

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF DENTISTRY



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WHO I AM

Periodontist

(gum and implant specialist)



Dr. Kaylie Nguyen



DDS – 2022



Periodontics Residency – 2025



University of Maryland School of Dentistry



Questions

Raise your hand if:

1. You've ever had a cavity
2. You wear braces or had braces
3. You've been nervous at the dentist

Dentistry affects almost everyone!

WHAT IS DENTISTRY?



HEALTHCARE PROFESSION
FOCUSED ON TEETH,
GUMS, AND ORAL HEALTH



DIAGNOSE AND TREAT
ORAL DISEASES



HELP PATIENTS EAT, SPEAK,
AND SMILE CONFIDENTLY



PREVENT PROBLEMS
BEFORE THEY START

THE DENTAL TEAM

General Dentist
– primary dental
care

Dental Hygienist
– cleanings and
prevention

Dental Assistant
– helps during
procedures

Specialists –
advanced training
in specific areas

WHY ORAL HEALTH MATTERS



Your mouth is connected to your whole body



Gum disease linked with heart disease and diabetes




Healthy smile improves confidence



Good oral health improves quality of life

 START OF DAY




 Check schedule & patient charts
Prepare instruments & treatment rooms




Review medical history & concerns



 Examination & Diagnosis

- Oral exam
- X-rays
- Treatment planning




 Dental Procedures

- Fillings
- Crowns
- Root canals
- Extractions

Preventive Care


- Check hygiene visits
- Cleaning evaluation
- Oral health advice



 Patient Education

- Brushing & flossing tips
- Post-treatment instructions



 Documentation

- Update patient records
- Write treatment notes



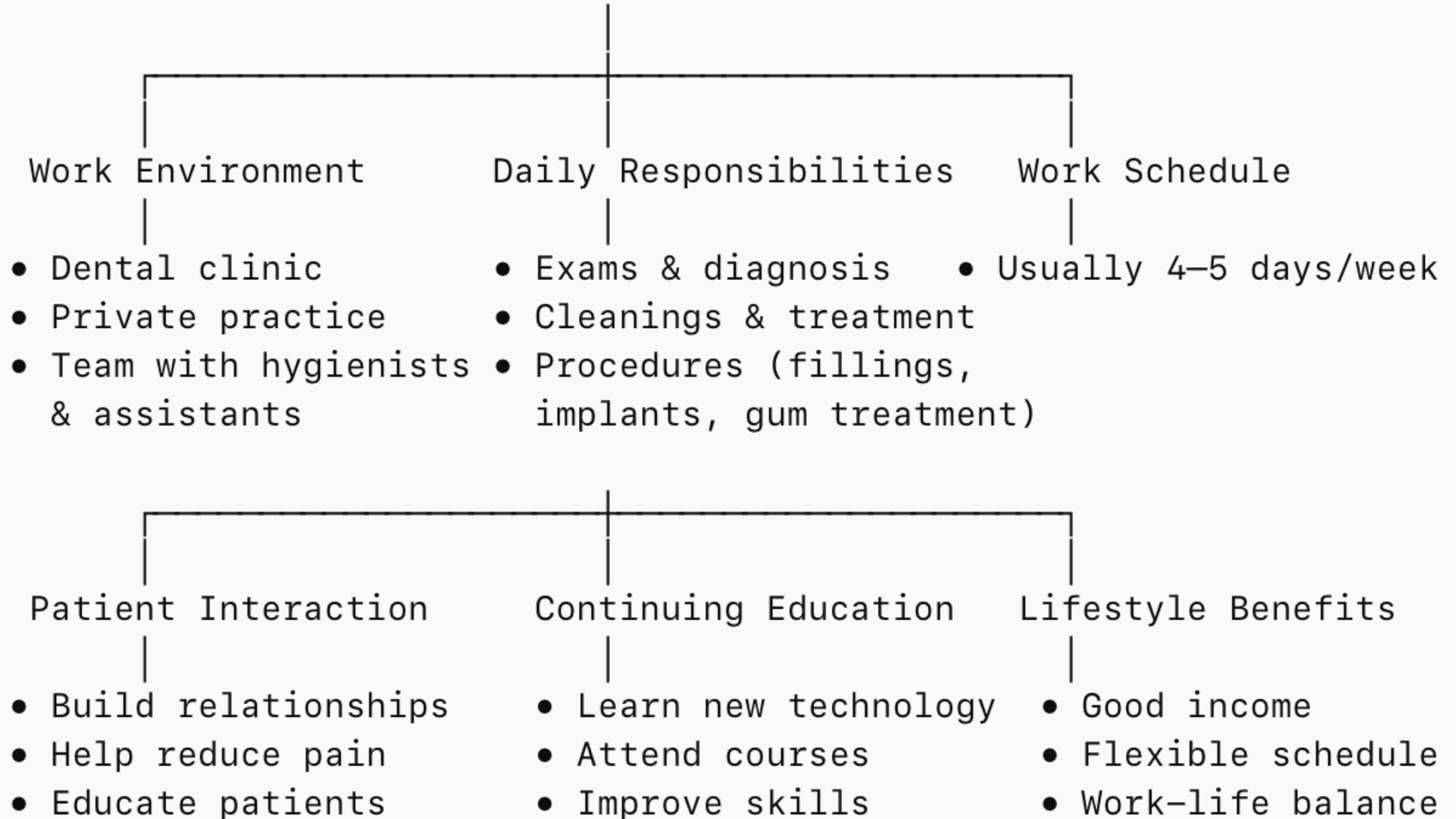
End-of-Day Tasks

- Prepare instruments
- Review cases & schedule
- Prepare for tomorrow

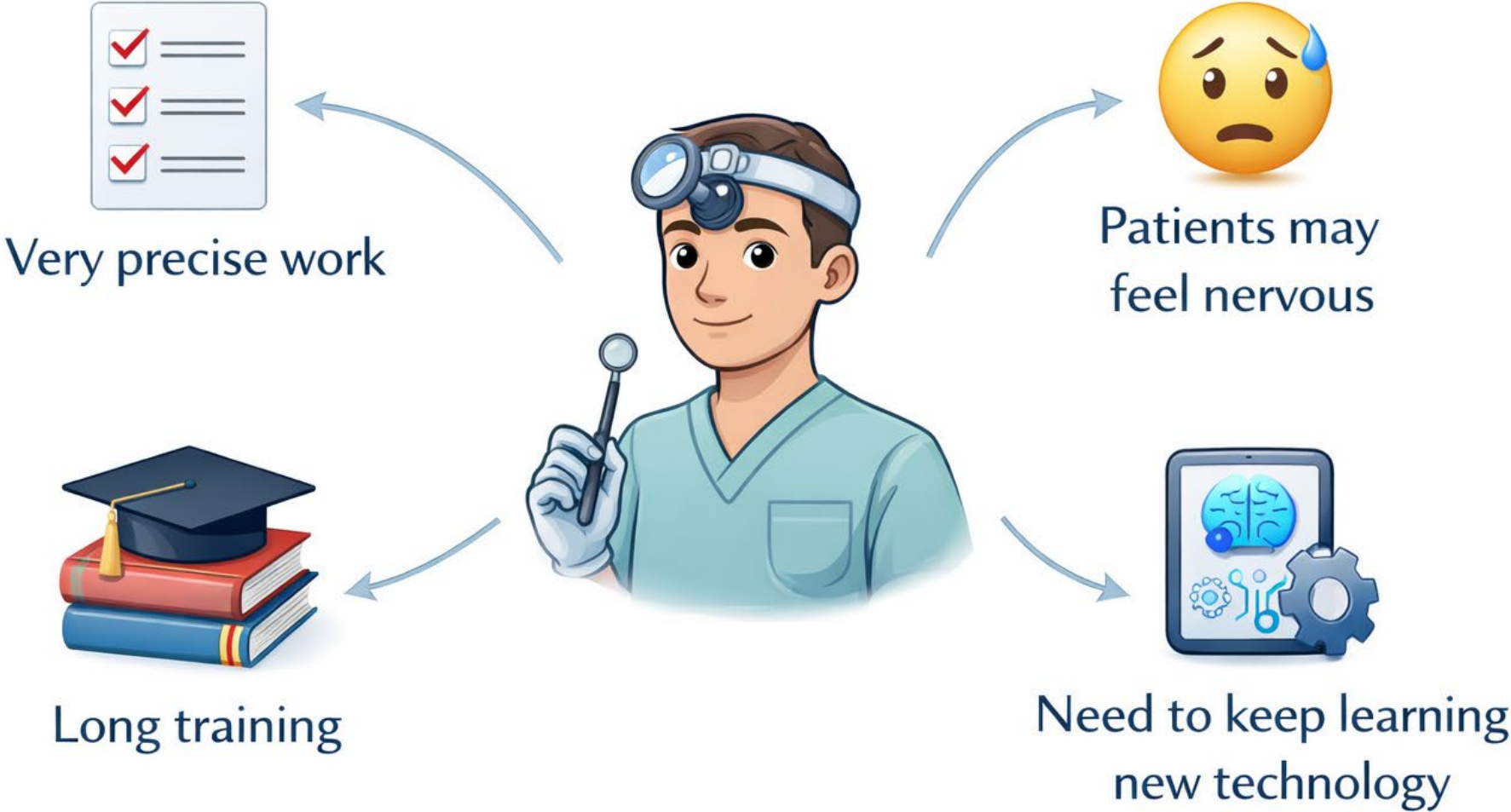


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Lifestyle & Career of a Dentist



Characteristics of the Profession



WHAT I LOVE ABOUT DENTISTRY

 Helping People Smile with Confidence	 Improving Patients' Health	 Working With My Hands	 Using Technology & Science Together	 Every Day Is Different
Restore healthy smiles	Treat gum disease	Perform detailed procedures	Review X-rays and 3D scans	Meet new patients
Help patients feel confident about their smile	Protect teeth and gums	Use precision and skill	Use modern dental technology	See different dental cases
Seeing happy patients is rewarding	Improve overall health	Hands-on work every day	Combine science with patient care	Always learning something new

