

Manteca Dental Care

| Rick Van Tran, DDS |

Explanations of Cleanings

When doing an examination and oral evaluation, your hygienist may recommend different types of dental cleanings according to your oral, or gum conditions (called Periodontal Conditions). Listed below are explanations of types of dental cleanings. If you are diagnosed with more severe gum disease, your hygienist, under the direction of the dentist, may recommend an antibiotic placed right into the affected gum area. In even more severe cases, it may also be necessary to be referred to a Periodontist (gum specialist) for further evaluation and possible treatment.

Prophylaxis – Adult/Child

This procedure includes removing soft deposits, calculus, and stains from your teeth, and includes polishing. This type of cleaning is reserved for individuals with healthy gums (no signs of bleeding, infection, or bone loss).

Full Mouth Debridement – Initial Periodontal Evaluation

This procedure involves the removal of plaque and calculus above the gum line. This preliminary procedure does not rule out the need for additional procedures. The hygienist generally will diagnose this type of evaluation when there are signs of infection of the gums, some bleeding, moderate areas of calculus, even bone loss around the teeth. Pocket depths (the spaces between the teeth and gums) will be measured and recorded. Oral hygiene and home care instructions will be given and antibacterial irrigation will be administered to promote healing and reduce bacterial levels.

Periodontal Scaling and Root Planing (SRP)

This procedure involves the removal of plaque and calculus deposits, above and below the gum line, usually under local anesthetic. It is indicated for patients with mild to severe periodontal (gum) disease. SRP has its limitations. If the oral conditions do not return to an acceptable level of periodontal health; surgery may be indicated. An antibacterial irrigation will be administered to promote healing and reduce bacterial levels.

Periodontal Maintenance

This procedure is instituted following scaling and root planning and continues at varying recare intervals. It includes removal of the soft bacterial plaque and hard calculus from above and below the Gum line and site specific SRP where indicated. An antibacterial irrigation will be administered to promote healing and reduce bacterial levels.

Arestin

A Food and Drug Administration approved antibiotic that is indicated along with SRP procedures for reduction of periodontal pockets depth and to help reduce bleeding. The material is placed directly between the tooth and gums.

The hygienist will discuss the reasons for the type of cleaning needed. If diagnosed with any severe inflammation or type of severe periodontal disease, I understand that I will not receive a regular prophylaxis cleaning from the hygienist, but will then be referred to see the Periodontist for further treatment or evaluation.

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