

PERIODONTAL DISEASE & SYSTEMIC HEALTH

TO OUR PATIENTS

Recently the press, radio and television have presented stories on the connection of oral infection, i.e. Periodontal Disease, and other diseases in the body. The New York Times ran a story on the relationship between gum disease and coronary artery disease. Others have discussed this relationship with diabetes, stroke, and even low birth weight in babies.

What are the facts? The facts are elusive. The connections are real but still loosely defined. We know the byproducts of periodontal infection set off a palisading series of events with the immune system. It is these biochemical mediators that are related to other diseases.

Diseases now cited in the literature with an association to periodontal disease:

- * Kidney Disease
- * Osteoporosis
- * Respiratory Disease
- * Coronary Artery Disease
- * Stroke or CVA
- * Diabetes
- * Premature Labor/low birth weight
- * Arthritis
- * Alzheimer's Disease

Until the true relationships are fully understood, our position is to be intolerant of severe inflammation. We will do whatever possible to eliminate it. That is our pledge to our patients – you deserve no less.

John A. Bierly, D.M.D.
and
Peter J.M. Peterson, D.M.D.
and
Jesse M. Sorrentino, D.D.S.