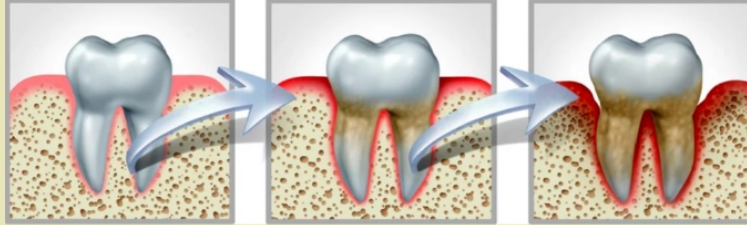


STAGES OF GUM DISEASE

Gum disease, commonly known as periodontal disease, affects about half of the adult population of the United States. It can trigger and be the cause of many health issues, but it can be prevented if caught early. There are four stages of gum disease: gingivitis, slight periodontal disease, moderate periodontal disease, and advanced periodontal disease.



Stage 1: Gingivitis

Gingivitis is the first and least developed stage of gum disease. It is the only stage of gum disease that is reversible because in this stage it has not reached bone. Some warning signs to look for that may be signs of gingivitis are bad breath, swollen or red gums, and bleeding gums while brushing and flossing.



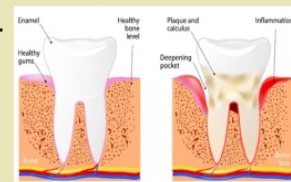
Stage 2: Slight Periodontal Disease

Slight periodontal disease occurs once infection has spread into bone. The bacteria that is attacking your gums and bones becomes stronger and attacks with aggression. This can be managed, however if cannot be reversed.



Stage 3: Moderate Periodontal Disease

Once patients have reached stage 3 of gum disease, infection becomes deeper and bacteria is able to reach ones bones and bloodstream and immune system. This stage cannot be reversed, but dentists can attempt to treat it and stop further damage by deep cleaning ones mouth by scaling or root planing.



Stage 4: Advanced Periodontal Disease

Advanced Periodontal Disease is the last and most serious stage of gum disease. Patients who reach this stage are at a 50-90% increased risk of bone loss. Some patients may experience oozing from their gums, temperature sensitivity, loosened teeth, and pain while chewing and eating. Treatment typically requires surgery or laser therapy to clean out bacteria. If untreated patients are at a high risk of losing teeth, gum recession, and possibly needing dentures in their future.

