

# Periodontal Surgery

*What Can I Expect?*



*brings a lifetime of benefits.*

**T**he word "periodontal" literally means around the tooth. Periodontal disease, also known as "gum disease," is a chronic bacterial infection that damages the gums and bone supporting the teeth. Left untreated, it can lead to tooth loss. More importantly, research links periodontal infection to more serious problems, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and pre-term, low-birth-weight babies. As ongoing research continues to define how periodontal disease is linked to these and other health problems, good oral health is essential. As you can see, good periodontal health is a key component of a healthy body!

**M**any factors, such as oral hygiene habits, genetics, stress, general health conditions, medications and tobacco use may have contributed to your disease and can influence treatment effectiveness and disease recurrence. Periodontists are the dental professionals who specialize in treating periodontal disease. Your periodontist has recommended a tailored treatment plan to repair the damage, restore health and improve the function and/or esthetics of your smile.

**A** healthy smile brings a lifetime of benefits. You can keep dental costs down by preventing future problems. In health, you smile, speak and eat with comfort and confidence.



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You've been diagnosed with periodontal disease, and your **periodontist** has recommended periodontal surgery.

Like many patients, you may have some concerns. This brochure provides answers to **questions** frequently asked by

patients diagnosed with periodontal disease. It's important for you to find

**answers** to your questions before surgery, because knowing what lies

ahead will enable you to actively

participate in your health care decisions.

You'll be one step closer to a **healthy mouth** and a happy **smile**.

### **Why Do I Need Periodontal Surgery?**

You need periodontal surgery because your periodontist has determined that the tissues around your teeth are unhealthy and cannot be repaired with non-surgical treatment.

### **Will It Hurt?**

New treatment options using refined techniques can be performed comfortably as office procedures. Improvements in medications, local anesthesia, anxiety and pain control, and, in some cases, conscious sedation, are available to make your treatment more pleasant and comfortable.

### **How Long Will It Take To Heal?**

It's important to follow the doctor's instructions. Patients generally can expect to enjoy their normal routine the following day. Talk with your periodontist about any special post-operative considerations you may have, such as diet, exercise or follow-up medications. This will help to minimize disruption of your daily activities.

### **Will Insurance Cover The Surgery?**

Many insurance plans pay a portion of periodontal services. Your periodontal health is important, so talk to your periodontist about payment options. Oftentimes, the office staff will work with your insurance company to secure maximum benefits.

*Your comfort and confidence in the recommended treatment plan is important to your periodontist and your overall satisfaction with this health care decision. As always, if you have any additional questions about periodontal surgery, your periodontist will be happy to answer them in the privacy of an individual appointment.*