

Laser Treatment - LANAP®

In some cases, scaling and root planing may be combined with laser therapy to reduce not only the infection but to assist in regenerating bone lost due to the periodontal infection. Check with Drs. Sonick, Ma, and Koo to see if you'd be a candidate for LANAP®, the state-of-the-art laser treatment.

What is LANAP®?

LANAP® stands for laser-assisted new attachment procedure. It is the only laser periodontal treatment protocol that is cleared by the U.S. FDA. It is clinically and histologically proven to regenerate gum tissue, periodontal ligament, and bone. The laser wavelength detoxifies the tooth and pocket, destroys harmful bacteria, and stimulates the release of growth factors, allowing the body to heal naturally. The laser also effectively treats infections around previously placed dental implants by eliminating periodontal pathogens and endotoxins. Bone can often be regenerated and health restored.

Do You Have These Risk Factors For Periodontal Disease?

- Poor oral hygiene
- Lack of dental visits
- Parents or grandparents with missing teeth or periodontal issues
- Tobacco use
- Immune disorder
- Diabetes

What if I Don't Get Treatment?

The health risk of gum disease go far beyond the loss of teeth. Periodontal disease is linked with several medical conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, dementia, lung dysfunction, and osteoporosis. Treating periodontal infection may help control these other problems.



**Dr. Michael Sonick, Dr. Ray Ma,
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Creating Beautiful Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime



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Untreated periodontal disease can lead to bad breath, an unattractive smile, and tooth loss. Often, we can treat this non-surgically with scaling and root planing.

What is Scaling and Root Planing?



What is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal disease (periodontitis) is an infection caused by bacteria that affects both the gum tissue and the underlying jawbone. In its early stage, it causes inflammation of the gum tissue; this is called gingivitis. If diagnosed and treated early, gingivitis is easily reversible. Untreated, over time, the bacteria will harden and form calcareous deposits on the teeth, called tartar. The tartar traps additional bacteria which invade the gum tissue; this triggers the body to fight the infection. Unfortunately, the body's response to the bacteria leads to a deeper infection into the jaw bone. As the infection progresses from gum disease to bone disease, periodontitis occurs; this leads to a loss of the jaw bone, which anchors the teeth. The loss of jaw bone is often irreversible and can eventually lead to the loss of teeth. Remember, gum infection is reversible, but bone infection isn't. Early treatment is imperative.

Warning Signs of Periodontal Disease



These are a few signs of periodontal disease. A simple, non-surgical way to prevent this problem is scaling and root planing.

- Bad breath
- Bad taste in the mouth
- Red, puffy gum tissue
- Bleeding gums upon brushing or flossing
- Teeth that feel rough
- Longer-looking teeth
- Teeth that have shifted
- Loose teeth
- Gum abscess

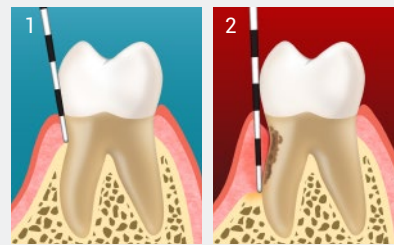
Periodontal disease is often painless, even when severe, so a professional evaluation is critical.

Having any sign of periodontal disease? Please call your periodontist or general dentist for advice.

Diagnosing Periodontal Disease

We determine if you have periodontal disease by physically examining the gum tissue and the bone level on x-rays. Periodontal probing and x-ray evaluation are the standard of care for diagnosing periodontal disease. This examination is essential for all patients.

There is a small space, or pocket, between the gums and the tooth - think of a moat that surrounds a castle. In health, a pocket is shallow - 3 mm or less. The pocket will deepen if the gums become swollen and if loss of tooth-supporting bone occurs due to a bacterial infection. An increase in pocket depth is a sign of gum swelling and/or bone loss. Pockets are measured by using a periodontal probe.



1. Healthy (shallow)
2 mm gum pocket
2. Diseased (deep)
6 mm gum pocket

X-rays allow us to visualize the extent of bone loss. Deep pockets accompanied by bone loss require immediate attention. You can't clean deep pockets on your own.



1. A normal bone level
2. Severe bone loss from periodontal disease

A comprehensive examination to evaluate your overall oral health is crucial to diagnosing periodontal disease. Remember, this must include full-mouth periodontal probing as well as x-rays.

Prevention

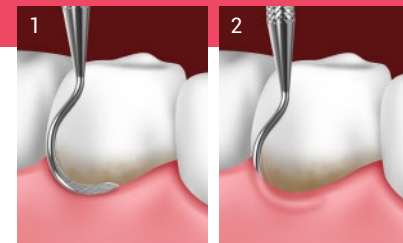
Preventing periodontal disease entails a plaque busting home care hygiene routine that includes brushing twice a day and cleaning between teeth at least once a day with floss or another interdental device. Prevention also requires that patients get their teeth cleaned on a regular basis.

The interval between dental cleanings is determined by the patient's periodontal status and tendency toward periodontal disease.

What is Scaling and Root Planing?

Scaling and root planing is a conservative, non-surgical treatment for getting gum disease under control. Through hand and ultrasonic instruments, bacterial plaque and tartar are removed from both above and below the gumline. This is done painlessly, as the gum tissue is numbed through the application of strong topical and local anesthetics.

Scaling and Root Planing (SRP) isn't the same as a "regular" cleaning! SRP is a deeper, more thorough cleaning that prevents periodontal disease from progressing.



1. Scaling
(above the gumline)
2. Root Planing
(below the gumline)

Treatment

The goal of periodontal treatment is to thoroughly clean the pockets around teeth and prevent damage to surrounding bone. Non surgical (Scaling and Root Planing and LANAP laser) and surgical treatments area available in our practice.