



~ 7-21-15

## What is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal diseases are mainly the results of infections and inflammation of the gums and bone that surround and support the teeth. In its early stage, called gingivitis, the gums can become swollen and red, and they may bleed. In its more serious form, called periodontitis, the gums can pull away from the tooth, bone can be lost, and the teeth may loosen or even fall out. Periodontal disease is mostly seen in adults. Periodontal disease and tooth

decay are the two biggest threats to dental health.

A recent CDC report provides the following data related to prevalence of periodontitis in the U.S.:

47.2% of adults aged 30 years and older have some form of periodontal disease.

Periodontal Disease increases with age, 70.1% of adults 65 years and older have periodontal disease.

This condition is more common in men than women (56.4% vs 38.4%),

### Warning signs

The following are warning signs of periodontal disease:

- Bad breath or bad taste that won't go away
- Red or swollen gums
- Tender or bleeding gums
- Painful chewing
- Loose teeth
- Sensitive teeth
- Gums that have pulled away from your teeth
- Any change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite
- Any change in the fit of partial dentures

### **Gateway Dental Care**

*(in the Gateway Plaza at Pontiac Trail & Eleven Mile Road)*

**25660 Pontiac Trail  
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### **Office Hours:**

Monday	8:00am-5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am-5:00pm
Thursday	8:00am-5:00pm
Friday	8:00am-2:00pm (every other)
Saturday	8:00am-2:00pm (every other)

### Prevention and treatment

Gingivitis can be controlled and treated with good oral hygiene and regular professional cleaning. More severe forms of periodontal disease can also be treated successfully but may require more extensive treatment. Such treatment might include deep cleaning of the tooth root surfaces below the gums, medications prescribed to take by mouth or placed directly under the gums, and sometimes corrective surgery.

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