

Let's Talk About Teeth

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IS GUM DISEASE LINKED TO CANCER?

Gum disease may raise the risk of developing cancer. This finding is based on a long-running study in which male health professionals with a history of gum disease were found to have a 14 percent higher overall risk of developing cancer. After controlling for smoking and other risk factors, periodontal disease was found to be significantly associated with an increased risk of lung, kidney, pancreatic, and hematological (blood) cancers. This higher overall risk was even detected in men who had never smoked. Researchers point out that people with gum disease have inflammation in their blood, and inflammation has been linked with cancer. It is also possible that whatever causes the inflammation may also cause gum disease and cancer.

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