

Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy: A Statement by the American Academy of Periodontology

TALKING POINTS:

- *Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy: A Statement by the American Academy of Periodontology* was approved by the AAP Board in November 2010 and published in the *Journal of Periodontology* in July 2011.
- The Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy Statement is intended to update and replace the Academy's 2001 Guidelines for Periodontal Therapy.
- The Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy Statement is intended to be a clinical road map for all members of the dental team that provide periodontal care.
 - The statement may also be useful to those who supervise, teach, or regulate the provision of periodontal therapy.
- The Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy Statement provides an overview of the components that should constitute efficient and effective periodontal treatment, including:
 - Scope of periodontal therapy
 - Periodontal evaluation
 - Establishing a diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment plan
 - Informed consent and patient records
 - Treatment procedures
 - Evaluation of therapy
 - Factors modifying results
 - Periodontal maintenance therapy
- The Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy Statement includes the expectation that all patients should receive a comprehensive periodontal evaluation on an annual basis.
- A comprehensive periodontal evaluation should include:
 - Extra- and intraoral examination to detect non-periodontal disease conditions
 - Examination of teeth and dental implants
 - Assessment of plaque, biofilm, calculus and gingival inflammation
 - Dental examination including caries assessment, proximal contact relationships, dental restoration and prosthetic appliance status, and other tooth- or implant-related problems
 - Occlusal examination to assess tooth/implant mobility, occlusal patterns, and determination of fremitus
 - Interpretation of diagnostic-quality radiographs
 - Evaluation of potential periodontal-systemic interrelationships

- Assessment of the need/suitability of dental implants
 - Assessment of patient risk factors such as age, smoking, and other systemic conditions associated with development and/or progression of periodontal disease.
- Recent research has suggested that the prevalence of periodontal disease in the United States may have been significantly underestimated. As a result, it is more critical than ever to carefully monitor and appropriately manage patients' periodontal health.
- All members of the dental team are responsible for ensuring that patients receive a comprehensive periodontal examination on an annual basis.
- The Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy Statement reflects the views of the AAP regarding periodontal therapy and related procedures. Actual treatment decisions must be made by the individual practitioner in light of the condition and needs of each specific patient.