





GINGIVITIS

To understand gingivitis, it is important to have an idea of the anatomy of the tooth and its supporting structure. Almost all advanced periodontal diseases start with gingivitis.

 <p><small>©DNC 2001</small></p>	<p>When a tooth is clean, the gums around it are usually pink and healthy.</p>
 <p><small>©DNC 2001</small></p>	<p>If the tooth is not properly cleaned, plaque forms and accumulates on its surface.</p> <p>Plaque is a sticky layer of bacteria (very small germs) that grows on any tooth surface, even between the teeth.</p>
 <p><small>©DNC 2001</small></p>	<p>Plaque causes irritation of the gums. The gums usually become red and slightly swollen.</p> <p>This condition is called gingivitis.</p>
 <p><small>©DNC 2001</small></p>	<p>When gingivitis is present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pocket depth may increase due to swelling. 2. The gums may bleed more easily when touched. 3. The bone level does not change around the tooth.

Ref: Canadian Academy of Periodontology