

DOES YOUR DENTIST PROVIDE PERIODONTAL SCREENING?

THREE TYPES OF ORAL BACTERIA THAT INCREASE RISK OF HEART ATTACK BY 300%

The American Dental Association notes that one out of every four persons will lose all their teeth to periodontal problems by the time they reach age 60.

It all starts with bacteria- the mouth has billions of them. These microscopic germs form the sticky film called plaque that clings to teeth and irritates gums. The result: **PERIODONTAL DISEASE**, which means your teeth begin to fall out. To make matters worse, bacteria detach themselves from dental plaque, enter the bloodstream, and become lodged in blood vessels, increasing the risk of heart attack and strokes.

Researchers at the University of Buffalo, New York School of Dental Medicine have identified the specific types of bacteria most damaging to the heart: *B. forsythus*, *P. gingivalis*, and

C. recta. Dr. Robert Genco found that the increased risk of heart problems in persons with one or more of these bacteria was from 200-300%.

A study from the Michigan School of Dentistry goes even further and associates poor dental health with “early death from any cause.”. Poor oral health is something that becomes more common as we age. Fewer immune cells are present in aged tissue, and therefore you have less protection against the bacteria, viruses, and fungi that infect and kill healthy cells.

At our office we do periodontal screenings on all new patients and we monitor all of our existing patients on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Dr. John C. Moreau