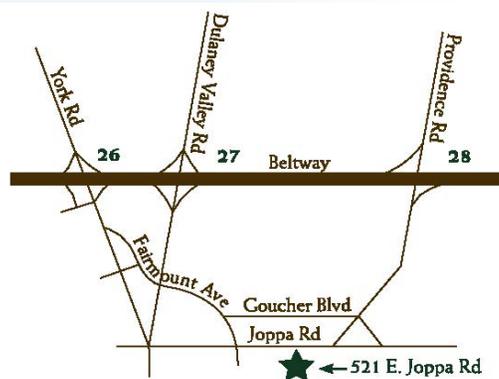


The Towson Center for Dental Implants and Periodontics

Your doctor recommends The Towson Center for Dental Implants and Periodontics because they know your overall health will be improved by specialized dental care. The periodontists of TDCIP provide many different types of non-surgical and surgical procedures, including the most current implant techniques to meet the periodontal needs of our patients.

Our state-of-the-art LANAP® PeriLase Laser allows us to eliminate diseased gum tissue without sutures and jumpstart the healing process. Better yet, patients can stay on most medications including blood thinners!

With prompt treatment, proper care and regular dental visits, the majority of patients can retain their teeth for a lifetime. Visit us online or call 410-321-9477 to schedule a consultation today.



The Towson Center For Dental Implants & Periodontics

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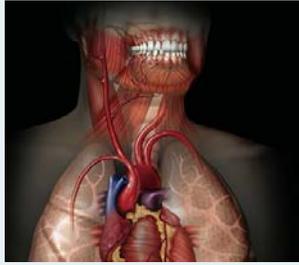
Brochure information compiled by TCDIP.
Sources: American Academy of Periodontology, The Lancet Oncology Journal, American Dental Association

Oral Care & Oncology

What You Need to Know Now



*A Better Choice™,
every step of the way*



Cancer Treatment & Oral Health Side Effects

Radiation and chemotherapy kill cancer cells, but they can also hurt normal cells. Complications vary for every person, but common complications can include:

- Inflamed gums and mouth ulcers
- Dry mouth
- Difficulty speaking, chewing and swallowing
- Erosion of tooth enamel
- Loss of taste
- Jaw stiffness
- Delayed healing

Few patients understand that medications for many cancers, auto-immune disorders, and severe pain also have dental side effects. Talk to your doctors about the medications you're prescribed and make sure you give your dental provider an up-to-date list of any meds you're taking. Understanding the dental implications of medicines can save you from developing cavities, bad breath, and periodontal disease. Specialized dentists called periodontists can help make sure that you stay in good dental health during this time.

What is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal disease is an inflammatory response to a bacterial infection that, if left untreated, may cause damage to the tissues and bone surrounding the teeth and may even lead to tooth loss. Cardiac patients with diabetes tend to have more severe levels of bone loss, and often experience more aggressive disease activity. Tooth loss can make chewing and digesting food difficult, causing a devastating impact on the ability to maintain proper nutrition. Many foods with health benefits then become hard to eat, increasing dependency on cholesterol and blood pressure medications.

Periodontal patients have:

- 36% greater risk of lung cancer
- 49% greater risk of kidney cancer
- 54% greater risk of pancreatic cancer and
- 30% greater risk of blood cancers (such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia or multiple myeloma.)

In order to tip the scales in your favor, be sure to stick to the advice your specialist gives, and follow the home oral care regimen recommended by your hygienist.



When undergoing treatment...

An oral evaluation by a periodontist is important. Identifying and correcting potential problems in your mouth may prevent them from intensifying or interfering with your cancer treatment. In addition to pretreatment care, your periodontist will probably recommend a daily oral hygiene routine. This routine will provide comfort, reduce the risk of infection, and minimize the effects of the complications caused by the cancer treatment.

Tips:

Chemotherapy and radiation can decrease your salivary secretion causing excessive dryness in the mouth, and a dry mouth can increase your susceptibility to infection. Try to keep your mouth moist by sipping cool water, melting ice chips in your mouth, chewing sugarless gum, applying lip balm to your lips, and using a humidifier in your bedroom to reduce oral dryness at night.

If a dry mouth or vomiting is a side effect of your cancer treatment, then it is important to protect your enamel (the outer surface of the tooth). Your periodontist can prescribe fluoride trays, which will prevent the tooth enamel wearing away as a result of vomiting or increased oral bacteria from dry mouth. You may also want to consider asking your oncologist to prescribe anti-nausea medication during therapy to treat nausea and vomiting.

