

Edward A. Borio, D.D.S., P.C.
50 West Big Beaver #100B
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248 644 1955
www.boriodental.com

Frequently Asked Questions about Periodontal Disease

What do you mean I have periodontal disease, my gums don't hurt or bleed, how do you know I have it?

Periodontal disease is a chronic bacterial infection of the supporting structures of the teeth (gum and bone). It often degrades these structures slowly and without pain. During a periodontal examination we measure the depth of each crevice (pocket) between the tooth and gum. We also use radiographic (x-ray) information, and visual signs of swelling and bleeding to determine the presence of the disease and if it is active or stable. Periodontal disease can be episodic in nature and your teeth may show signs of past disease damage with no evidence of active present disease.

I have been going to the dentist for years why haven't I been told I have periodontal disease before?

Quite simply your body changes over time. Bacteria in your mouth that have been present for a long time can cause an infection in your gums called periodontal disease. Just as you may have developed a cavity since your last appointment, health changes could have caused you to become more susceptible to the bacteria that cause a gum infection. Your infection may be throughout your entire mouth or localized to just a small area (one to three teeth). Presence of the infection anywhere is reason to have therapy to control it. Other risk factors affecting the onset of periodontal disease include: smoking, diabetes, heart disease, respiratory disease, osteoporosis, stress, radiation, chemotherapy, medications, hereditary predisposition, and others.

Will my insurance cover my periodontal visits? or I don't have insurance how much will it cost?

To determine if your dental benefits apply to periodontal disease we need to evaluate your plan. Our business staff can help you with this. We need data to submit to your insurance company to determine if they will apply benefits to your treatment. They will review the periodontal charting, radiographs (x-rays), clinic notes, etc. Fees for gathering this data are often covered under most insurance plans. However, please be informed that any fee or portion of any fee that the insurance company does not pay is your responsibility. All fees will be discussed up front and if they have not been discussed please ask us to explain them.

Why don't you just clean my teeth and do the best you can?

Our goal is to provide excellent comprehensive oral care utilizing a team approach and if we detect a gum infection we cannot and will not ignore it. Periodontal disease not only leads to tooth loss, it may put you at increased risk for other systemic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, respiratory disease or if you are a pregnant woman it may cause a pre-term low birth weight baby.

Why do I need to come back in three to four months? My insurance only covers two cleanings per year?

You have a chronic bacterial infection in your mouth. Infected areas this deep are not accessible by brushing and flossing. They require us to manually remove the bacterial toxins with special ultrasonic or hand instruments. Bacteria and their environment need to be disrupted every 90 to 120 days to prevent further bone loss or breakdown of the gums. Breakdown of these structures from the bacterial invasion leads to premature tooth loss.