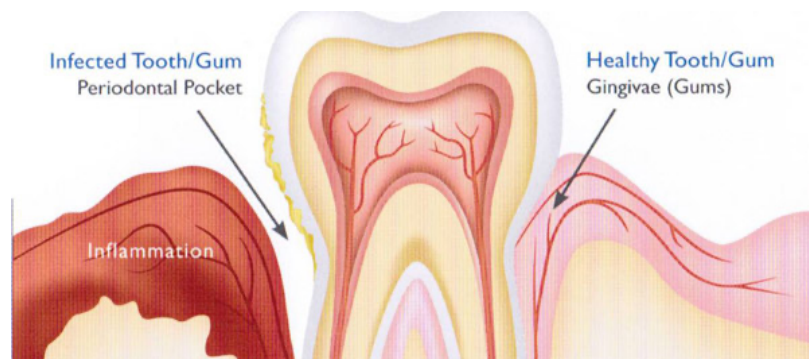


INFORMED CONSENT FOR TREATMENT OF PERIODONTAL (GUM) DISEASE

What is periodontal disease?

This is a disease that affects the tissues that support the teeth. The support system including the gum, bone and associated structures are infected by the plaque/tartar build-up around the teeth leading to their breakdown. The severity of the disease can be affected by the type of bacteria, the response of the individual and other underlying conditions such as diabetes or smoking.

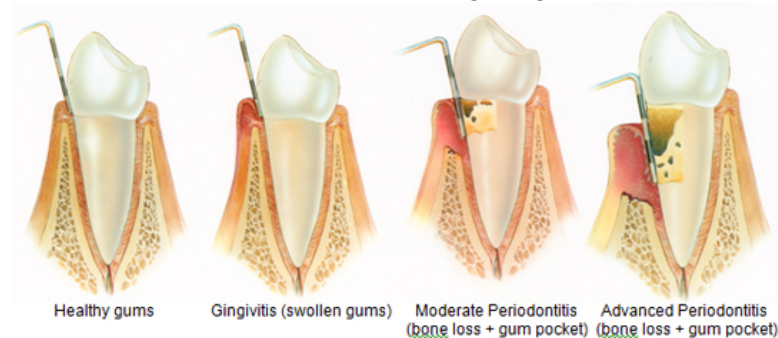


Signs of periodontal disease:

The signs can start from a relatively innocuous bleeding of the gum, indicative of an inflammation in the gum called gingivitis. This can progress to destructive loss of gum support of teeth characterized by red, swollen, tender or painful gums. The appearance of 'long teeth' in the mouth caused by the recession of gum and bone, possibly leading to loose teeth or teeth drifting apart are other possible indicators. As this is an infective process, other signs such as a bad taste or bad breath from abscess formation can indicate an issue. A diagnosis by a dentist is needed so targeted treatment, taking into account the patient's overall health, can commence.

The severity of periodontal disease can range from swollen gums (gingivitis), to mild (characterised by attachment loss of 4-5mm), moderate (attachment loss of 6-7mm) or severe periodontitis (8+ mm).

The progression of periodontal disease can be seen in the following image:



Treatment of periodontal

As periodontal disease is inflammatory and first line of treatment is of the inflammation.

the scaling and debridement of the tooth surfaces by the dentist, perhaps including the remodeling/replacement of fillings in order to decrease the areas where the plaque can accumulate. It may take multiple appointments to complete your treatment. Excellent home care is essential to ensure the maintenance of a cleaner environment throughout the cycle of treatment and later prevention.

Unfortunately periodontal treatment is characterized by the side effects experienced by patients during treatment. These can include:

Common:

- pain and sensitivity during cleaning of the teeth (can be alleviated by local anaesthetic)
- pain and sensitivity (typically temperature and sweet stimulation) after completion of the visit

disease:

essentially an infective process, the removal of the cause This generally includes



East Keilor Dental
27 McFarlane Street, East Keilor 3033
(ph) 9337 4076
reception@eastkeilordental.com.au

- gum shrinkage (recession) following healing of the inflamed and swollen tissues
- increased risk of root decay following exposure of the root
- Tenderness at the injection site of the local anaesthetics
- Swelling, infection, pain and bleeding after treatment

Less common:

- TMJ (jaw joint) may become tender due to prolonged mouth opening
- Prolonged or in rare instances permanent numbness in associated tissues
- Increased spacing between teeth and/or loosening of teeth (most will tighten up, but some will not)

The side effects can typically be managed in consultation with the dentist using a variety of desensitizing toothpaste, concentrated fluoride application or Tooth Mousse.

Longer term results of periodontal treatment:

Following professional cleaning, rigorous daily home dental hygiene is required to maintain healthy gums as this limits the build-up of the essential element of gum disease, the plaque bacteria. Recall appointments are required to assess the recovery of the gums and to address non-healing sites. Given a history of non-healing sites, the unfortunate consequence can be the loss of teeth.

I acknowledge that all procedures and costs have been explained to me and I give my consent for treatment. I understand the outcome of the treatment cannot be predicted and that success of treatment is unique to my individual medical and dental needs. I understand that treatment outcomes can be negatively affected by certain medical conditions, smoking, alcohol consumption, medications, and particularly oral care at home. I understand that after initial treatment constant monitoring is required for treatment success and usually occurs every 3-6 months. I also understand that my personal oral care is essential for a successful outcome and that if plaque control cannot be properly maintained then periodontal disease may recur and/or progress.

Number of appointments expected: _____ Cost estimate: _____

Patient name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____