

# Laser Treatment

The Modern Treatment  
for Gum (Periodontal)  
Disease





## What is **gum (periodontal) disease**?

Has your dentist diagnosed you with gum disease? According to the American Dental Association, the #1 reason for tooth loss is gum disease, an active or chronic infection that lodges between your teeth and gums. As the infection progresses, deep pockets of bacterial colonies form that infect and destroy the bone and supporting teeth structures, resulting in tooth loss. And unlike cavities, gum disease cannot be easily cured.

## How do **lasers** treat gum disease?



Laser treatment is the use of concentrated light to decontaminate or reduce bacterial levels within the infected gum tissue following a dental cleaning. Laser treatment benefits patients in many different areas of dental treatment, including: hygiene, periodontal and endodontic treatments and oral surgery.

You and your dentist will discuss if laser treatment is right for you. Laser treatment is used following scaling and root planing to reduce any bacterial colonies and decontaminate the infected periodontal pocket. During the process, infected tissue lining is also removed. This encourages your body to naturally heal on its own.

### How can severe gum disease be managed?

Like diabetes, gum disease cannot be cured, but it can be managed through scaling and root planing and with a laser. Your dentist may also recommend that you see a periodontist for a follow-up evaluation if you have an advanced level of gum disease. **Please ask for our Gum (Periodontal) Disease brochure for more information.**

### What are the warning signs of gum disease?

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 47.2 percent of American adults over the age of

30 have mild, moderate or severe gum disease. Prevalence rates rise above 70 percent for those over the age of 65. Here are some warning signs:

- Bleeding gums during brushing or flossing
- Red, swollen or tender gums
- Gums that pull away from teeth
- Persistent bad breath
- Pus between teeth and gums
- Loose or separated teeth

### Is laser treatment painful?

Many patients are concerned about feeling pain during the procedure. The good news is that most procedures performed

with a laser can be done with little or no anesthesia. Your hygienist will calibrate the lasers to provide just the right amount of power to treat your gums without causing discomfort or trauma. Some localized anesthesia may be necessary depending upon the level of infection present.

### Is there special training involved to use a laser?

Your dentist believes strongly in the use of lasers to effectively treat the infection in your gums and arrest the progression of the gum disease. Having a laser in our office means that we have made a financial and educational investment to bring you

advanced technology for the treatment of gum disease. All hygienists in our practice have been extensively trained to use lasers under the guidelines of the Academy of Laser Dentistry.

### Flexible Financial Options for Your Smile

We have a wide range of payment options and welcome most insurance plans and major credit cards. Our staff is trained to assist you in maximizing your insurance coverage, minimizing your out-of-pocket costs and offering arrangements and other options to pay for your treatment over time.



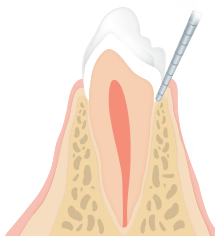
# Practicing Good Oral Hygiene at Home

Be sure to follow this four-step routine when you're in between dental visits to keep plaque and harmful bacteria from building up in your mouth:

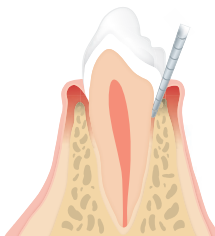
1. Brush your teeth and use an antiseptic mouthwash twice daily.
2. Floss your teeth every day.
3. Eat a balanced diet.
4. See your dentist for routine dental checkups.

*Remember, maintaining good oral health is a key factor in maintaining good overall health.*

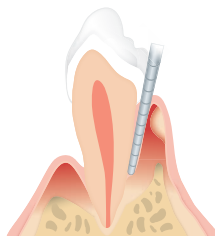
## Stages of Gum Disease



**No gum disease**  
Healthy gums and bone shown.



**Infection sets in**  
Tartar (calculus) and bacteria lead to infection, destroying gums, ligaments and bone.



**Danger of losing teeth**  
As more bone is destroyed, the tooth is in danger of falling out.

For more information, visit [smilegeneration.com/laser](http://smilegeneration.com/laser)

