

Let's Talk About Teeth

By Leon D. Hanna, DDS & Kayla S. Mazer, DDS

GUM DISEASE LINKED WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

While few people would readily associate gum disease with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), researchers have recently done just that. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that is characterized by the body confusing healthy tissues with foreign substances and attacking itself. Those with RA experience pain, stiffness, and swelling in multiple joints and, in some cases, inflammation in other organs. With this in mind, researchers surveyed the oral health of RA patients between the ages of 45 and 84 and found that they experienced gum disease at more than twice the rate seen in the general population. This finding should prompt RA sufferers to pay more attention to their oral health and schedule regular visits to the dentist

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Hanna & Mazer Dental Group
61 Fourth Street
Stamford, CT 06905

P: (203) 348-3756 | F: (203) 348-8675
info@hannaandmazer.com

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