

Choosing a Periodontist

You have been seeing dentist faithfully every six months only to learn that you have a periodontal condition that requires treatment by a specialist. Or maybe you have been away from the dentist for a period of time and during your cleaning, the dental hygienist notices gum recession or pocketing around your teeth. First of all, don't panic! Provided the condition is identified and treated early enough, most people can keep their natural teeth for a lifetime. Now you are faced with the task of finding a periodontist to treat your condition.

Not all periodontists are the same. Choosing the right periodontist will help to assure the best treatment experience and outcome without breaking the bank. There are several things to consider before choosing your periodontist.

Who does your dentist recommend that you see? Ask your dentist for their top choice. Who would they see if they had a periodontal condition that required treatment?

Will the office care for me as a person and not just a set of teeth? A caring and empathetic periodontist and office staff goes a long way toward making your treatment experience a good one, and who doesn't want a good treatment experience?!

Will the periodontist perform a thorough examination, create a custom designed treatment plan and review findings with me and my dentist before treatment begins? Would you take a trip across country without knowing the route that you would travel, or without a roadmap? Likewise, periodontal treatment requires planning. Oftentimes, this treatment must be coordinated with your dentist to assure the best treatment outcome.

Will the periodontist take time to explain my problem, my treatment options, and what I can do to improve my health? Beware any dentist or periodontist who makes treatment recommendations but does not take the time to explain your condition and why treatment is necessary in terms that you can understand.

Will conservative treatment options be explored first before surgery is considered? Oftentimes conservative (and less expensive) treatment is all that may be necessary to resolve a periodontal problem. Whether or not your periodontist is in your dental insurance network is much less important. In fact, your out-of-pocket expense may be much less in an "out of network" office that performs conservative periodontal therapy.

Will the office take extra time for explanation, reassurance, or whatever I need to feel comfortable before treatment begins? Periodontal treatment need not be painful or difficult. Your comfort should always be their primary concern.

Will the periodontist be available 24 hours if I have a problem or concern?

With the office continue follow-up care with me until an optimal and stable result has been accomplished?

Don't ignore your periodontal problems. Find a good periodontist and get the treatment you need. In the right office, it's easier than you think!
Call our office for an evaluation

Why Seek Periodontal Treatment?

If your dentist or dental hygienist has told you that you have gum disease, or if you've noticed bleeding gums, or if you've noticed bad breath, congratulations! This seems like an odd response to such news, but you have been given a gift. You have been given valuable information that will allow you to be proactive and get the treatment that you need. The fact of the matter is that the majority of people who have gum disease are unaware that they have a problem. Gum disease presents with few if any symptoms and yet affects millions of Americans.

If my teeth don't hurt, why do I need treatment?

There are several reasons to get treatment even if you're not having symptoms.

1. To keep your teeth! Gum disease is a leading cause of tooth loss in adults. In generations past, many people lost their teeth and wound up with a denture despite regular dental care. Today, with advances in periodontal diagnosis and treatment, this is largely avoidable provided the periodontal condition is identified and treated early enough.

2. To rid your body of toxins and infection! Gum disease is a chronic infection of the gum tissue and bone around your teeth. Bacteria and toxins present in pockets around the teeth can enter the circulation and cause infections of the heart or other parts of the body. Like any infection in your body, this infection should be eliminated for both your dental health as well as your systemic health.

3. To help prevent systemic disease! Gum disease is associated with many systemic diseases including diabetes, heart attack, some forms of cancer, osteoporosis, and stroke. Treatment of gum disease helps to reduce your risk for these diseases.

Don't ignore the subtle signs of gum disease or the recommendation of your dentist or hygienist. Call our office today and schedule an evaluation.