How to Become a Dentist

High School

└ Strong science background



College

└ Usually biology or science **prerequisites**



Entrance exam

└ Dental Admission Test



Shadow Dentists

└ Learn more about the profession



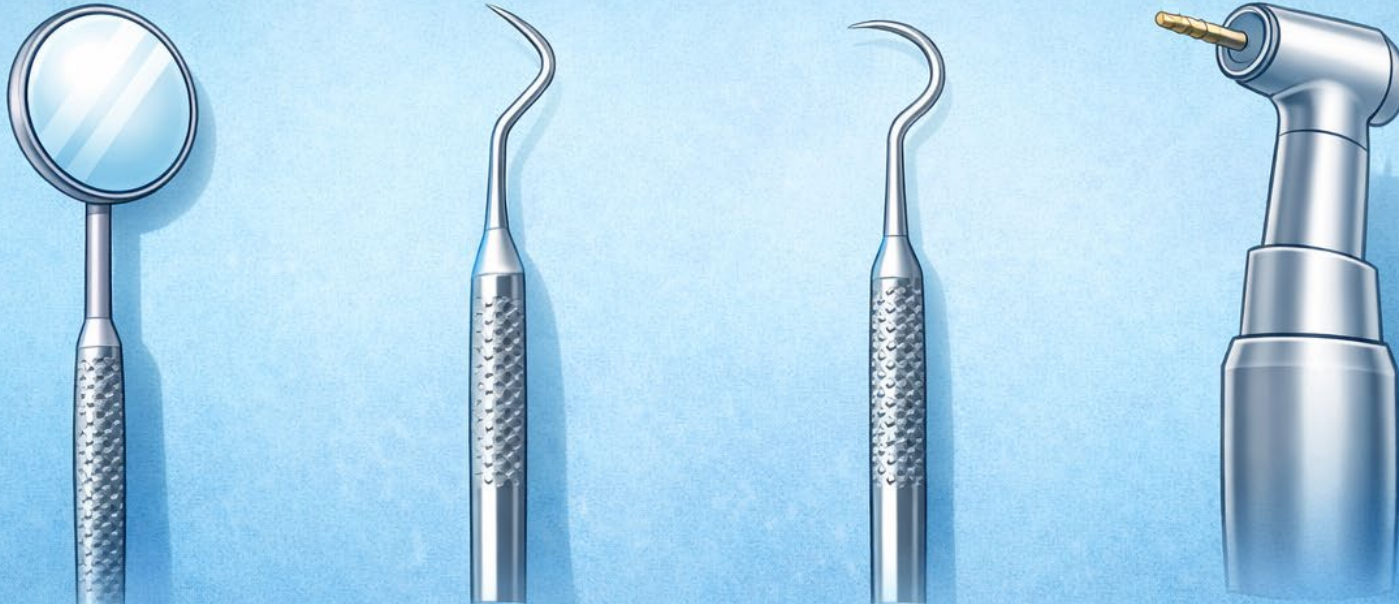
Dental School (4 years)

└ DDS or DMD



Optional Specialty Training (2,3,4 or 6 years)

Can you guess these dental instruments?



Can you guess what each tool does?

