

SPECIALIZED DENTISTRY FOR DIABETICS

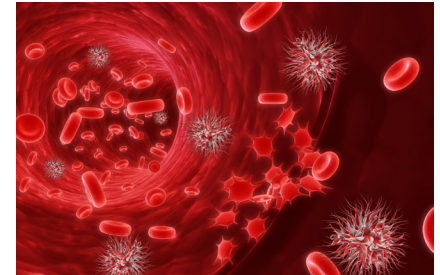


UNCONTROLLED AGING

Uncontrolled diabetics age quickly. “End organs” – the eyes, nerves, kidneys, gums, and extremities, especially the feet – are those fragile parts of the body most heavily networked by tiny capillaries. These are where the accelerated aging process of a diabetic is first noticed. Skin infections appear frequently and heal slowly because the compromised immune system of an uncontrolled diabetic makes him or her highly susceptible to infections.

Because gums are the most highly accessible and visible “end-organ” and the mouth is where teeming germs can easily overwhelm the immune response to cause disease, gum disease is often the first symptom to emerge in those with diabetes. It can show itself in childhood before all other clinical complications.

Diabetics are twice as likely to develop gum disease as someone without diabetes. The good news is that when gum dis-



REPRESENTATION OF A1C IN THE BLOODSTREAM

ease is successfully treated and maintained, the marker for long-term blood sugar control – A1C – can drop by two points!

SPECIALIZED DENTAL CARE



If you are a diabetic or simply have trouble controlling a sugar addiction, it may well be that your current dentist has educated himself and his staff to care for your spe-

cial needs. However, if you feel you need more from your dentist, there are two organizations trying to help you.

DENTISTRY FOR DIABETICS

Dentistry For Diabetics is a national organization of dentists committed to helping people with diabetes to treat and better understand the links between oral health and general health. These dentists are extensively trained in the interactions between type 2 diabetes and gum disease.

Dr. Martin, who heads the organization, provides a free online newsletter that provides information about gum disease and the inflammatory response cascade that aggravates diabetes and other chronic degenerative diseases. These newsletters help raise cross-disciplinary awareness among healthcare providers and also help their diabetic clients understand their own unique needs. This site also offers a directory of dentists associated with Dentistry For Diabetics. Find them at: www.dentistryfordiabetics.com.

DENTISTRY AGAINST DIABETES

Dentistry Against Diabetes is a company helping dentists be more proactive in screening for diabetes, since over 60 million people in the U.S. are at risk for diabetes and don't know it. The six question, easy-to-answer American Diabetes Association questionnaire helps the dental team know which clients should be offered a confidential Diabetes Risk Assessment test to use in the comfort of their home. This test is FDA approved for consumer and professional use and consists of an instant glucose test and optional laboratory confirmatory test for A1C. These tests are also highlighted in *Mouth Matters* link: Self-Testing for Inflammation. Find them at: www.Dentistryagainstdiabetes.com.

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