

Periodontal Disease and Heart Disease

There is strong evidence that periodontal disease is associated with the entry of bacteria and inflammatory media into the bloodstream. A statistical link exists between periodontal disease and heart disease, but we do not know the exact mechanism. Perhaps it is the bodies' inflammatory response to these two diseases that links them.

The fact is that there is a relationship between periodontal disease, cardio-vascular and cerebro-vascular disease.

Moderate to severe periodontal disease does appear to increase a person's risk for heart disease and stroke. Reducing the inflammatory response in periodontal (gum) tissue may affect the progress of heart and cerebro-vascular disease.

Whether the treatment of periodontal disease alters the progress of cardiovascular disease is uncertain. Initial studies indicate the treatment of periodontitis does reverse damage to blood vessel linings.