Types of Dental Specialists



Orthodontist —
— straightens teeth



Oral Surgeon —
— jaw surgery and wisdom teeth



Pediatric Dentist
— kids' dentistry



Endodontist —
— root canals



Prosthodontist
— complex tooth replacement



Periodontist
— gums and dental implants

What is a Periodontist?

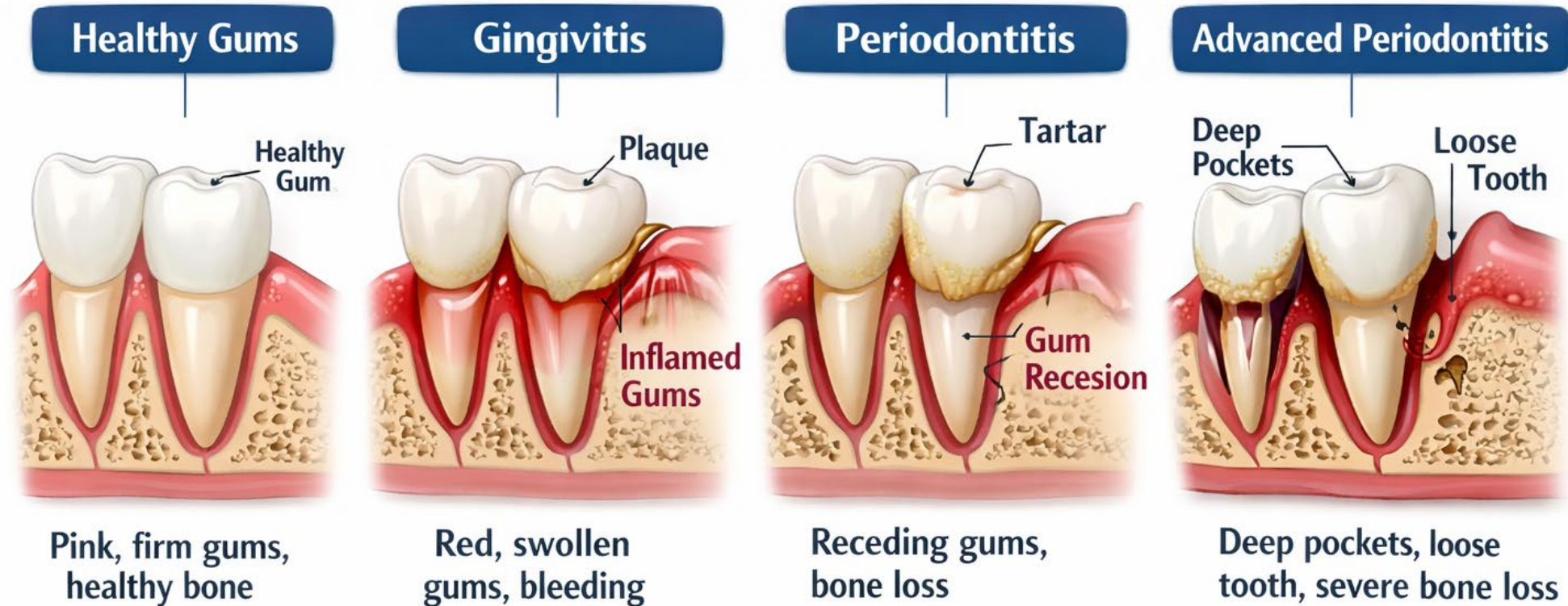
Specialist in gums and bone supporting teeth
Extra 3 years of training after dental school



