

# Periodontal Systemic Links

## ALZHEIMERS

A study uncovered links between *P. gingivalis*, the bacteria associated with periodontal disease (commonly known as gum disease) and Alzheimer's. Researchers analyzed brain tissue, spinal fluid, and saliva from Alzheimer's patients—both living and deceased—and found evidence of *P. gingivalis*.

## KIDNEY DISEASE

Periodontal disease is a leading cause of tooth loss in adults; edentulism (the loss of all the teeth) is considered to be a marker of past periodontal disease. In a study, conducted at Case Western Reserve University, edentulism was found to be significantly associated with chronic kidney disease, indicating that oral care may play a role in reducing the prevalence of chronic kidney disease in the U.S. population.

## DIABETES

Periodontal Disease increase blood sugar, contributing to increased periods of time when the body functions with a high blood sugar. This puts people with diabetes at increased risk for diabetic complications.

## RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Bacterium that causes periodontal disease, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, increases the severity of rheumatoid arthritis, leads to an earlier onset of the disease, and cause symptoms to progress more quickly.

## HEART DISEASE

People with gum disease (also known as periodontal disease) have two to three times the risk of having a heart attack, stroke, or other serious cardiovascular event.

## ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

Research shows Men with gum disease are more than twice as likely to have difficulty getting an erection. Experts say the link works both ways and having either gum disease or erectile dysfunction makes men more likely to develop the other.

## STILLBORN

Bacteria from gingivitis have been shown to cause premature births, Gingivitis-associated bleeding allows the oral bacteria *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, normally contained to the mouth, to reach the placenta.

## CANCER

A study showed that a history of Periodontal disease was associated with a higher risk of developing any cancer such as breast cancer, oral, and esophageal cancers.