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## Astonishing facts about GUM DISEASE that can change YOUR LIFE

- 01** **Gum disease is silent.** The odds are you have gum disease but don't know it because there are no early symptoms. That's why it is called a "silent" disease. Only when the disease reaches advanced levels do you notice a change to the mouth and gums. If you wait until you see or feel symptoms, you are increasing your risk of serious oral and potentially systemic health problems.
- 02** **Gum disease isn't just a disease for older people.** A common misconception is that gum disease is something that only afflicts the senior population. The truth is, half of all Americans over the age of 30 suffer from gum disease. Anyone, even children, can get gum disease. Even pets get gum disease. That's why it's so important for people of all ages to get regular dental checkups every six months to make sure your oral health is on the up and up. If you are concerned that you may have gum disease, ask your dentist if he has probed your gums recently and what the pocket depths were.
- 03** **Gum disease is contagious.** There are hundreds of species of bacteria living in everyone's mouth. In the case of gum disease, you can unwittingly pass the disease on to your loved ones through the simple acts of sharing food and drinks or kissing. Even the act of double dipping in a shared bowl is a major offender in spreading gum disease. So treating your gum disease can prevent passing it on to your family and friends.
- 04** **Chronic bad breath is a sign of gum disease.** Most of us have experienced waking up to a case of "morning breath" on occasion. But if you notice that your breath seems less-than-fresh on a recurring basis even though you are brushing and flossing normally, it can indicate that you have gum disease. Gum disease is a bacterial infection, which gives off an unpleasant odor. Don't just stock up on mints – make sure you're getting to the root of the problem.
- 05** **Gum disease is linked to other serious conditions, including heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's, diabetes and more.** Learning about the links between gum disease and these systemic diseases, as well as the overall importance of oral health, is one key to ensuring people change their lifestyle habits to improve their gums and general health.
- 06** **"Pink in the sink" is not normal.** You may think that spitting out a few spots of blood after brushing and flossing is a run-of-the-mill occurrence, but it isn't. Your gums should not be bleeding – period. If you've ever noticed that your gums bleed, you need to address it with your dentist.
- 07** **Gum disease can be hereditary.** According to the American Academy of Periodontology, research has indicated that genetics can influence a person's susceptibility to gum disease. That means that even if you have conscientious oral health habits, you could still be at risk! If gum disease seems like it runs in your family, talk to your dentist about your next steps. Most people, our parents included, don't say much about gum disease. Gum disease may run in your family and you might not even know it.
- 08** **You can regenerate parts of your body.** Yes, it is possible to regrow bone destroyed by gum disease. A big part of the reason so many people shy away from treating their gum disease is fear of the surgical options. While surgical methods, and sometimes placement of dental implants, are frequently thought of as the only ways to deal with problem teeth, there is an alternative that can help you save and even regrow lost bone. The LANAP® (Laser Assisted New Attachment Procedure) laser treatment doesn't require any cutting or sewing and is the only treatment method that has been FDA cleared to generate (aka regrow) bone and tissues lost to gum disease.
- 09** **Dental implants can get gum disease too.** Experts estimate between 3-20% of implants fail due to infection. Implants themselves can't become diseased but the tissue around implants can become infected. Infection can set in when bacteria is present during oral surgery or any time in the future. It can also be caused when dental cement escapes from under the crown during cementation and gets caught in the gums. Make sure gum disease is treated before implant placement is crucial. If you think your implant may be failing, the LAPIP® (Laser Assisted Peri-Implantitis Procedure) treatment may help.
- 10** **Losing teeth shortens your life.** Research shows that the more missing natural teeth a person has, the sooner they die. The study showed that those with 20 or more natural teeth at the age of 70 had a considerably higher life expectancy than those who didn't. Just another reason to keep your natural teeth as long as possible. Drs. Fava and Levine, fully trained and certified LANAP® periodontists are proud to offer their patients this latest, state-of-the-art laser alternative to gum surgery that is virtually pain free and evidence-based to reverse gum disease and re-grow bone around teeth.