WHAT IS GUM DISEASE – PERIODONTITIS ?

- **Periodontitis:** serious gum disease affecting tissues & bone around teeth.
- **Cause:** buildup of plaque → tartar → gum infection.
- **Progression:** starts as **gingivitis** → untreated → deep gum pockets & tissue damage.
- **Symptoms:** red/swollen gums, bleeding, receding gums, bad breath, loose teeth.
- **Risk factors:** poor oral hygiene, smoking, diabetes, genetics, certain meds.
- **Treatment:** professional cleaning, medications, sometimes surgery.
- **Prevention:** good oral hygiene, regular dental visits, quit smoking.

Stages of Gum Disease



Pink, firm gums,
healthy bone

Red, swollen
gums, bleeding

Receding gums,
bone loss

Deep pockets, loose
tooth, severe bone loss



Early Stage

Late Stage

PROCEDURES I PERFORM

Scaling and root planing (deep cleaning)

Gum grafts for recession

Bone grafting

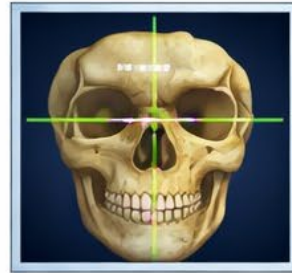
Dental implant placement

Regenerative procedures

Modern Dental Technology



Digital X-rays
(less radiation)



