



Gum Disease in Adults

- ◇ Gum disease in adults is caused by bacteria around the necks of the teeth. If the bacteria are not removed a condition called chronic periodontitis can develop.
- ◇ This is an inflammatory disease of the structures which support the teeth. These structures include the ligaments of the teeth, the gums and the bone of the tooth socket.
- ◇ As chronic periodontitis progresses the space between the gum and the tooth, called the pocket, gets deeper.
- ◇ As the pocket extends beyond 4mm cleaning with a normal toothbrush and dental floss does not remove all the bacteria, so the destruction continues.
- ◇ The disease may reach an advanced stage **without** causing any pain or symptoms, and therefore can **only** be detected by the dentist measuring the pocket depths and taking radiographs.

If a diagnosis is made early most cases can be successfully treated. If left undiagnosed and untreated early tooth loss can occur.