



PRESTON H. POLSON, DDS

ORAL HEALTH TESTING AVAILABLE

Our office is pleased to announce the availability of 3 laboratory tests relating to oral health. We think that some of our patients may benefit from these tests, but they are usually not covered by your insurance. Therefore, we will only perform them at your request. So, it's important for you to understand the tests and their related conditions.

One of the conditions is **gum disease**, which can result in loss of your teeth. Bacteria and inflammation cause gum disease. More than 50% of Americans have gum disease. The other condition is **oral cancer**. Oral cancer can be caused by infection with a virus called HPV and by tobacco and alcohol use. HPV-related oral cancer occurs most often in people who don't smoke or drink very much. A different kind of oral cancer occurs in smokers who drink a lot. About 36,000 Americans get oral cancer every year.

The **MyPerioID® PST®** test can tell if you have specific changes in your DNA. These changes might mean that you have a greater risk of getting gum disease.

The **MyPerioPath®** test is for patients who actually have gum disease. It finds out which bacteria are triggering the gum disease. Once we know which bacteria are in your mouth and at what amount, we can come up with a treatment plan that's right for you. For example, this information can help us select the right antibiotic for you. We highly recommend this test if you have gum disease that has not responded to previous treatment.

The **OraRisk® HPV** test can tell if you have an HPV infection in your mouth. If you do, you might have a greater risk of getting HPV-related oral cancer. Like most cancers, it's important to detect oral cancer early. If we know you have an HPV infection, we can watch you very closely for signs of oral cancer. We suggest you consider having this test if you are a non-smoker and don't drink a lot.

All 3 of these tests are performed using a saliva sample, which is collected in our office. The sample is easy and fast to collect. When the results come back, we will tell you what your results are and what they mean to your oral health.