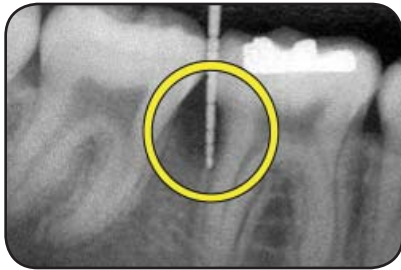


Periodontal Maintenance

Periodontal disease only controlled

Periodontal disease cannot be cured; it can only be controlled. That is why we need to examine the health of your gums at least every three months or sooner.

If periodontal disease is not closely monitored and controlled, the disease can quickly worsen, destroy bone and soft tissue, and eventually cause you to lose teeth.



Measuring a periodontal pocket



Removing plaque below the gumline

Frequent maintenance visits are important

When we first find periodontal disease, we treat it with scaling and root planing to remove plaque, tartar and bacteria from beneath your gumline.

This treatment disrupts the growth of the bacteria, but some bacteria remain and may settle back into the pocket where they reproduce. In fact, the number of bacteria doubles every time they reproduce, reaching destructive levels in as few as 90 days.



Gums bleed when probed

Periodontal disease is unpredictable

It can be challenging to predict where in your mouth the symptoms of periodontal disease may recur or when, and frequently, it does not hurt.

The only way to find and control periodontal disease is with a professional exam that specifically looks for the disease.

This also means that a twice-a-year cleaning schedule just is not safe for those who have periodontal disease.

The maintenance appointment

It is important that you come in every three months, or more, for a periodontal maintenance appointment which may include—

- ❖ taking x-rays to check jawbone levels.
- ❖ measuring the depth of periodontal pockets.
- ❖ checking for loose teeth or bleeding gums.
- ❖ removing plaque above and below the gumline.
- ❖ talking with you about the effectiveness of your homecare.

If necessary, we may also re-treat the teeth with scaling and root planing or apply a medication or antimicrobial rinse.

Periodontal maintenance visits help us break the stronghold of bacteria in your gums and slow or eliminate their destructive effects.