

& DENTAL IMPLANTS

# What you need to know about **Periodontics**

Periodontics is the area of dentistry that deals with structure and function of the soft and hard tissues around your teeth and dental implants.

#### What is Periodontics?

Periodontics is the branch of dentistry that deals with the gums and bone structures surrounding the teeth and dental implants. These specialised tissues are known as the periodontal tissues. Periodontists are dentists that have undertaken a further 3 years of full-time study and research in the area of periodontics to become registered specialists.

Periodontal tissues are unique tissues because they are the interface between the external environment (your mouth) and your internal organs (bone and muscles). These tissues are prone to a range of diseases and conditions that can damage these supporting tissues, leading to sensitivity, mobility and eventually tooth and implant loss.

#### **Periodontitis**

The most common condition affecting your periodontal tissues is the inflammatory gum disease called periodontitis. Plaque and calculus build-up trigger an inflammatory reaction in your gums which cause your gums to swell and bleed when they are touched.



# **Non-Surgical Treatments**

- Tooth Debridement
- Plaque and Calculus Removal
- Oral Health Education

## **Surgical Treatments**

- Removal of Diseased Gum Tissue.
- Surgical Access and Recontouring of Periodontal Tissue
- Gum and Bone Grafting
- Management of Gum Recession
- Regeneration of Tooth Supporting **Tissues**
- Dental Implant Placement
- Management of Implant Complications

We work with your existing dentist to ensure the best patient care and treatment plan for you.

#### **Healthy Tooth and Gums Periodontitis** Enamel Dentin Pulp chamber Plaque and tartar Gingiva (gums) Deepening Alveolar bone pocket (jawbone) Gum Cementum inflammation Periodontal ligament Root canal Nerves and blood vessels





In some cases, this gum inflammation can lead to your periodontal tissues to irreversibly shrink, which may lead to premature loss of your teeth. Signs of periodontitis include bleeding gums, food getting stuck between your teeth, tooth sensitivity and loose or mobile teeth.

Periodontists are trained in a range of non-surgical and surgical treatment options to treat periodontitis. These include debridement (mechanical cleaning) of your tooth roots, removal of diseased tissue and assisting patients develop personal oral hygiene regimens.

## **Periodontal Regeneration**

Regeneration of periodontal tissue involves the application of biologically active materials to stimulate the reformation of lost periodontal tissues. These are highly technique sensitive treatments which aim to recreate the structure and function of periodontal tissues. Whilst regeneration is the aim of periodontal treatment and clinical research shows that it is possible, careful case selection and treatment planning is required in the quest to achieve the desired outcome.

#### **Gum Recession**

Receding gums can pose aesthetic problems and general tooth sensitivity. A range of factors can lead to gum recession including over-zealous tooth brushing and poor position of the tooth in the jaw bone.

## **Soft and Hard Tissue Grafting**

There are a range of autologous tissues (your own tissue) and exogenous (not your own tissue) products that aim to reconstruct parts of the periodontium. By reconstructing the structure and function of certain tissue types, the patient should benefit in improved aesthetics and function of their mouths.

#### **Dental Implants**

Dental implants are titanium rods that placed in your jaw bone that can be used to support a wide range of tooth replacement. This includes a single crown, a dental bridge or even replacing all of your teeth with fixed or removable bridges or dentures.





# What To Expect From Your Consultation

- Your periodontist will review your medical and dental histories. They will go over any medical conditions you have and are particularly interested how severe the condition is, how long you have had it for and whether it is well controlled. It is important that you let your periodontist know what prescription and non-prescription medications (name, dose and frequency) you are currently taking. A dental history will also be taken, with particular focus on the tooth and implant supporting tissues.
- 2 The periodontist will perform a thorough extra- and intra- oral examination. The periodontist is particularly interested in the gums and bone in your mouth. Special radiographs and 3D scans may be taken to get a clearer picture of your clinical situation.
- Once this initial information is gathered, your periodontist will determine what other information may be required. The mouth is a very dynamic and complex place and occasionally they will require more information from other dental specialists, dentists or even medical professionals. Wherever possible, your periodontist would like to speak to your general dentist so your treatment can be properly co-ordinated.
- 4 Once all relevant information has been gathered, the periodontist will present you a customized treatment plan to address your dental needs.

