

**REVIEWED**

By Chris at 10:48 am, Jan 29, 2016



Search Mayo Clinic



Request an Appointment  
Find a Doctor  
Find a Job  
Give Now

Log in to Patient  
Account  
Translated Content

PATIENT CARE &  
HEALTH INFO

DEPARTMENTS &  
CENTERS

RESEARCH

EDUCATION

FOR MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONALS

PRODUCTS &  
SERVICES

GIVING TO  
MAYO CLINIC

## Appointments at Mayo Clinic

Mayo Clinic offers appointments in Arizona, Florida and Minnesota and at Mayo Clinic Health System locations.

[Request Appointment](#)

## Diseases and Conditions

[Print](#)

# Periodontitis

[Basics](#)

[In-Depth](#)

[Expert Answers](#)

[Multimedia](#)

[Resources](#)

[News From Mayo Clinic](#)

**Definition**

[Symptoms](#)

[Causes](#)

[Risk factors](#)

[Complications](#)

[Preparing for your  
appointment](#)

[Tests and diagnosis](#)

[Treatments and drugs](#)

[Lifestyle and home  
remedies](#)

[Prevention](#)

[Products and services](#)

## Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Periodontitis (per-e-o-don-TIE-tis) is a serious gum infection that damages the soft tissue and destroys the bone that supports your teeth.

Periodontitis can cause tooth loss or worse, an increased risk of heart attack or stroke and other serious health problems.

Periodontitis is common but largely preventable. Periodontitis is usually the result of poor oral hygiene. Brushing at least twice a day, flossing daily and getting regular dental checkups can greatly reduce your chance of developing periodontitis.



Periodontitis

## Symptoms

Advertisement

Mayo Clinic is a not-for-profit organization. Proceeds from website advertising help support our mission. Mayo Clinic does not endorse non-Mayo products and services.

**Advertising & Sponsorship**  
[Policy](#) | [Opportunities](#)

## Mayo Clinic Store

Check out these best-sellers and special offers on books and newsletters from Mayo Clinic.

[Jump-start Your Weight Loss for 2016](#)

[The Mayo Clinic Handbook for Happiness](#)

[Mayo Clinic on Healthy Aging](#)

[Mayo Clinic Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy](#)

[Mayo Clinic Diet Book & Journal combo](#)

[Share](#)

[Tweet](#)

Feb. 04, 2014

[References](#)

## Products and Services

[Newsletter: Mayo Clinic Health Letter](#)

[Book: Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 4th Edition](#)

**Free E-newsletter**

**Subscribe to**

The Mayo Clinic Diet

What is your 2016 weight-loss goal?

5-25 lbs

25-50 lbs

50+ lbs

#### Housecall

Our general interest e-newsletter keeps you up to date on a wide variety of health topics.

[Sign up now](#)

#### See also

[Dry mouth](#)

[Dry mouth relief](#)

[Gingivitis](#)

## Other Topics in Patient Care & Health Info

[Healthy Lifestyle](#)

[Symptoms A-Z](#)

[Diseases and Conditions A-Z](#)

[Tests and Procedures A-Z](#)

[Drugs and Supplements A-Z](#)

[Appointments](#)

[Patient and Visitor Guide](#)

[Patient Online Services](#)

[Home](#) [Diseases and Conditions](#) [Periodontitis](#) [Basics](#) [Definition](#)

CON-20021679

[REQUEST APPOINTMENT](#)

[GIVE NOW](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[ABOUT MAYO CLINIC](#)

[EMPLOYEES](#)

[SITE MAP](#)

[ABOUT THIS SITE](#)

Any use of this site constitutes your agreement to the Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy linked below.

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Notice of Privacy Practices](#)

A single copy of these materials may be reprinted for noncommercial personal use only. "Mayo," "Mayo Clinic," "MayoClinic.org," "Mayo Clinic Healthy Living," and the triple-shield Mayo Clinic logo are trademarks of Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research.



We comply with the [HONcode standard](#) for trustworthy health information: [verify here](#).

© 1998-2016 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. All rights reserved.