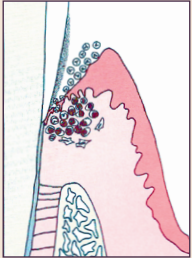


## STAGES OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE

### Chronic gingivitis



Inadequate oral hygiene leads to accumulation of dental plaque containing harmful bacteria and bacterial products that cause chronic inflammation of the gum adjacent to the tooth surface. However, the cells of the immune system counter these damaging effects and the inflammation remains localized. For many patients, the disease never progresses beyond this point and is reversible in many cases.

### Destructive periodontitis



The defence of the local immune system breaks down and the inflammation process advances. Tooth-supporting tissues are irreversibly destroyed and result in pocket formation, with loss of supporting bone. In advanced stages affected teeth may become loose and be lost.

### Links with general health

Products from inflammation around the tooth and the bacteria in dental plaque enter the bloodstream and may cause systemic harm. Diseases with an impact on the immune system, such as diabetes, increase the risk of more serious forms of periodontal disease.