

Symptoms of Periodontal Disease

There are many classic signs or symptoms of periodontal disease. They have been listed below. Please keep in mind that very often there are no signs or symptoms that are obvious. Many of the people that are referred to me had no idea they had gum disease until their dentist found the problem. Periodontal disease is a slow, chronic, low-grade infection that usually doesn't hurt until it's too late. Know the following symptoms but have yourself checked regularly so this infection doesn't sneak up on you.

·1Bleeding gums- If your gums bleed you have a periodontal problem. Find some help. Bleeding gums will not go away by themselves.

·2Red or Swollen Gums- This is often the first sign of gum disease but can and usually is present throughout all the stages of gum disease.

·3Pus at the gum line- Pus is a large concentration of bacteria usually indicating an abscess. A very active and destructive process is occurring.

·4Bad breath or a bad taste- The bad odor is the by-product of bacteria accumulating around the teeth and under the gum line. This indicates an active infection.

·5Drifting teeth or loose teeth- If your teeth have changed in position it is likely because the bone support is being lost due to periodontal disease.

·6Gum Recession- Receding gums often are associated with periodontal disease. As the bone dissolves away due to the infection, the gum line often follows. Sometimes the gum line recedes due to

over brushing (tooth brush abrasion). Often times, the gum line will need to be reinforced by gum grafting to block further recession.