

Periodontal Health and Treatment Dentistry of Orlando

What is fluoride used for?

Fluoride is beneficial to teeth because it helps to rebuild (remineralize) weakened tooth enamel. It slows down the loss of minerals from tooth enamel. It also helps to prevent cavities and refers early signs of tooth decay.

What are Sealants?

A dental sealant is a thin, protective coating applied to the grooves of the top surface of the tooth to keep food, bacteria, and acid from setting on the enamel.

What is gingivitis?

Gingivitis is the initial stage of periodontal disease. Gums may appear red, swollen, bleed easily and are tender at times while brushing. If not treated this condition can lead to more advanced conditions of periodontal disease.

What is periodontal disease and what causes it?

Periodontal diseases or “gum disease” occurs when tartar, plaque, and plaque byproducts destroy the gum and bone that support teeth. A film of bacterial plaque attaches to the teeth and gums daily. Plaque is soft and can be brushed off but when it is not removed or missed with daily brushing it can irritate the gums and cause redness, swelling and bleeding. Plaque that is not completely removed calcifies (hardens) called tartar, calculus or build up. The only way to remove tartar is to have your teeth professionally cleaned at the dental office.

What is periodontal maintenance?

Periodontal maintenance is a conservative way to help maintain the health of your mouth once you have been diagnosed with periodontal disease. The maintenances are dental hygiene visits 3-4-month intervals throughout the year. At these appointments, the frequent removal of tartar will help maintain the health of you gum pockets. There are also times when a 3-4-month re-care appointment is indicated to prevent gum disease.

How is periodontal disease or gum disease diagnosed and treated?

Periodontal disease is detected by an examination of your gums at your dental checkup. We examine your gums for the presence of inflamed “pockets”. Pockets are the spaces between your teeth. If they range between 1-3mm usually a preventive prophylaxis or “cleaning” is all that is needed. When pockets are 4mm or higher this can be an indication that early bone loss is evident, and we will schedule you for scaling and root planning. Full mouth debridement > CDT code 4355> are indicated at times when too much surface tartar is blocking an evaluation of gum tissues. This appointment may be done before periodontal treatment or a prophylaxis.

Why do I need scaling and root planning?

This special type of cleaning is the only non-surgical way to remove tartar below the gum line.

What is scaling and root planning? CDT code 4341 & 4342

Scaling and root planning is a non-surgical step to help gum disease. Sometimes a local anesthetic is used to reduce any discomfort. The dental hygienist will carefully remove any plaque and tartar formed above the gum line and on the root surface to help reduce the pocket. In conjunction with proper homecare this procedure can help heal irritated gum tissues.

Will I need to take medication for treating gum disease?

During the root planning procedure, the hygienist will irrigate below the gum with an antibacterial medicament. You will also be given a bottle of the antibacterial agent to use at home. This medication will reduce the bacteria in your mouth and aid in the healing process. Proper brushing and daily flossing is very important for best results.

What happens if I don't follow through with the root planning procedure

If gum disease is left untreated the tartar, plaque and plaque byproducts will continue to destroy the surrounding gum tissues and bone. In time the affected teeth become loose and may fall out or require removal by a dentist. Tooth loss will be a slow process and will only start to hurt as the disease progresses.