

Numerous studies indicate that women who have periodontal (gum) disease while pregnant are at much greater risk for having other health issues.

Preterm Labor...

Gum disease may raise the risk of preterm delivery and giving birth to a low weight baby.

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial research reports “as many as 18 percent of preterm, low birth weight babies are born in the U.S. each year may be attributed to oral infections.”

Oral bacteria release toxins, which reach the placenta through the mother’s bloodstream and interfere with the development and growth of the fetus. Pregnant woman who have periodontal (gum) disease are up to eight times more likely to give birth prematurely. Be sure to have a gum exam while being pregnant.



If you didn't already have enough reasons to take good care of your mouth, teeth and gum; the connection between your oral health and your overall health offers even more. Make an investment in your overall health now and for your future—you and your children are worth it!

Periodontitis

Gum disease also known as periodontal disease, is one of the most common infections—often more prevalent than the common cold. Common signs of gum disease include bleeding gums, or pus between the teeth. Left untreated, this chronic infection can destroy the bone that supports the teeth and may lead to tooth loss and increase risk for other systemic diseases.

Risks Factors:

Smoking. Need another reason to quit smoking? Smoking is one of the most significant risk factors associated with the development of periodontitis. Additionally, smoking can lower the chances of success of some treatments.

Hormonal changes in girls/women. These changes can make gums more sensitive and make it easier for gingivitis to develop.

Diabetes. People with diabetes are at higher risk for developing infections, including periodontal disease.

Stress. Research shows that stress can make it more difficult for our bodies to fight infection, including periodontal disease.

Medications. Some drugs such as antidepressants and some heart medicines, can affect oral health because they lessen the flow of saliva. (Saliva has a protective effect on teeth and gums.)

Illnesses. Diseases like cancer or AIDS and their treatments can also affect the health of gums.

Genetic Susceptibility. Some people are more prone to severe periodontal disease than others.