

# Ask The Dentist

## *Is There A Link Between Heart Disease and Gum Disease?*

*Ann from Pasadena asks:*

*My husband has had a  
heart attack and his  
dentist says he has  
periodontal disease.  
I have heard this is  
dangerous, is this true?*

This is a very true. Although for some reason many doctors do not discuss this lethal problem with their patients. Researchers have found that diseased gums released significantly higher levels of bacterial inflammatory components such as endotoxins, into the bloodstream in patients with severe periodontal disease compared to healthy patients. These harmful bacteria in the blood could travel to other organs in the body, such as the heart and cause harm. Additional studies have suggested a relationship between periodontal disease and stroke.

I am always very concerned and attentive to the effect that we dentists have on the overall health of the human body. The link between periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease clearly stresses the importance of regular dental checkups to ensure a disease free mouth.

Dr Kenneth Canzoneri maintains a private practice in Arcadia. He is a member of the Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, member on the Board of the So. California Academy of General Dentistry and on the Board of Advisors for the World Clinical Laser Institute Please Call (626) 446-1679 for an appointment.

**Questions regarding dental health can be sent to Dr Kenneth Canzoneri, via email at [drkencinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:drkencinfo@yahoo.com)**