SAMPLE

Respiratory and Periodontal Diseases

For some time it's been known that people who smoke, are elderly, or have other health problems that affect the immune system, are at increased risk for developing respiratory diseases like pneumonia, bronchitis, emphysema or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). These problems can be fatal.

Bacterial respiratory infections can be acquired by the inhalation of tiny bacteria-filled droplets from the mouth and throat into the lungs. Periodontal diseases, which are chronic bacterial infections, may be a major factor in the development of bacteria that are found in fluid droplets in the lungs. Once the bacteria are in the lower respiratory tract, they multiply causing infections or worsening of existing lung conditions.

SAMPLE

An individual with periodontitis may be half-again more likely to develop the respiratory disorder COPD. Among other problems, COPD results in decreased lung function.

If you are at risk for respiratory disease or periodontal diseases, see a periodontist for a periodontal evaluation – because knowing you have healthy gums may help you breathe easier.

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