

# periodontal disease and treatment

save your smile



## Periodontal/Gum Disease

Periodontal disease is infection of the gum and bone that hold teeth in place. If it is not treated, it can become severe and may lead to tooth loss.

The good news is that periodontal disease often can be treated with periodontal therapy (scaling and root planing).

**Your gum disease treatment will depend on factors such as your personal health history and the stage of gum disease.**

## Gum Disease Stages

### Gingivitis

1

- Red or swollen gums
- Gums bleed easily.
- Bad breath taste in the mouth.

### Early Periodontitis

2

- Bleeding is more pronounced.
- Gums recede, slight bone deterioration.
- **4 mm** pocket appears around the teeth.

### Moderate Periodontitis

3

- Abscesses can develop.
- Angular bone deterioration.
- The pockets reach **5-6 mm**.

### Advanced Periodontitis

4

- Teeth begin to loosen.
- Significant bone deterioration.
- The pockets reach **7+ mm**.



### Auburn Hills

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### Flint Township

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### Livonia

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734.237.5755  
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## Diagnosis

If you schedule regular dental exams, our dentist can catch periodontal diseases before the gums and bone supporting your teeth are severely damaged.

**The dentist uses an instrument called a periodontal probe to gently measure the depth of the spaces between your teeth and gums.**

Besides checking your gums, our dentist will perform an oral cancer screening. Dental x-rays are taken to check the condition of bone supporting the teeth and to detect other problems not visible during the clinical examination.

## Treatment

**The first step usually involves a special cleaning, called scaling and root planing.**

In this treatment, plaque and tartar are carefully removed down to the bottom of each periodontal pocket. The tooth's root surfaces are then smoothed, or planned, to allow the gum tissue to heal and reattach to the tooth.

**If you smoke or chew tobacco products, it is important to quit.**

Once the scaling and root planning treatment is complete, another appointment will be made within a few weeks. Our dentist or hygienist will look at your gums to see how they have healed and measure the periodontal pockets again. If the disease continues to advance, more treatment may be necessary.

## Periodontal disease will not go away by itself

Left untreated, surgery may be needed to save affected teeth. Preventing and treating the disease in the early stages are the best ways to keep your smile healthy.

## Save your smile

New You Dental Center offers minimally invasive periodontal disease treatment for patients. If you have any questions regarding the treatment or therapy options, our dental team would be glad to discuss with you at your convenience.

***Treatment has this huge benefit: You'll increase the chances of keeping your natural teeth.***

## Will my treatment be covered by insurance?

Check your dental plan when you are planning treatment with our dental office.

If your treatment is not fully covered by insurance, ask our treatment coordinator about a payment plan to cover the rest. Keep in mind that having periodontal treatment now may be less expensive than replacing a tooth lost to disease.

