

# Scaling and Root Planing

## The goal

The goal of scaling and root planing is to eliminate the source of periodontal infection.



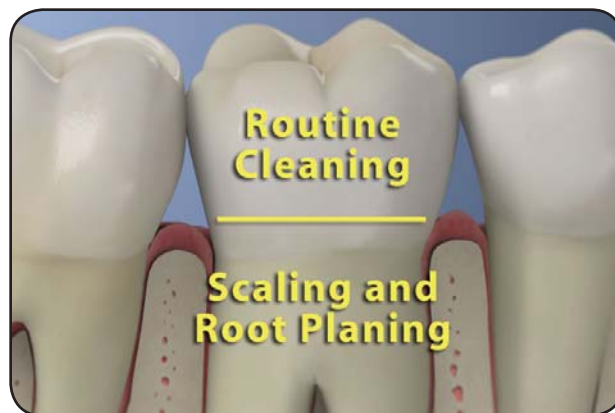
*Scaling & root planing exam*



*Removing plaque*



*Ultrasonic scaler*



## The benefits of scaling and root planing

When you have active periodontal disease, routine cleanings are not enough because they generally focus on the areas of the tooth that are above the gumline.

A scaling and root planing procedure, sometimes called SRP, removes plaque, tartar, and bacterial toxins from the tooth surfaces below the gumline.

## The scaling and root planing procedure

To keep you comfortable, we usually numb the area before the procedure begins.

Using special instruments, we carefully and meticulously remove the plaque and tartar around the tooth and then smooth the root surfaces. Depending on your situation, we may also apply fluoride or a medication to the area.

If you have just a few pockets of infection, we may treat just those teeth. However, if the infection is more widespread, we may treat one or two sections of your mouth at a time, spacing the treatment over several appointments.

Scaling and root planing remove the source of infection, help your gums heal and tighten around the teeth, and give you back your healthy smile.