

# Smile South Florida – Fort Lauderdale Dentist Encourages Screening for Periodontal Disease, Which Can Cause Heart Problems



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Industry: [Healthcare](#)

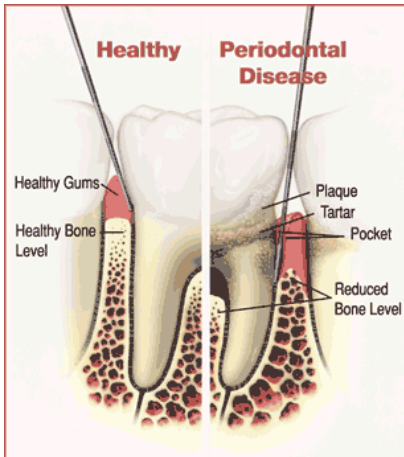
**Press Release Summary: Periodontal disease, commonly referred to as gum disease, is the most prevalent disease in the world. It can be prevented by brushing and flossing daily.**

Press Release Body: MIAMI, BOCA RATON AND FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA— Visiting the dentist on a regular basis and brushing and flossing daily could do more than prevent cavities. These activities also could prevent heart attacks and strokes.



A recent study presented at the **American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting** suggests that the bacteria present in gum diseases may trigger blood clots which can contribute to a heart attack or stroke, according to <http://www.perio.org/consumer/webcardio.htm> the **American Academy of Periodontology**.

This finding has prompted **Fort Lauderdale Dentist Richard Morrow, a periodontist at Smile South Florida Cosmetic Dentistry**, which has offices in Broward County and Boca Raton, to educate his patients on the health risks of periodontal disease, also known as gum disease.



**Periodontal disease** is a chronic bacterial infection that affects the gums and bone supporting the teeth. It begins when the bacteria in plaque causes inflammation in the gums.

*"Periodontal disease is one of the most common infections, and it can become a menace if left untreated," Morrow said. "I strongly encourage people with gum disease who are at risk for cardiovascular disease to seek out a dentist experienced in treating*

*periodontal disease."*

Others risk factors that are thought to increase the risk, severity and speed of development of periodontal disease include tobacco use, general health conditions, medications, stress, genetics, hormonal changes and poor nutrition, according to ([http://www.perio.org/consumer/disease\\_facts.htm](http://www.perio.org/consumer/disease_facts.htm)) the **American Academy of Periodontology** Web site.

Symptoms of periodontal disease may not appear until it reaches an advanced stage. That is why it is important to visit the dentist regularly and be screened by a professional, Morrow said.

**Signs of periodontal disease include:**

- **Red, swollen or tender gums**
- **Bleeding when brushing or flossing**
- **Receding gums**
- **Loose or separating teeth**
- **Pus between the gum and the tooth**
- **Chronic bad breath**
- **A change in the way teeth fit together when biting**
- **A change in the fit of partial dentures**

Untreated **gingivitis**, the mildest form of **periodontal disease**, can advance to **periodontitis**, which is caused by plaque spreading and

growing below the gum line. This further irritates the gums and breaks down the tissues and bone that support the teeth. If left untreated, teeth may loosen and have to be removed.

**Periodontal disease** does not need to advance to this stage, Morrow said. Once a cosmetic dentist or periodontist detects the disease, it can be managed through regular screenings and evaluations, treatment and professional maintenance.

### **Learn**

### **More**

Call **Smile South Florida** today at (954) 721-6950 in Broward County, or (561) 347-7757 in Boca Raton or (<http://www.smilesouthflorida.com/files/contactus.html>) email us to schedule an appointment and learn more about treatments for periodontal disease.

### **About Smile South Florida Cosmetic Dentistry**

The dentists at **Smile South Florida Cosmetic Dentistry** have offices in Broward County and Boca Raton and serve patients from Boca Raton to Fort Lauderdale and Miami. In addition to being trained in identifying and treating gum disease, they also are highly skilled in porcelain veneers, dental implants and extreme makeovers.

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