

What happens if gum disease is not treated properly?

We are seeing an increasing number of patients who come to us with no idea how serious their gum disease is, or that they are going to lose their teeth if they do nothing. This is very upsetting when they have been to a dentist on a regular basis. But it is not entirely surprising where the dentist keeps changing and there has been no long-term dental management.



This can be very difficult to understand and also very upsetting if they have been regular attendees at the dentist.

Which type of toothbrush should I use?

We will be able to recommend a toothbrush to you. Generally we suggest that an electric toothbrush is better than a manual.

The cheaper models are generally not as effective as the more expensive ones, and the newer models are much better than the older types.

If you decide to use a manual tooth brush then adults should choose a small to medium size brush with soft to medium round-ended nylon bristles.

The head should be small enough to get into all parts of the mouth: especially the back of the mouth where cleaning can be difficult. You can now get more specialized toothbrushes.

For instance, people with sensitive teeth can now use softer bristled brushes. There are also smaller headed toothbrushes for those people with crooked or irregular teeth.

Some people find it difficult to hold a toothbrush, for example because they have Parkinson's disease or a physical disability. There are toothbrushes, which have large handles and angled heads to make them easier to use.



Why do I have to sign a consent form?

Because we want all our patients to be completely aware of how serious their dental problems are, what happens if they don't have treatment, how their problem impacts on their long term dental health and how they can be treated and then stay healthy.

For more information or a free consultation

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Why do I need Dentomycin Treatment?

What is Dentomycin?

Dentomycin was launched in 1993 and has been used successfully in more than 1.3 million patients worldwide. It is a gel that contains minocycline, (antibiotic) which is active against the bacteria that cause periodontitis.



Why is Dentomycin a gel?

This allows the antibiotic to be applied directly into the pockets where bacteria are growing. The application is actually painless and well tolerated by patients. This means we can get effective concentrations at the disease site and low concentrations in the bloodstream to reduce the risk of side effects.

What effect does Dentomycin treatment have?

Clinical studies have shown that Dentomycin treatment reduces the bacteria that cause periodontitis and reduces the depths of pockets. These changes in pocket depth indicate an improvement in gum health.



Many patients with advanced gum disease have often given up hope and expect to lose all their teeth. Getting a quick result that produces great improvement in gum health and the fact that the gums feel better is a great encouragement.

We find that this quick improvement motivates the patients to improve their oral hygiene. And of course this means the result lasts much longer.

Does Gum/Periodontal Disease Matter?

YES.

Scientific studies have shown the relationship between Gum Diseases and:

Strokes, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Pregnancy Complications and Oral Cancer.

Is Flossing and using Interdental Brushes important?

Without any Doubt!!!! Cleaning between the teeth is essential.

Interdental cleaning with floss and/or interdental brushes is essential because the gap between the teeth is where almost all gum disease starts and it has the "Softest" gum tissue. For larger gaps Interdental brushes are essential. The Interdental Brushes come in various sizes.

Will flossing help to stop the periodontal disease returning?

Yes it will; using flossing dental tape will help to clean the plaque and food particles between your teeth and under your gums. Likewise Interdental brushes as well as an Electric Toothbrush are usually essential for success.

How often should I change my toothbrush?

Worn-out toothbrushes cannot clean your teeth properly and may damage your gums. It is important to change your toothbrush every two to three months or sooner if the filaments become worn. When bristles become splayed, they do not clean properly and can damage your gums.

When is Dentomycin treatment recommended?

Dentomycin is used when gum tissue has detached from the teeth to form obvious pockets. These sites are more likely to get worse than shallower sites.

If Dentomycin is recommended it means that either the bone loss is severe or that the gum disease is particularly aggressive.

The decision to recommend Dentomycin treatment is usually based on an examination radiographic evidence.

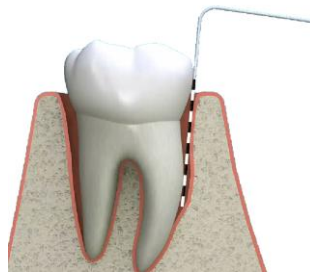
However, sometimes visual inspection and history taking may give a big pointers.

Our dentist or hygienist can check for pockets using a special probe, which is placed between the gum and tooth.

What does Dentomycin treatment involve?

Dentomycin is usually applied after scaling and root planing. The dentist/hygienist will apply Dentomycin to all affected sites, at each visit for a total of three to four visits. Usually, but not always, patients will have a local anaesthetic prior to treatment.

You shouldn't brush, floss, eat or drink for at least two hours after Dentomycin treatment.



What happens when my Dentomycin treatment is completed?

Dentomycin treatment is provided to patients with severe, active and destructive gum disease. Without good maintenance the disease can re-establish very quickly. It is imperative that patients maintain a high standard of home dental care, as well as have regular and frequent visits to the dental hygienist and also regular dental examinations. (No smoking too!!) This should help to stop the gum disease becoming active again.

What is Gum Disease and what causes gum disease?

Gum disease is caused by a thin layer of bacteria called plaque which builds up on teeth. These bacteria release poisons which irritate the gums and other supporting tissues, causing inflammation. Gingivitis is caused by plaque, which forms on teeth near the gum margin.

The plaque which causes periodontitis is different - it builds up in the pockets that form between gums and teeth as the disease gets worse.

Some people are more susceptible to gum disease than others. For example patients with Diabetes and patients low or impaired immunity (Cancer and HIV)

In the UK gum disease is one of the commonest causes of tooth loss in adults.

Why can't I have a simple scale and polish?

We only prescribe Dentomycin if the extent and nature of the periodontal disease indicates it. In other words a simple scale and polish is indicated for patients with a small amount of disease or where the disease is under control.

We see a large number of new patients whose advanced gum disease has been treated by their previous dentist with a quick scale and polish. These patients' disease is not simply advanced but they have no idea how serious it is.

Often the patient's requests for a more thorough cleaning have sadly been ignored by the patient's previous dentist.

Tobacco and recreational smoking makes gum disease worse and also causes staining. It also stops the gums bleeding. This means that the patient will miss one of the first signs of gum disease and by the time it is diagnosed the disease is often at an advanced level.

When the disease is active and destructive then a simple scale and polish will simply hide the problem which will continue unabated.

How often do I need to see the hygienist after the treatment is complete?

We suggest at least every 3 months until the disease is stabilized, and this usually means for the foreseeable future. It is essential to make sure the disease does not reestablish, which is very likely if routine maintenances is not maintained.