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PERIODONTAL TREATMENT AFTER CARE

Once periodontal disease is diagnosed, treatment is aimed at repairing damage and managing the progression of the disease. A “cure” is not available at this time. For this reason, upon completion of your periodontal root planing and scaling (deep cleaning of pockets), continued maintenance is needed to maintain containment of the disease.

A 3-6 month time span for periodontal maintenance visits will be established for you. It is especially important for you to stay on this regular maintenance schedule, because it enables the dentist and/or hygienist to maintain and/or monitor your pockets and gingival (gum) tissue. Laxity in follow up could reverse the benefits of the deep cleaning. These visits will not necessarily be long or uncomfortable. Each visit will be tailored to suit your individual needs.

If you have dental insurance it may not pay 100% of these maintenance visits. *(Some insurances pay 100% of cleanings because they are considered preventative. Periodic maintenance treatment following periodontal therapy is not considered preventative.)*

Personal involvement of adequate home care is also a vital part of controlling periodontal disease. This includes thorough daily brushing and flossing, and may include other therapy for your specific case.

If the dentist or hygienist determine at any time after your initial root planing and scaling that your tissues and/or pockets are not responding to treatment, you will be referred to a periodontist who specializes in gum treatments.

You may take this handout home. If at any time you have any questions concerning your periodontal follow-up, please do not hesitate to ask.



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