



Health Alert

Why a Cleaning is Not “Just a Cleaning” Anymore

In reality, it never was - it is a method for maintaining health. We are all individuals. Therefore, both the doctor and team evaluate our patients on an individual basis. We have been trained and educated on the latest techniques to help keep your mouth in the healthiest condition possible. Our commitment to you is to recognize the often-subtle signs of “gum disease.” The other part of the equation is your support each day at home.

The truth is that 75 – 80% of all adults, and even some young people, have some degree or episode of periodontal disease, or “gum problem,” during their lifetime. The good news is that it is controllable. Although never curable, together we can work to control the effects of this infection. If this infection is left untreated, the ultimate result will be the loss of what should be a normal, healthy mouth. In advanced cases this disease / infection can cause you to lose your teeth.

Under your gums, where your eyes “and ours” cannot see, lies the foundation of a healthy smile. It may help to think of it like the foundation of a house. If the foundation is faulty or “weak,” the house is threatened and will eventually begin to show signs of wear or even collapse.

Your teeth and their supporting structures are just the same. They are confronted daily by bacteria, or bugs, that we all form every day. If we are able to keep them under control you will hopefully keep your teeth for a lifetime. Is that important to you?

Unfortunately, the visible signs and noticeable symptoms of this infection are not obvious to you until much damage has already occurred. That is why we are proud to be adding the latest methods of observing the health of your mouth at each visit. Our goal is to save your teeth. Is this your goal?

During a complete periodontal exam and charting, we are thoroughly examining the health of your mouth. We will share the results of this exam with you and answer any questions you have. Sometimes, as a result of this exam, we may recommend a "therapeutic" type of cleaning that is quite different than the service performed on a healthy or "stable" mouth. This "therapeutic" treatment is not surgery! It is a procedure that enables us to thoroughly remove the bacteria and "calculus" that are under your gums and attached to the root surface. These toxins, often called "plaque" and "tartar," are what most people think are causing the problem. In actuality they do not, but they do form a breeding ground for the bacteria to live.

If you have the complement of dental insurance your insurance carrier may cover a portion of this procedure. This is not up to us. Each plan is different, but we will help you maximize your coverage. However, we do not base our treatment recommendations on your insurance coverage. Our treatment recommendations are based purely on what we think is best for your oral health. We hope to help you make wise choices about caring for your teeth and gums.