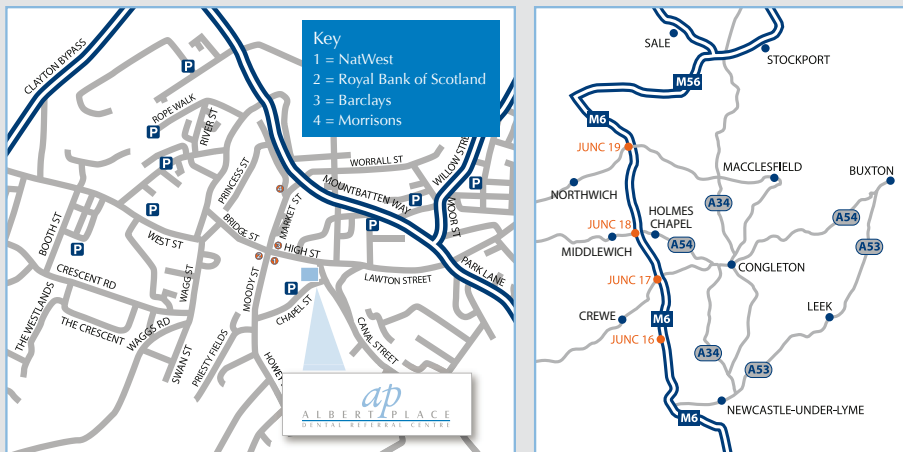


How to find us



ap

ALBERT PLACE
DENTAL REFERRAL CENTRE

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Surgery hours: Monday - Friday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Later appointments by arrangement.

BDA
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Periodontal Disease

Periodontal Disease

What is periodontal disease?

Periodontal disease is the inflammation of the tissues that attach to the jaw and support the teeth. If inflammation only involves the soft gum tissue, this is called gingivitis. When inflammation reaches the bone it is termed periodontitis.

Will it affect me?

There are many factors associated with periodontal disease, unfortunately only two factors can be influenced by your own actions, the remainder are related to host responses, i.e. the way your own body responds to the bacteria and toxins which are present in the mouth. This means that the two factors you are able to influence are even more important.

We know that smoking is closely linked with the progression of periodontal disease and we will always encourage you to stop smoking in order to assist with treatment of the disease. Secondly, the removal of bacterial dental plaque is of great importance and it is important for those people who are susceptible to the disease to have excellent oral hygiene measures.

What are the signs of periodontal disease?

- Red, swollen gums
- Bleeding gums
- Bad breath
- Receding gums
- Loose teeth.

Periodontal disease is notoriously difficult to identify and manage and may often go unnoticed by the patient until it is quite far advanced. Your dentist will carry out a basic periodontal examination at each dental exam, but even when this is carried out regularly it is often difficult to identify the disease until there has been some loss of supporting tissues, especially the bone, resulting in pocketing.

The classic signs of gingivitis (red swollen gums which bleed when brushing) are often the initial indication of gum disease. Receding gums and loosened teeth occur at the later stage of periodontitis, which may arise if measures have not been taken to control plaque, the underlying cause of gum disease.

Smoking is also a well documented risk factor in the advancement of the disease, we also know that some systemic illnesses such as diabetes can leave an individual more susceptible to periodontal disease.

Treatment options

The treatment of gingivitis usually involves a thorough scaling and polishing coupled with some oral hygiene instruction. This treatment and advice can usually be offered by your dentist or hygienist.

More advanced periodontitis is more difficult to treat and this may require a referral outside your usual dental practice to someone with a special interest in treating and managing the disease. At Albert Place we offer help and advice in the initial treatment and continued management of your periodontal health. Our treatment regime follows a tried and tested protocol, which we have developed over several years with the assistance of several dental professionals.

We are also a member of the British Society of Periodontology which enables us to access the very latest scientific evidence available. Our treatment protocol is reviewed regularly and we are constantly striving to provide the best possible treatment regime for each individual.

Initially you will be assessed by one of our dentists and our dedicated therapist, this assessment involves an intra-oral examination including a detailed pocket depth examination which maps out the damage to the bone and records any bleeding, the inflammation and mobility of any affected teeth. You will also have a radiographic examination (x-ray), this may be a large film which examines the whole mouth or several small films which can be viewed together to assist with diagnosis and the formulation of a treatment plan specific to you.

Initial therapy is usually carried out over two appointments on the same day and you will be reviewed approximately three months later when you will be advised on how best to proceed. You may be returned to the care of your own dentist at this time, or if recovery has not proceeded as quickly as we had anticipated we may decide to refer you to a specialist in periodontal disease for further advice.



Periodontal treatment

At Albert Place we are keen to identify and treat the oral health problems early. At every dental exam your dentist will carry out a basic periodontal examination which is useful in highlighting problem areas related to gum (periodontal) health.

You may be asked to see our dental therapist for further treatment and advice. This may be as simple as a full mouth professional scaling and polishing with some oral hygiene advice, or as advanced as full mouth disinfection. This treatment is offered to patients who show signs of periodontal (gum) disease, usually this includes bleeding when cleaning/probing the gingivae and evidence of damage to the supporting bone resulting in 'pocketing'. These pockets in the bone harbour bacteria and toxins, causing further damage which may eventually result in tooth loss.

The treatment involves taking x-rays to identify the damaged areas coupled with a detailed periodontal assessment. Deep cleaning is carried out under local anaesthetic during two appointments on the same day and the patient is given antibiotics which are to be taken for ten days. The patient is advised on improving their oral hygiene measures and reviewed after a three month interval.

We have offered this treatment to many patients here at Albert Place with some excellent results. If you are concerned about your gum health, please feel free to discuss your concerns with your dentist, or Shirley Smith our therapist, at your next appointment.

