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by bleeding disorders

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Periodontal Disease

***This information sheet in no way constitutes medical or dental advice. Always consult your Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) or Hematologist's office before seeking any treatment.**

What is periodontal disease?

Periodontal disease, also known as gum disease, is an infection of the gums and bone that hold the teeth in place. Periodontal disease can be prevented.

What causes periodontal disease?

The main cause of periodontal disease is poor oral hygiene and bacterial growth in the mouth, known as plaque. It is not caused by a bleeding disorder.

What are the signs of periodontal disease?

- bleeding gums - bad breath - pockets around the teeth - teeth that are moving apart

How does smoking affect periodontal disease?

Smoking is a major cause of periodontal disease. Smoking decreases your body's ability to fight infection including gum infection. Smoking also makes it harder for your gums to heal after treatment for gum disease.

How is periodontal disease treated?

- Early periodontal disease may be treated by the hygienist and dentist and may include "deep cleaning" and placement of antibiotics in the gum pocket around your teeth.
- Your dentist may refer you to a Periodontist, a dentist specializing in the treatment of gum diseases.

What can happen if I don't have periodontal disease treated?

- Periodontal disease has also been associated with heart disease, stroke and small babies.
- Periodontal disease can affect the stability of the A1C in persons with diabetes.
- If left untreated, periodontal disease will lead to tooth loss.

Is periodontal treatment covered by dental insurance?

Treatment of periodontal disease may be included in your dental insurance policy. However, Medicaid includes only limited treatment of periodontal disease. If you have a bleeding disorder, talk with the dentist or social worker at your HTC or Hematologist's office to see if financial aid is available.

If you are diagnosed with periodontal disease:

- Tell your nurse and hematologist and always follow your hematologist's recommendations for clotting medications.
- Provide the dentist/periodontist with contact information for your HTC or Hematologist
- Get prior authorization for treatment from your dental insurance provider
- Schedule treatment early in the week so that you can contact your HTC or Hematologist if bleeding occurs.