





Serving the Markham Community Since 1987

(905) 294 9905

FOCUS

## How Dental health affects your entire body

YOUR

DENTAL HEALTH

Studies have found that periodontal or gum disease can be a potential risk factor for many health problems.

## What health problems?

These studies found, like smoking, people with periodontal disease can be put at an increased risk for health problems like heart disease, diabetes, respiratory diseases and pre-term, low birth-weight babies. Medical and dental professionals have long suspected that infections in the mouth can affect the rest of the body. Thus several studies were done to investigate the association between periodontal disease and these other health problems.

Although these studies cannot definitively state that periodontal disease can cause heart disease etc., they were able to find a definite relationship between the two. These studies also believe additional research is necessary in this area.

## MYTH: If you exercise good oral hygiene, there's no need for concern.

Although good dental hygiene is crucial in controlling periodontal disease other factors can play a role. It is suspected that 30% of the population can be genetically susceptible to developing severe periodontal disease. It is important to understand that periodontal disease is an infection of the oral soft tissues (a tissue surface area equivalent to your lower arm) and like any large infection should be treated by a medical professional.

