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PERIODONTAL DISEASE Natural Resistance/Susceptibility

A few people are very resistant to periodontal disease. Some are highly susceptible.

Most people, however, have a varying resistance to the disease at different times in their lives. For example, a person's resistance may be normal for years and then resistance temporarily diminishes. Periodontal disease then appears, or disease that was under control flares up.

Resistance varies from person to person and it varies in the same person at different times. Dental research teams around the world are searching for answers to explain these variations. For example, it is felt that "stress" may have a "resistance-lowering" effect on the body. Other factors such as smoking and uncontrolled diabetes have been shown to contribute to periodontal disease.

No matter what your susceptibility or resistance, periodontal treatment can arrest or at least slow down this disease. For the vast majority of people, loss of all the teeth to periodontal disease is not inevitable.