

LOCALLY ADMINISTERED ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY

Locally administered antibiotic therapy (LAA) is used to improve the success of scaling and root planing (SRP) procedures for the reduction of pocket depth for patients with bone loss as a result of periodontal disease. LAA may also be used as part of a periodontal maintenance program.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What antibiotic is used for LAA therapy?*

ARESTIN® (minocycline HCl) microspheres is the antibiotic most commonly used.

2. *What are Microspheres?*

Microspheres are tiny antibiotic filled particles that stick to the gum tissue all the way down to the base of an infected pocket around teeth. The microspheres release the antibiotic over time, fighting bacteria and reducing pocket depth, to help your gums heal better.

3. *How does LAA therapy work?*

Minocycline, a member of the tetracycline class of antibiotics, has a broad spectrum of activity. It is bacteriostatic and decreases the number of bacteria known to be associated with periodontal disease.

4. *Does LAA help Scaling and Root Planing (SRP) therapy?*

Yes. LAA used in combination with SRP is more effective at fighting periodontal disease than SRP alone. LAA continues to fight bacterial growth for approximately 21 days after SRP.

5. *What are the benefits of LAA compared to Rinses, Toothbrush, Floss and SRP?*

- Liquid Rinse reaches (0.2 - 0.5 mm) below the gum tissue
- Toothbrush reaches (1 mm) below the gum tissue
- Floss reaches (1 – 2 mm) below the gum tissue
- Scaling and Root Planing (SRP) reaches (5 mm) below the gum tissue
- LAA + SRP reaches (5 - 9 mm) below the gum tissue

6. *How is LAA different from an antibiotic you take as a pill?*

LAA is placed right where you need it, delivering the antibiotic minocycline directly to your gums. Without LAA, baseline levels of bacteria may return in just a few days.

7. *Does LAA hurt?*

LAA is fast, easy, and causes no discomfort. There is no need for anesthetic or associated use of needles.

8. *Who should not use LAA?*

People who have a known sensitivity to minocycline or tetracycline. Nursing mothers should not use LAA.