



A Healthy Mouth Makes Us Smile

Periodontal disease is like high blood pressure. It does not hurt and you may not realize you have it - until it's too late.

We at Jackson Creek Dental Group have a **strong commitment** to provide the patient with the utmost and **optimal dental care** available. Over 95% of the population has gingivitis or some type of periodontitis. Both infections can be treated at the earliest stages to prevent surgical intervention. It is our goal to educate you and provide the best possible care to help you prevent periodontal disease. Periodontal disease cannot be totally eliminated, but it can be maintained so that you don't have to lose any more bone around your teeth!

There are many factors that affect the gingiva (gums) and periodontium (jaw bones). Every type of periodontal case has different contributing factors, i.e. oral hygiene, diet, smoking, heredity, medications, systemic diseases, poor fitting appliances, etc. Your hygienist will help you determine how you can maintain your mouth, free of disease, so you can have your smile last a lifetime.

Terminology:

Calculus: (Tartar) hardened, calcified plaque.

Curettage: Removing diseased (infected) tissue so that, upon healing, the pockets will be reduced. This improves the ability for you to remove all the plaque daily to maintain your health.

Etiology: Cause of the disease.

Gingivitis: An infection of the gingiva (gums). Clinical features: Swollen, bleeding gums (inflammation) with no bone loss.

Healthy: No bleeding upon probing, pockets are 1-3 mm.

Hemorrhage: Bleeding. The first sign that there is an infection present. Hemorrhage is not normal in healthy tissue. Smokers with an infection may not experience bleeding, even though an infection exists.

Oral irrigation: Flushing of the periodontal pocket with an anti-microbial agent to provide a temporary environment where plaque cannot form as readily and to aid in the healing process.

Plaque: An accumulation of soft bacteria.

Periodontitis: An infection of the bone where there is actual destruction and loss of the gums and the jaw bone.

Root Planing: Detoxification of the root surfaces, removing calculus or tarter. Smoothing the root surfaces and removing bacteria.