



# Adult Care

LIBERTY cares about more than just teeth!

## health tip: Heart Conditions and Oral Health

### Good Dental Hygiene is Important for Heart Health

Here is yet another reason to brush and floss every day:

- **Researchers report** that periodontal (gum) disease, which is caused by poor oral hygiene, can not only result in pain and tooth loss, but can also contribute to heart disease and stroke.
- **People with gum disease** have nearly double the risk for heart disease as those with healthy gums, according to the American Academy of Periodontology.
- **Gum infection** is also more prevalent in people who suffer a certain type of stroke. Researchers don't yet know exactly how gum disease affects heart health.
- **Bacteria from infected gums** may enter the blood and attach to fatty deposits in the blood vessels. Another theory is that the inflammation from gum disease may be carried throughout your body via the bloodstream.
- **In certain types of heart disease**, fatty proteins build up and thicken the walls of the arteries, which can lead to restricted blood flow. This may then lead to a heart attack or stroke.

### fact:

Gum disease can lead to heart disease and stroke

