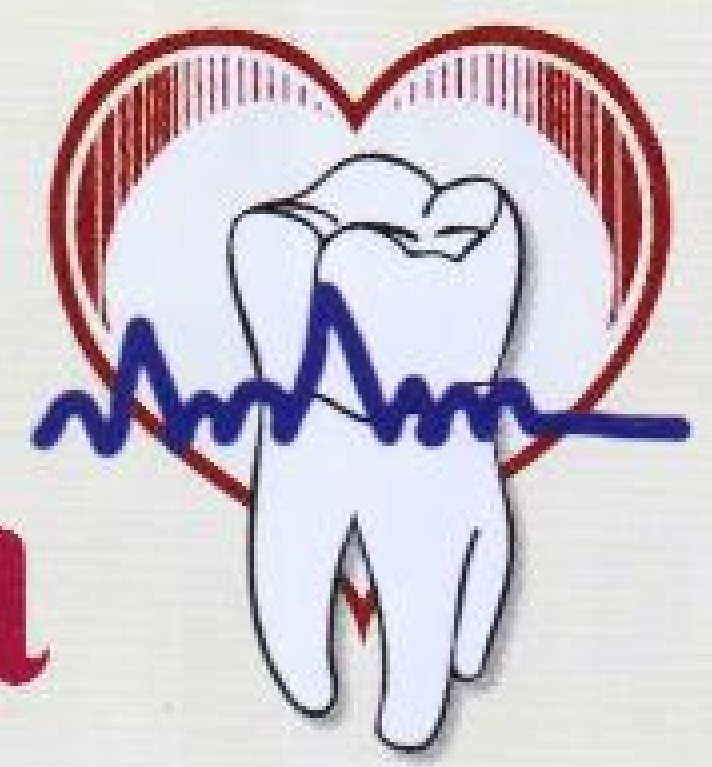


Research links heart disease to oral bacteria



Did you know that twice as many teeth are lost to gum disease than to decay? The cause – bacterial infection. It starts with the build-up of plaque around the gum line. Left untreated, gum disease eventually leads to the loosening and loss of teeth. Preserving the health of the gums will prevent recession and periodontal problems. Daily tooth brushing, flossing and professional cleaning can help prevent oral and gum disease. A healthier lifestyle may also be required, such as better nutrition or eliminating smoking and chewing tobacco.

Cut-away view of Captek crown



You can also help fight oral disease by taking advantage of Colgate's new Total toothpaste, the first toothpaste to contain the antimicrobial ingredient Triclosan. To date, Total is the only toothpaste clinically proven to help prevent gingivitis, plaque and cavities and is said to continue fighting bacteria, even if you eat or drink after brushing.

Hygienic Crowns

Great news! 22kt gold Captek crowns can actually help fight oral bacteria. In recent tests, clinicians found that Captek crowns reduce the formation of bacteria around the gums.^{1,2,3} A decrease in the *Streptococcus intermedius* bacteria is of particular importance because it can cause gum diseases that are resistant to treatment. Tests have shown Captek surfaces have about one-tenth the bacteria of natural tooth surfaces. The reason for Captek's bacteria-repelling effect is not yet completely understood. However, it is believed that the unique layering process used to make a Captek metal coping produces a small electrical field that affects bacteria.

Something More to Smile About

Good oral hygiene may pay off in more ways than was previously understood. In a recent University of Michigan study, researchers found that gum disease may be linked to a higher incidence of heart attacks.⁴ This is all the more reason to take care of your teeth and gums with regular brushing, flossing and professional cleanings.

And when your teeth are in need of repair, choosing bacteria resistant Captek crowns might just be what the doctor ordered ... for your heart as well as your mouth. Remember, a beautiful smile can make you feel better about yourself, and that alone can have positive overall health benefits.



1 Sbober I, Whiteman A. Captek--A new capillary casting technology for ceramometal restorations. *Quintessence of Dental Technology* 1995; 18: 9-20.

2 Bichacho N, Landsber CJ, Silberstein S. Comprehensive rehabilitation of severely traumatized anterior teeth utilizing a gold alloy-ceramic bridge. *Laboratory Digest* 1998; Spring: 11.

3 Zena R. Achieving durable anterior restorations through integration of two materials. *Laboratory Digest* 1998; Spring: 18.

4 Loesche WJ, Schork A, Terpenning MS, et. al. Assessing the relationship between dental disease and coronary heart disease in elderly U.S. veterans. (*JADA*, 1998; 129: 301-11).