3D CBCT scans



Digital scanners



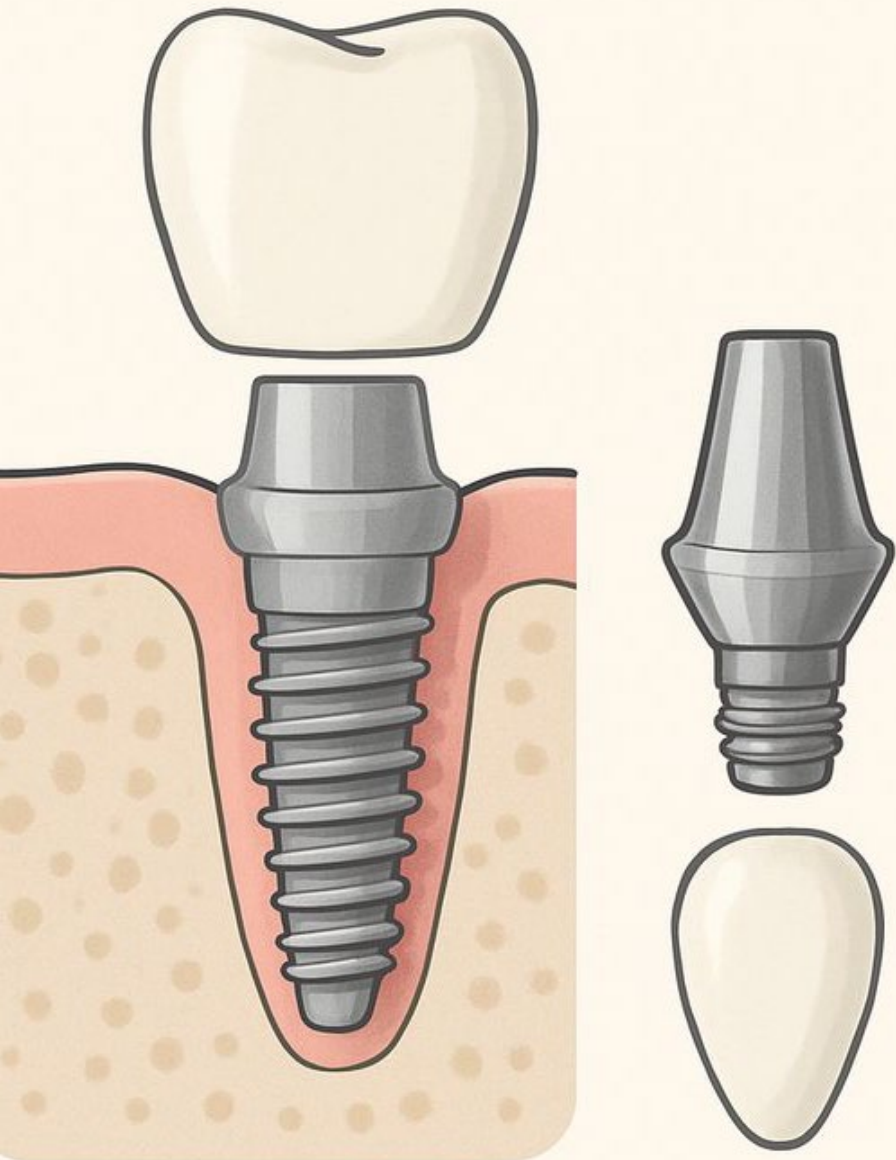
Digital scanners
(no messy impressions)



Lasers for gum
treatment



Guided implant surgery



DENTAL IMPLANTS

- Titanium root placed in jawbone
- Used to replace missing teeth
- One of the most advanced procedures in dentistry

□ A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PERIODONTIST

PATIENT EXAMS

- Meet patients
- Check gum health
- Measure gum pockets
- Ask about symptoms

DENTAL IMPLANTS

- Place implants
- Extraction/bone graft
- Ensure bone support
- Treat implant disease

□ X-RAYS & 3D SCANS

- Review dental X-rays
- Analyze 3D scans
- Look for bone loss
- Plan treatments

□ GUM GRAFT SURGERY

- Repair receding gums
- Protect tooth roots
- Improve gum coverage
- Strengthen gum tissue

