



Health Alert

A Link Is Shown Between Pancreatic Cancer and Gum Disease in Men

Taking care of your teeth and gums may help ward off one of the deadliest cancers, as a recent study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, the University of San Juan and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute concluded and was reported at the 2006 Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research meeting in Boston.

When researchers analyzed 16 years of health information on more than 51,000 men between the ages of 40 and 75, gum disease stood out as a risk factor for pancreatic cancer. The study concluded that men with a history of periodontal disease had 63% increased risk of getting pancreatic cancer versus men without a history of periodontal disease. Men who had a history of periodontal disease and tooth loss showed more than a 2.5-fold increase in risk compared to those without these conditions.

Researchers factored out smoking, obesity diabetes, and other potential risks. Scientists speculate that the high amounts of bacteria associated with periodontal disease, and the higher amounts of nitrosamines in these individuals play a role in increasing pancreatic cancer risk.

More studies are planned to confirm the links. Over 70% of the adult U.S. population suffers from periodontal disease, and more than 30,000 Americans are expected to die from pancreatic cancer each year.

As reported by: [American Association for Cancer Research](#)
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