

Transmission of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (P.g.), *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (A.a), *Tannerella forsythia* (T.f.), and *Treponema denticola* (T.d.) between family members – what you should know.

Current research on bacteria associated with periodontal disease has identified numerous strains of bacteria that contribute to the breakdown and loss of gum tissue and tooth-supporting bone. Further evidence suggests that the prevalence of re-infection or return of periodontal disease after treatment can be associated with several factors, including the existence of un-treated destructive bacteria.

In addition to the identification and treatment of certain *periodontal disease* causing bacteria, studies have identified two known bacteria as being transmittable among family members. This transmission potential can lead to aggressive juvenile periodontitis among children and re-infection of adult patients who have been previously treated for periodontal disease.

Transmission of these bacteria between family members increases the risk of spreading the periodontal disease to unaffected persons or re-infecting successfully treated periodontal patients.

Periodontology 2000, 1999 Jun; 20:65-81, Oral Microbiol Immunol. 1996 Dec; 11(6):387-94., J Am Dent Assoc. 1997 Sep; 128(9):1263-71, J Periodontol. 2003 Sep; 74(9):1355-60

It is recommended that periodontal patients who test positive for *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (P.g.) or *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (A.a) have their spouse / significant other examined and/or tested by an oral health care specialist such as a dentist or periodontist.

In compliance with HIPAA rules and regulations, it is *your responsibility* to discuss this information with your spouse / significant other and determine if examination and/or testing by an oral healthcare specialist is in the best interest of your long-term periodontal health as well as that of your spouse / significant other or family members.

As a courtesy to existing patients, the office of Lindsay B. Eastman, DDS, MS, PA offers a complimentary examination for family members / significant others who test positive for *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (P.g.) or *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (A.a). While there is no cost for the complimentary examination, **normal fees apply to any recommended treatment or bacterial testing that may be needed.**

I have read and understand the above information regarding the potential transmission of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (P.g.) or *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (A.a) among family members. I further acknowledge that without the recommended testing of my spouse/significant other, I may be compromising the long term success of my periodontal health and that of others.

Signature of patient

Printed name

Date