



Explanation of Cleanings

Your Dentist or Hygienist may recommend different types of dental cleanings based on their diagnosis. Listed below are the explanations of those types of dental cleanings. In certain cases, it may be necessary to visit a Periodontist for further evaluation and treatment. Regular Periodontal Maintenance will also be an essential part of long term care.

Prophylaxis – Adult/Child

This procedure will remove plaque, calculus, and stain from the tooth structure above the gum line. This type of cleaning is preventative in nature and done when there is no bleeding, inflammation, or bone loss present. This is a 'standard cleaning.'

Full Mouth Debridement / Gross Scale

This procedure involves the gross removal of plaque and calculus above the gum line that interferes with the ability of the Dentist to perform a comprehensive oral evaluation. This preliminary procedure does not rule out the need for additional procedures as it is considered incomplete treatment. Once completed, appropriate treatment will be determined.

Periodontal Scaling and Root Planing

This procedure involves the gross removal of plaque and calculus above and below the gum line. It is diagnosed for patients with active periodontal disease (infection), and is the standard of care to treat the disease. Once this procedure has been performed, periodontal maintenance continues at varying intervals (3-6 months), determined by clinical evaluation.

Periodontal Maintenance

This procedure is on-going care to maintain disease control and the health of your gums and bone after the scaling and root planing procedure. It involves removal of bacterial plaque and calculus above and below the gum line, site specific scaling and root planing where indicated, and the polishing of teeth. This procedure is performed following scaling and root planing and continues at varying intervals (3-6 months), determined by the Hygienist's evaluation for the life of the teeth. At your periodontal maintenance appointment, your Hygienist will check for signs of active periodontal disease, which include bone loss, bleeding, and swelling of the gums. If the periodontal disease is not well controlled with maintenance visits and home care, additional scaling and root planing or referral to a Periodontist may be recommended.

Have questions? Please ask us!