

## Gum Disease

*A periodontal disease is the inflammation of supporting structures around teeth. This disease ranges from simple inflammation of gum tissue (gingivitis) to major inflammation that also causes significant damage and loss of supporting bone around teeth (periodontitis).*

*Periodontal disease is a slowly progressive disease that is often painless and may go unnoticed. Patient's susceptibility and presence of bacteria are the major causative factors, such as smoking and uncontrolled diabetes, accelerate disease progression and reduce the success of treatment.*

*Untreated periodontitis and presence of chronic inflammation will negatively impact oral health as well as overall health. Dental abscesses, loose teeth, pain and premature loss of teeth are examples of such. Untreated periodontal disease has also been linked to diabetes, heart disease and premature birth.*

*Once a patient is diagnosed with this condition and the severity of the disease is measured, a periodontist and a general dentist work together to treat this condition and prevent future recurrence. The treatment plan will involve anti-infective therapy of the diseased teeth and possible minor periodontal surgery to eliminate bacteria-infected gum pockets, depending on the severity of the disease. Regular reassessments (re-evaluations) are vital to monitor the disease as the risk of disease recurrence remains lifelong.*

*After your initial assessment, your periodontist will discuss a customized care plan that will be best suited for your particular condition.*

## Anti-Infective Therapy

*Anti-infective therapy is also known as scaling and root planing, conventional periodontal therapy, or non-surgical periodontal therapy. It is also part of the preventative and maintenance stage of periodontal therapy.*

*Bacteria plaque is the main cause for gingival inflammation and progression of periodontal disease. Thus the initial step for treatment of periodontal disease is to remove any factors that help retain plaque around teeth, such as tartar, and overhanging fillings.*

*To ensure patient comfort, local anesthetic is sometimes administered in selected areas.*