

Claudia Brown

Periodontist

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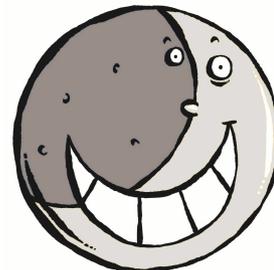


Claudia is a specialist periodontal surgeon who teaches at Guys' Hospital. She is both an experienced surgeon and dentist. Claudia works at the Half Moon Dental Centre on Thursdays.

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The Next Step

Please arrange a consultation:
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Half Moon Dental Centre

Gum Disease

Patient
Information

Gum Disease

There is nothing better than your own teeth to chew with. All too often this is taken for granted. It is only when faced with the debilitating reality of losing teeth that people start to appreciate them.

Gum disease is the commonest cause of tooth loss. Why wait for this to happen when prevention is so simple.

Gum disease is caused by the germs (bacteria) which live in your mouth. The bacteria stick to your teeth, irritate the gums and make them bleed. This disease may destroy the gum and bone which support your teeth. Some people get more severe gum disease than others. Bleeding gums are

What will treatment involve?

Treatment is based on controlling the bacteria in your mouth. We teach you the best methods of cleaning your teeth and gums to remove the bacteria. Treatment will work best if you clean your teeth very well daily.

We will remove the “tartar” (calculus) from above the gum line by cleaning (scaling) the teeth.

If the disease has already destroyed some of the support for your teeth, we will also remove bacteria and calculus from under the gum by gentle cleaning (scaling and root planing) your teeth. If cleaning is uncomfortable we can give an injection to make the gum numb.

Treatment will take place over several appointments and the number of appointments will depend on how severe your disease is.

Your response to treatment will be monitored at a future appointment and further treatment may be needed.

What are the benefits of treatment?

Your gums will become healthier which will help you to keep your teeth longer. The improvements will depend on how good your cleaning becomes and how severe your disease was to start with.

If your gums bleed, are red or are swollen this will reduce. In gums that are sore, treatment should help. Loose teeth may feel firmer after treatment and you may notice breath becoming fresher.

What are the risks and side effects of treatment?

Gums occasionally feel sore after scaling but usually feel better after a few days.

Your teeth may become more sensitive to hot, cold or sweet substances. Usually this decreases within a few weeks, but sometimes you may need a special toothpaste or have another treatment.

As gums become healthier, they can sometimes shrink or recede to a healthier and easier to maintain position. Spaces may appear between the teeth and the teeth could appear longer.

