

# Periodontal Root Planing

You have need of extensive tooth scaling. This procedure is similar to typical tooth scaling during a routine oral hygiene visit, but it is different in the following ways:

1. Extensive pockets existing around your teeth require more comprehensive scaling. The deep gum pockets block vision of the tooth root structure. Small scaling devices (either manual or ultrasonic) will be carefully placed into the gum pockets, and systematic smoothing of the tooth root surfaces will be accomplished. Debris that has collected on tooth surfaces will be removed along with diseased soft tissue.
2. Deep tooth scaling, smoothing of the tooth roots, and gum curettage requires significant time and expertise. Usually only one or two segments of your mouth will be treated on one appointment. Other appointments may be needed to complete the therapy.
3. Your gums and teeth will be slightly uncomfortable for a few days after the deep scaling and root planing, but they will gradually feel normal again. After the gums have healed a few days, you will be able to maintain oral hygiene much better than in the past.
4. Your gum tissue may shrink somewhat as it heals. This condition is desirable because it reduces the depth of the pockets and allows you to clean the areas under the gums.
5. Tooth scaling and root planing are the most conservative methods to treat periodontal disease. We look forward to slowing or stopping your periodontal disease with this procedure, and we will keep you advised of the status of your periodontal condition as it heals.
6. Conventional tooth cleaning procedures are usually indicated in the future.



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