

CONSIDERING THE LINK BETWEEN ORAL AND SYSTEMIC HEALTH

THE MOUTH IS MORE THAN JUST TEETH —

Did you know that the mouth is a mirror of health and disease in the rest of the body? It's a fact: many systemic diseases and conditions have oral manifestations. By maintaining good oral health, you can help take care of the rest of your body.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOUTH ... TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

Mouth

Many of the drugs prescribed for systemic conditions can cause dry mouth. Dry mouth makes periodontal disease worse and increases susceptibility to tooth decay. Signs of many diseases and infections affecting overall health appear in the mouth and can be identified by your dentist during an oral exam.

Brain

Periodontal (gum) disease increases the risk of stroke because bacteria in the mouth can increase the chance of developing the blood clots which cause strokes.

Stroke is the number 3 leading cause of death in America.

Pancreas

Individuals with gum disease have twice the prevalence of Diabetes as those without it; individuals with Diabetes are at greater risk for periodontal disease. Unmanaged gum disease disrupts the control of blood sugars, making our bodies more resistant to the insulin produced by the Pancreas and increasing the risk for serious complications of Diabetes such as heart disease.

Diabetes is the number 6 leading cause of death in America.

Heart

People who have uncontrolled periodontal disease are four times more likely to develop heart disease. Also, the control of heart disease is more difficult in patients who have gum disease that is not well controlled.

Heart disease is the number 1 leading cause of death in America.

Reproductive Tract

Studies indicate that women who receive scaling and root planing (periodontal treatment) during pregnancy have as much as an 84% reduction in the rate of premature births.

10% of all the births in America are categorized as preterm low birth weight.

Bones

There may be a link between Osteoporosis and bone loss in the jaw. The jaw bone anchors our teeth. When it becomes less dense, tooth loss can occur. Drugs prescribed for bone loss may increase the chances of complications after routine dental care.

Tooth loss affects approximately one-third of adults 65 years and older.