

## Cancer Risk and Periodontal Disease

**New research finds that men with gum disease have a higher risk of certain cancers.**

CHICAGO—June 4, 2008. Most people already know that maintaining oral health is a vital component of achieving overall health, but a recent study reveals why it is especially crucial that men pay close attention to their teeth and gums. Research published in the June issue of *The Lancet Oncology* found that men with a history of gum disease are 14 percent more likely to develop cancer than men with healthy gums. In fact, researchers uncovered that men with periodontal disease may be:

- 49 percent more likely to develop kidney cancer
- 54 percent more likely to develop pancreatic cancer
- 30 percent more likely to develop blood cancers

“Previous research has suggested a potential link between gum disease and other conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis,” says [Dr. Susan Karabin](#), President of the AAP. “This study should prompt men to be particularly mindful of their teeth and gums now that gum disease may play a role in the onset of cancer.”

Gum disease can be managed with daily brushing and flossing, and routine visits to a dental health professional. Men who develop gum disease should consider consulting with a periodontist, the dentist specially trained in the prevention and treatment of periodontal disease. A periodontist can help develop an effective treatment plan to best manage the disease.

### About the AAP

The [American Academy of Periodontology](#) is an 8,000-member association of dental professionals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the gums and supporting structures of the teeth and in the placement and maintenance of dental implants. Periodontics is one of nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.

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