

Dental Notes

Gum Disease – What’s all the fuss about?

Why all the fuss about periodontal – gum – disease? Why all the lectures when you go for your regular dental checkup?

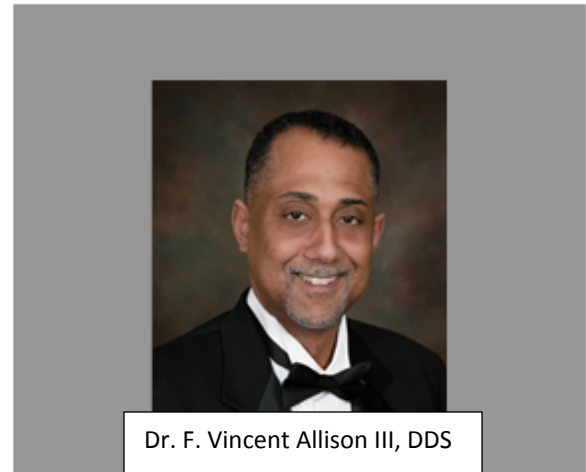
For a very good reason.

Periodontal disease is a progressive one, that is, if it doesn't stabilize or show signs of healing, its bound to get worse. Even when it doesn't hurt, untreated gum disease will eventually result in tooth loss.

The course of gum disease proceeds in spurts activity over time. In Type I cases – gingivitis – we find the gums inflamed or swollen. A crevice or pocket between the tooth and gum has deepened to about 4 mm, indicating early detachment of the supporting gum tissue. But the bone is still in good shape.

As pockets deepen to 4-6mm, the condition is on its way to early or moderate periodontitis. Gum inflammation extends to the bone beneath, which begins to erode. In Types III and IV periodontitis, we're racing with the clock. Pockets deepen further still, and teeth begin to loosen and move. At this point, without surgical intervention, the teeth are, well, history.

But there is a bright side. Every day, dental science is finding new ways to solve



the problem. Since every stage of the disease can be treated, dentists have helped many patients save their teeth and bring their gum tissue back to health and vitality.

That’s the reason for all the fuss.

Please see your dentist at least twice a year to aid in maintaining your gum health. If you do not have a dental home, we at Allison Family & Cosmetic Dentistry will welcome you into our family of patients. Give us a call today at 919-806-1996 to schedule an appointment

**Check us out on the web at
www.allisonfamilydentistry.com**

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