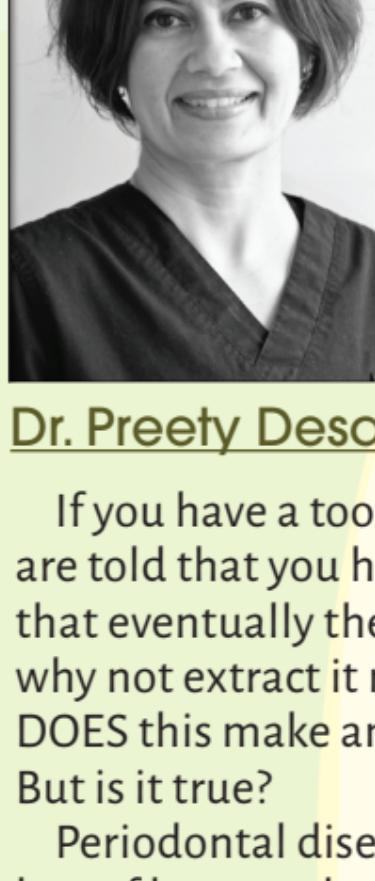


# TOOTHFULLY *speaking*



## DO I HAVE TO EXTRACT MY TOOTH?

### Dr. Preety Desai

If you have a tooth that is comfortable and are told that you have periodontal disease and that eventually the tooth will need extraction, why not extract it now before it gets worse? DOES this make any sense? or is it even logical? But is it true?

Periodontal disease ultimately results in loss of bone and gum, supporting the teeth. But the research is clear, dentists are NO good at predicting if YOUR gum disease will result in YOUR teeth loosening and falling out by themselves.

There are two INCORRECT beliefs: 1) That periodontal disease will continue. 2) The loss of bone will prevent you from getting an implant. BOTH THESE CONCLUSIONS ARE WRONG!

Periodontal disease is a preventable and SUCCESSFULLY treatable disease!

I can't count the number of people who have seen me for a second opinion when they were told their teeth needed to come out. Most frequently, they did not. It is important to develop a proper diagnosis AND prognosis of the correct treatment. No two people or gum diseases are the same, just as in everything in life!

Researchers confirm that most patients today keep their teeth over a lifespan. That is the key. If you have periodontal disease and pockets are not resolving, the next step is a referral to a periodontist, meaning, the problem should resolve in a matter of weeks after a deep cleaning treatment in your dentist's office. Six weeks after any treatment, a periodontal "evaluation" must be done to assess success or not. No bleeding upon probing or exudate or tooth mobility should be present. Your breath should smell better too. The periodontal pockets should be markedly improved. If not, then you need to see a periodontist right away.

With regard to dental implant therapy, the supporting bone volume holding your teeth in your head is dictated by genetics. Some people have more bone volume than others. A CT scan and a clinical examination assessing quality of gum tissue as well, will help determine candidacy for implants whether you have had gum disease or not. In fact the presence of gum disease in your mouth is a contraindication to dental implants being placed until your gum disease is resolved. In either case, periodontal disease is treatable and easier than ever with lasers. Refer yourself to a periodontist if there are any questions.



Laser Implant Periodontal

S P E C I A L I S T

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