



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Gum Disease

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/gumdisease.html>

Gum Disease


Also called: Periodontal disease

If you have gum disease, you're not alone. Many U.S. adults currently have some form of the disease. It ranges from simple gum inflammation, called gingivitis, to serious damage to the tissue and bone supporting the teeth. In the worst cases, you can lose teeth.


In gingivitis, the gums become red and swollen. They can bleed easily. Gingivitis is a mild form of gum disease. You can usually reverse it with daily brushing and flossing and regular cleanings by a dentist or dental hygienist. Untreated gingivitis can lead to periodontitis. If you have periodontitis, the gums pull away from the teeth and form pockets that become infected. If not treated, the bones, gums and connective tissue that support the teeth are destroyed.

NIH: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

Start Here

- [Ask a Periodontist \(Frequently Asked Questions about Gum Disease\) \[https://www.perio.org/?q=faq-page\]](https://www.perio.org/?q=faq-page)
(American Academy of Periodontology)
- [Gum Disease \[https://www.perio.org/for-patients/gum-disease-information/\]](https://www.perio.org/for-patients/gum-disease-information/) (American Academy of Periodontology)
- [Periodontal \(Gum\) Disease \[https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/gum-disease\]](https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/gum-disease)
 (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research)
Also in Spanish [\[https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/espanol/temas-de-salud/la-enfermedad-de-las-encias\]](https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/espanol/temas-de-salud/la-enfermedad-de-las-encias)


Diagnosis and Tests

- [Dental Exam \[https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/dental-exam/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/dental-exam/)  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [\[https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/examen-dental/\]](https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/examen-dental/)
- [Panoramic Dental X-Ray \[https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/panoramic-xray\]](https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/panoramic-xray)
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [\[https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/panoramic-xray\]](https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/panoramic-xray)

Treatments and Therapies

- [Periodontal Treatments and Procedures \[https://www.perio.org/for-patients/periodontal-treatments-and-procedures/\]](https://www.perio.org/for-patients/periodontal-treatments-and-procedures/)
(American Academy of Periodontology)
- [Surgical Periodontal Procedures \[https://www.perio.org/for-patients/periodontal-treatments-and-procedures/surgical-procedures/\]](https://www.perio.org/for-patients/periodontal-treatments-and-procedures/surgical-procedures/) (American Academy of Periodontology)

Related Issues

- [Diabetes, Gum Disease, and Other Dental Problems \[https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/preventing-problems/gum-disease-dental-problems\]](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/preventing-problems/gum-disease-dental-problems)
 **Easy-to-Read** (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [\[https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/diabetes/informacion-general/prevenir-problemas/boca\]](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/diabetes/informacion-general/prevenir-problemas/boca)


Gum Disease and Other Diseases [<https://www.perio.org/for-patients/gum-disease-information/gum-disease-and-other-diseases/>] (American Academy of Periodontology)

- Peri-Implant Diseases [<https://www.perio.org/for-patients/periodontal-treatments-and-procedures/dental-implant-procedures/peri-implant-diseases/>] (American Academy of Periodontology)
- Prevention of Infective Endocarditis Wallet Card [<https://www.heart.org/-/media/Files/Health-Topics/Infective-Endocarditis/Infective-Endocarditis-Wallet-Card.pdf>] (American Heart Association) - **PDF**

Specifics

- Gingivitis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/gingivitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20354453?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)


Videos and Tutorials

- Periodontal (Gum) Disease [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jcd2sCgFhh4>]  (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research)

Statistics and Research

- FastStats: Oral and Dental Health [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/dental.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Dental Plaque [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Dental+Plaque%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Gingival Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Gingival+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Periodontal Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Periodontal+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Risk factors for open gingival embrasures after clear aligners treatment: a... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40217266>]
- Article: Bisphosphonate- and disulfam-related gingival disorders: case analysis from the U.S. Food... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39239094>]
- Article: Comprehensiveness of Large Language Models in Patient Queries on Gingival and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39147663>]
- Gum Disease -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Gingival+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3A%20exp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Find a Periodontist [<https://www.perio.org/for-patients/find-a-periodontist/>] (American Academy of Periodontology)
- Find an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon [<https://myoms.org/find-a-surgeon/>] (American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons)
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research [<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/>]  Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/espanol>]

Teenagers

- Gum Disease [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/gum-disease.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/gum-disease.html>]

Men

- Gum Disease and Men [<https://www.perio.org/for-patients/gum-disease-information/gum-disease-and-men/>]
(American Academy of Periodontology)

Women

- Gum Disease and Women [<https://www.perio.org/for-patients/gum-disease-information/gum-disease-and-women/>]
(American Academy of Periodontology)

Patient Handouts

- Bleeding gums [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003062.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003062.htm>]
- Gingivitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001056.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001056.htm>]
- Gums - swollen [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003066.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003066.htm>]
- Periodontitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001059.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001059.htm>]
- Trench mouth [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001044.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001044.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Bleeding gums [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003062.htm>]

Gingivitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001056.htm>]

Gingivostomatitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001052.htm>]

Gum biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003852.htm>]

Gums - swollen [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003066.htm>]

Periodontitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001059.htm>]

Trench mouth [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001044.htm>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Gum Disease* is the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research [<http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/gumdisease.html>] on *Gum Disease*

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our disclaimer

[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our quality guidelines

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)