and bone around your teeth can be saved from further damage.

Thank you for choosing our office. We look forward to providing you with the highest quality of care.

Martha H. Sanger, DDS

Practice Limited to Periodontics
with Services in Dental Implants

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Periodontal Disease

***What Can Happen
If I Delay
Treatment?***

TOOTH LOSS

You have been diagnosed with Periodontal Disease. This pamphlet gives information on periodontal infection and why it is vital that you treat your infection without delay.

What is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal Disease is an ongoing bacterial infection in the gums and bone around your teeth. If not treated, this bacterial infection can cause tooth loss and many other problems.

Your Infection Grows In "Bursts"

If you have a periodontal infection, you have low resistance to periodontal bacteria. This causes a continuing gum infection which grows in "bursts" of activity. Some factors that can cause a burst are:

- Colds or the Flu
- Stress or Tension
- Illness
- Genetic Factors
- Changes in Diet
- Poor Oral Hygiene
- Smoking
- Age

It is very important that you have regular dental checkups and cleanings. If your infection has had a burst of activity, or the infection is getting too deep, further periodontal treatment may be needed.

Losing Your Teeth

75% of all tooth loss is caused by the type of infection you have. When your gums and jawbone are damaged by infection, there is less support for your teeth. As this support disappears, your teeth first become loose and then come out.

REPLACING YOUR NATURAL TEETH

When periodontal treatment is recommended, it is important to get started right away. Without treatment the infection will continue to eat away at the gums and bone which anchor your teeth.

Natural Teeth Have To Be Replaced

As infection continues, you can start to lose your teeth one at a time. Then your natural teeth will have to be replaced with dental work, such as:

- Bridges
- Dental Implants
- Partial Dentures
- Complete Dentures

Dentures

Tooth loss leads to dentures. Most patients don't understand what it means to wear dentures all of the time. Dentures cause many problems:

- Can't eat many of the foods you like.
- Lipping and clacking when speaking.
- Can't feel or taste food well.
- Continuous denture pain.
- Self-consciousness.
- Embarrassment
- Looking old.
- Bad breath

Older Appearance

The dental profession has made great strides in cosmetic dentistry. However, tooth loss and bone loss can make you look old. It can cause:

- A "sunken in" look in your cheeks.
- Wrinkling around your lips.
- The unnatural appearance of dentures.

MEDICAL RISKS

"People think of gum disease in terms of their teeth, but they don't think about the fact that gum disease is a serious infection that can release bacteria into the bloodstream."

Dr. Robert Genco, Journal of Periodontology

1. Heart Disease & Heart Attack

Recent studies have shown that people with periodontal disease are **2.7 times** more likely to suffer a heart attack.

2. Stroke

Recent studies have also shown that people with periodontal disease are nearly **3 times** more likely to suffer a stroke.

3. Premature Babies

Women with periodontal disease are **7-8 times** more likely to give premature birth to a low birth-weight baby.

4. Diabetes

Periodontal disease can **raise blood sugar** in diabetic patients. Periodontal treatment often results in a reduced need for insulin.

5. Your Bacteria Can Be Transmitted

Research using DNA testing has found that periodontal bacteria can be transmitted from **parent to child** and **spouse to spouse**.

In Summary

Periodontal disease is no longer just a problem of tooth loss and dentures. Medical research is finding many correlations between periodontal infection and serious medical problems.