□ TREAT GUM DISEASE

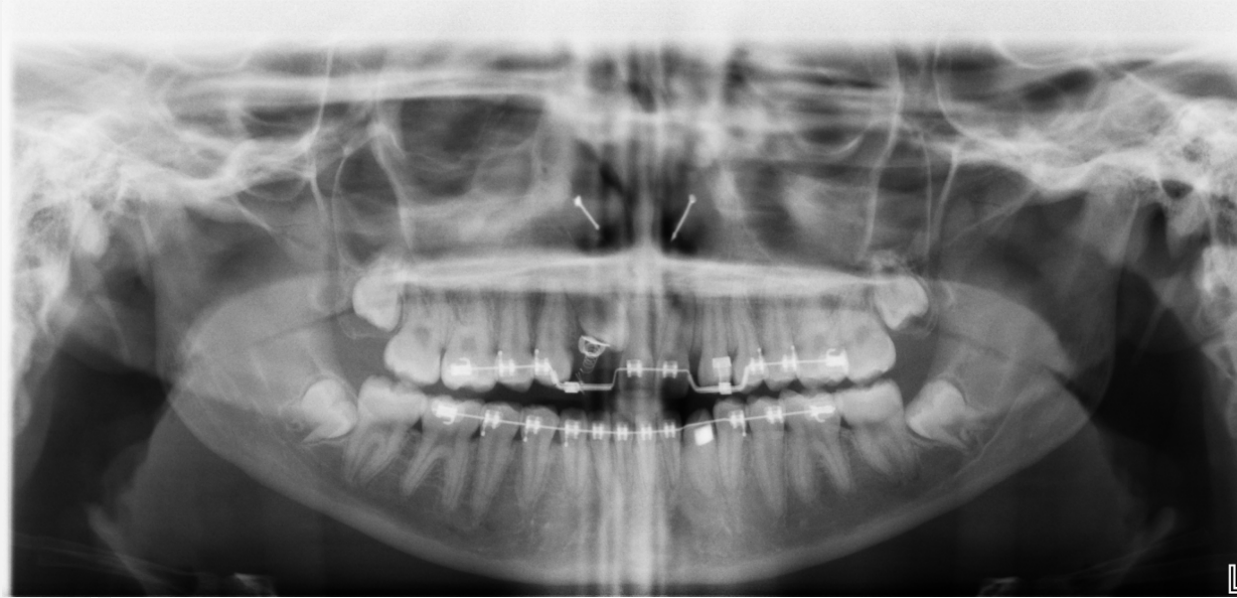
- Deep clean teeth
- Scaling & root planing
- Reduce gum infection
- Improve gum health

Helping Patients Maintain Healthy Gum & Strong Teeth

**REAL PATIENT
CASE EXAMPLE**







**DENTISTS
WORK THE
SAME JOB
EVERY DAY**

MYTH X

FACT

Dentistry is very diverse. Dentists can:

- Own their own practice
- Work in hospitals
- Teach at universities
- Do research
- Volunteer around the world
- Specialize in different areas
- Every day can look different.

IF YOUR GUMS
BLEED, YOU
SHOULD
STOP
FLOSSING.

Bleeding gums are usually a **sign of inflammation or gingivitis.**

Healthy gums **should not bleed** when brushing or flossing.

What helps:

- Daily flossing
- Good brushing
- Regular dental visits

Gum disease
only happens to
older people.

Gum disease can happen **at any age**, even in teenagers.

Reasons:

- Poor brushing/flossing
- Genetics
- Smoking or vaping
- Certain health conditions

Dental implants
are fake teeth
that just sit on
the gums

Dental implants are **titanium roots placed into the jawbone.**

- They:
- Replace missing teeth
- Integrate with bone
- Function like natural teeth

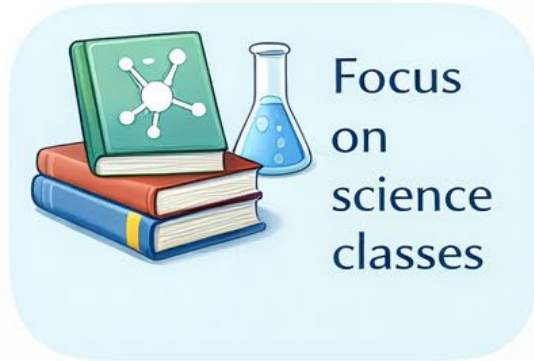
IF ALL MY TEETH
ARE REPLACED
WITH IMPLANTS,
I DON'T LONGER
NEED TO SEE THE
DENTIST

Even with implants, **regular dental visits and cleanings are still important.**

Implants cannot get cavities, but problems can still happen:

- Plaque and tartar can build up
- Gums around implants can become inflamed
- Infection around implants (**peri-implantitis**) can cause bone loss

If you're interested in dentistry:



 What questions do you have? 