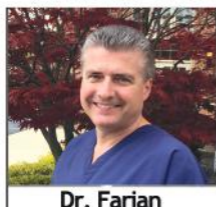


From the Dentist



Dr. Farian

What You Didn't Know About Dental Checkups

"Visit the dentist twice a year for checkups and cleanings." You've probably heard this advice hundreds of times, from Mom, teachers, and dentists. If you've been to checkups your whole life, you may think you know exactly what happens. But did you know about this:

Oral Cancer Screening: Perhaps you've heard about oral cancer in tobacco users. People who smoke and drink alcohol in excess face a higher risk of oral cancer, but the disease can affect anyone. The dentist will inspect all of your soft oral tissues, including the underside of your tongue, looking for white, red, or purple lesions that could be cancerous. If a suspicious lesion is found, the dentist can do a brush biopsy in the office. He may refer you to an oncologist for a surgical biopsy. Oral cancer will be diagnosed in nearly 50,000 Americans this year alone. Just under 10,000 will lose their life to the disease. Most are men. Men, go to your checkups!

Periodontal Evaluation: Also called gum disease, periodontal disease affects approximately half of the population. The condition is associated with increased risk for stroke, heart attack, respiratory problems, diabetes complications, and low-weight births. It is also the number-one cause of adult tooth loss. Often-times, people see no symptoms of gum disease at home. The dentist or hygienist may be the first to notice that your gums are infected. Gum disease is chronic (there is no cure), but treatable. With periodontal therapy, a dentist or hygienist can stop the disease from progressing.

Risk for Cavities: The dentist will look for cavities, of course, but he will also assess your risk for tooth decay. A heavy buildup of plaque and tartar, gum disease, and soft spots in tooth enamel are risk factors for cavities. If you suffer from acid reflux disease, vomiting, or are undergoing chemotherapy, your risk for dental caries is heightened. The dentist can consult you on ways to reduce your risk for cavities. At your cleaning, the hygienist can address gum disease and show you ways to maximize the effectiveness of your brushing and flossing techniques.

If you've not visited the dentist in the past six months, it's time to schedule your checkup and cleaning. Dr. Farian is accepting new patients in our Broadview Heights office. Call 440-526-9100 to make your appointment today!

Keep Smiling! And make it a good one!

Farian Dental Care

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