

## Why do I need Periodontal Therapy?

Periodontal Therapy is a non-surgical treatment for Periodontal Disease.

Periodontal Disease/Periodontitis is an infection of the bone and tissues that surround your teeth.



## What to Expect

- Periodontal Therapy is completed in two appointments, where half of the mouth is treated during each visit.
- The hygienist will numb the side of the mouth they are treating with local anesthetic, so you are comfortable while the treatment is being performed.
- Then, the hygienist will thoroughly clean both above and below the gumline, removing hardened plaque and flushing out bacteria.

Genuine care, grateful patients.

- If your gum tissue feels tender after the anesthetic wears off, warm salt-water rinses can help soothe the discomfort.
- Over-the-counter pain medications can be used as needed.

## **Care Following Treatment**

After Periodontal Therapy is completed, you will no longer have prophylaxis—also called preventative—cleanings. Because you have permanently lost bone, we can only maintain your condition. You will now be treated with periodontal maintenance instead of prophylaxis cleanings.

Instead of coming in every six months (or two times a year) for a prophylaxis cleaning, periodontal maintenance should done every three months (or four times a year). Periodontal maintenance should be done more frequently than prophylaxis cleanings because at-home dental products are unable to reach down into the periodontal pockets to disrupt the bacteria. The professional dental instruments used by the hygienist are designed to access these hard-to-reach areas.

