

Wood Creek Dental Commons PA  
2101 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC  
29615

## Lack of Oral Hygiene



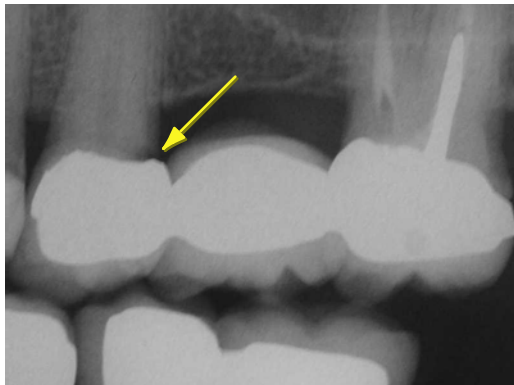
## Why Recall Appointments Are Important



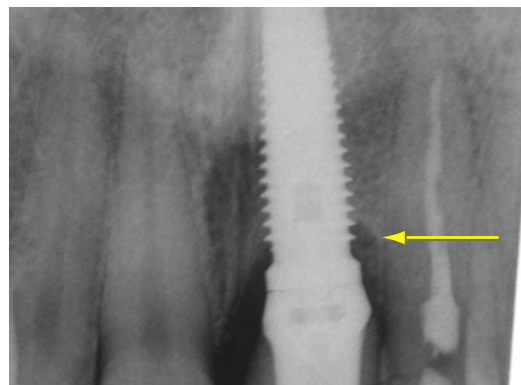
Regular recall appointments are important to help detect problems that may exist in your mouth. This abscess which is not painful was found. If left untreated, the infection may spread causing loss of teeth.



Recurrent decay (decay around existing fillings) can be detected during recall exams. If left untreated, the decay will spread underneath the filling and the tooth may require extensive treatment.



Regular x-rays help to find problems that may not be visible. Decay has been found underneath this bridge (yellow arrow). If left untreated, the tooth and the entire bridge may be lost.



Bone loss around an implant may also be found on an x-ray (yellow arrow). This type of bone loss is not painful, but if left untreated, the implant may be lost.

## Dental Decay

Dental Decay is caused by bacteria that naturally exists in the mouth. The bacteria flourish in an acidic environment, caused by most foods, especially sugars. The bacteria stick to the teeth and produce acids, which dissolve the surface of the teeth, causing cavities. Dental decay can occur on any teeth, at any age, but especially in the young and the old. It is common in areas where the bacteria are easily trapped, especially around the margins of fillings. In this example, this elderly individual has decay occurring around old fillings. The bacteria gets around and under the fillings and can virtually devastate the tooth.



In this example of a young individual, decay was destroying the tooth after it was treated with a root canal and a filling. Decay progresses slowly

