

Gum disease is a complex problem involving many factors, which left untreated, can cause loss of teeth, bleeding gums, unsightly teeth and bad breath.

It is basically two diseases, which can be summarized as follows:

- **CHRONIC GINGIVITIS** – inflammation of the gum tissues
- **CHRONIC PERIODONTITIS** – inflammation and loss of attachment of the gum tissue combined with loss of supporting jaw bone

In reality different stages and activities of Gum Disease can be happening in different parts of the same mouth at the same time.

There are also some other less common acute forms of gum disease. Because of the nature of gum disease it cannot be 'cured' in the usual sense of the word. It is better to try to prevent gum disease from becoming a problem or to stop progression and control it if it has already caused damage.

Some people are more at risk than others of developing gum disease and much of this susceptibility may be inherited, although there are risk factors such as smoking and diabetes, which can be controlled.

For Prevention and Hygiene Maintenance Support visit:

[www.illumedentistry.co.uk/services/dental-hygiene-team.asp](http://www.illumedentistry.co.uk/services/dental-hygiene-team.asp)  
[www.illumedentistry.co.uk/services/dental-hygiene-support.asp](http://www.illumedentistry.co.uk/services/dental-hygiene-support.asp)

Treatment for Gum Disease is mainly carried out by our Dental Hygienists following diagnosis, treatment planning and prescription by one of our Dentists.

For those people with active Gum Disease you will be prescribed either an **Oral Health Improvement Programme (OHIP)** or **Active Periodontal Therapy** appointments.

**OHIPs** are a series of appointments designed to measure, record and treat gum disease and can require many visits depending upon the severity of the disease and the number of teeth. OHIPs are often used for New Clients to Illume.

**Active Periodontal Therapy** is more commonly used to treat regular clients of Illume when their gum health has deteriorated in a particular site or if they have not attended for a while.

