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Patient Information/ ***Cardiovascular Disease***

- Pathogenic bacteria (bad bugs) from the mouth can enter the blood and be found in the walls of blood vessels, coronary artery plaques, heart muscle and heart valves.
- Oral bacteria can be found in the blood clots that cause heart attacks and strokes.
- Bacteria associated with periodontal disease and abscessed teeth can cause damage to blood vessels leading to atherosclerosis (clogged/blocked arteries), increased risk of A fib, heart attacks and congestive heart failure.
- Explain how Nitroglycerin placed under the tongue (not swallowed) gets to the heart in seconds and reduces chest pain (angina)...The same can happen with dental plaque, smokeless tobacco, etc.