



## Why Do We Recommend an Antibiotic?

Gum disease will not go away on its own. Because it is an infection, it needs to be treated professionally with an antibiotic in combination with scaling and root planing (or periodontal therapy). Scaling and root planing removes much of the plaque and tartar above and below your gumline where bacteria produce toxins that irritate your gums and cause infections. Although the plaque and tartar are removed by your hygienist, bacteria can be left at the base of the gum pocket which in turn will hinder healing.

## Ways to Obtain Antibiotic for Periodontal Disease

We use an antibiotic called **ARESTIN** to combat this bacteria, because it is administered directly into the infected areas-or pockets-in your gums.

Arestin is rarely a covered benefit through dental insurance, however there are a few options for paying for the antibiotic.

- 1. Fee for Service-** Your hygienist will place the Arestin antibiotic at time of periodontal therapy from supplies we carry in the office.
  - The fee is \$36 per site and is typically recommended in every periodontal pocket above 5mm in depth that bleeds.
- 2. Medical insurance assistance-** In order to make the medication more affordable, Arestin itself offers a program in which patients can possibly obtain coverage assistance through their medical insurance. How this works...
  - We scan a copy of your medical insurance card.
  - We send a form signed by you to Arestin stating how many sites of antibiotic we would like to place.
  - Arestin's pharmacy will call you and let you know if you have any insurance coverage and what your copay would be. If you are comfortable with the copay amount and accept the treatment, Arestin will send us the antibiotic and your hygienist will place at your periodontal therapy appointment for a fee of \$23 per quadrant.
  - If you are not comfortable with the quoted copay, you can decline the treatment. Arestin will inform us and we will call you to discuss other options.
- 3. Not doing Arestin antibiotic-** If you choose not to have Arestin placed, we still recommend pairing the periodontal therapy with an antibiotic for optimal healing of the gum tissue. We are happy to call in a prescription to your local pharmacy for an oral systemic antibiotic in pill form instead. In most cases it will be a combination of Amoxicillin and Metronidazole unless an allergy exists.