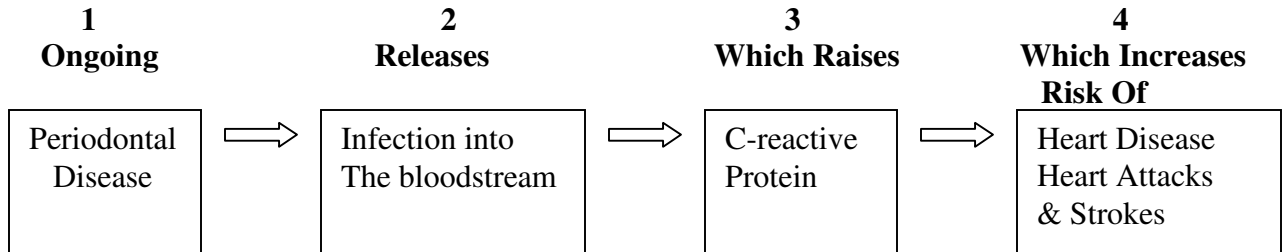


Lowering Risk of Heart Attack & Stroke

Untreated Periodontal Disease



- 1 Periodontal Disease is an ongoing infection in the bone and around your teeth.
- 2 When periodontal infection gets deep in the pockets around your teeth, it begins releasing infectious bacteria directly into your bloodstream. Signs that this is occurring are bleeding while brushing or when flossing. The infectious bacteria in your bloodstream then travels to other parts of the body.
- 3 C-reactive protein (CRP) helps to heal bodily injuries. When injury or infection occurs, the body's natural reaction is to pump C-reactive proteins into the bloodstream. The problem is that ongoing infections (like periodontal disease) permanently raise C-reactive protein levels.
- 4 Heart disease is currently considered to be an inflammatory process. It is infection and inflammation in the bloodstream which caused thickening blood vessels and blood clots. A study of 28,000 women showed that those with high CRP levels were 2.3 times more likely to experience heart disease than those with low levels. Interestingly, those women with high LDL cholesterol levels were only 1.5 times more likely to experience heart disease. This finding may explain why more than half of all heart attacks and strokes occur in people with seemingly safe cholesterol levels.

Periodontal Treatment

Before Treatment

Deep Pockets of Infection Around Teeth
Infection Constantly Going into Bloodstream
Raised C-reactive Protein Levels
Higher Risk of Heart Attack & Stroke



After Treatment

Infection Removed from Pockets
Infection No Longer Going Into Bloodstream
Lowered C-reactive Protein Levels
Lower Risk of Heart Attack & Stroke

Researchers have found that the treatment of periodontal disease actually decreases C-reactive protein an average of 30 percent. And in cases where CRP has been elevated due to periodontal disease, the decrease is above 50 percent. (See study in this section)

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818-957-5390