

MOUTH - BODY CONNECTION

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Dual Relationship

What is the relationship between oral health and general health? This connection has been brought to light more and more over the years through continuing research and supports the rationale for practicing a holistic approach to dentistry. It is obvious that if our chewing system is impaired, a burden is placed on the digestive system. And if our immune system is lagging through chronic infection and other systemic diseases, it certainly will manifest itself in the oral tissues. There is a reciprocal factor here also. When there is oral inflammation or infection, it can influence the rest of the body. For instance, researchers have found that people with periodontal disease (bleeding gums) are twice as likely to suffer from coronary artery disease as those without periodontal disease. This fact is supported by the American Academy of Periodontology (gum disease specialty organization) as well as the American Heart Association. Research evidence is showing that gum disease is also associated with diabetes, strokes, osteoporosis, pregnancy complications, pneumonia, respiratory disease, sinus problems, gastric ulcers and pancreatic cancer

The Connection Manifest

In the past, we have seen people with gum disease go through our programs to stop bleeding gums, and some have had remarkable results with no bleeding afterwards, while others with the same condition continued to bleed. We have discovered that there is a reason for this - a definite connection between the state of one's general and oral health.

Change of Approach Equal

We have changed our approach to one of "zero tolerance for bleeding." We now treat the problem both from the inside and the outside. All people with bleeding gums are tested for the presence of 3 of the most aggressive and dangerous oral bacteria, a BANA test. If this proves positive, tests are performed to determine whether the inflammation has entered the patient's system - C Reactive Protein (hsCRP), and blood glucose (HbA1c) with simple FDA approved in-office pin-prick blood testing. We also do phase microscopic bacterial plaque sample testing to determine bacterial types and their activity. After having gone through our gum health program which includes natural, immune building supplementation, laser decontamination of deep gum pockets and safe, effective oral rinses, the same tests are re-taken after completion of the program. It is not uncommon to see those with unhealthy test results prior to the program, besides having non-bleeding gums, having developed healthier test parameters. If the results are still abnormal at the conclusion of their program after the gums have stopped bleeding, they are referred to their medical doctor for further testing as to why any testing parameters remain high. We are proud and excited to offer individualized programs for our patients that really work – not just for 3 or 6 months, but when followed through - for a lifetime!

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