

ORAL BACTERIAL PATHOGENIC TESTING

Oral bacterial pathogen testing uses a small sample of your saliva to determine the specific types and amounts of bacterial pathogens present. This information allows your dentist to devise a customized plan for treating your gum disease, reducing inflammation, and lowering your risk for various diseases.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What are some problems that the bacterial pathogens in my mouth may be linked to?*

- Gum disease, also known as periodontal disease
- Heart disease, including arterial disease and stroke
- Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia
- Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Diabetes
- Inflammatory diseases

2. *What are some of the treatments recommendations that the testing may recommend?*

- Targeted antibiotic therapy
- A customized teeth cleaning schedule
- Laser therapy for your gums
- Specific therapeutic mouth rinses
- A combination of the above

3. *How do I know if my treatment is successful?*

- Follow up testing. After completion of therapy, it is recommended that testing be repeated to determine the effectiveness of your treatment in reducing the number of bacterial pathogens and inflammation.
- Visual evaluation and pocket depth readings. Your dentist and dental hygienist will check for reduction of pocket depths, bleeding when probing or scaling, and inflammation.

4. *What might happen without bacterial pathogen testing?*

- Your dentist may not be able to recommend the most effective course of treatment for you.
- It may be difficult to measure the success of your treatment. Even if your gums appear healthier, there could still be large numbers of bacterial pathogens present.
- Your risk factors for developing specific diseases may be difficult to determine.