

# Rheumatoid Arthritis

**Periodontitis (gum disease) and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) are both chronic inflammatory diseases.**

People with RA have a higher risk of gum disease, and studies have found a dose-response pattern in the association between the severity of gum disease and RA activity. There is also some evidence for a positive outcome of gum disease treatment on the clinical features of RA, but further studies are needed to fully explore the relationship between these two chronic inflammatory conditions.<sup>1</sup>

**Regular dental visits can help prevent or treat gum disease, which can affect the need for medication and help better control symptoms of RA.**



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M de Smit, et al., "Arthritis periodontitis in established rheumatoid arthritis patients: a cross-sectional clinical, microbiological and serological study," *Arthritis Research & Therapy* 14, no. 5 (2012): 222. Natalia Wegner, et al., "Peptidylarginine deiminase from *Porphyromonas gingivalis* citrullinates human fibrinogen and  $\alpha$ -enolase: Implications for autoimmunity in rheumatoid arthritis," *Arthritis & Rheumatology* 62, no. 9 (2010): 2662-2672.