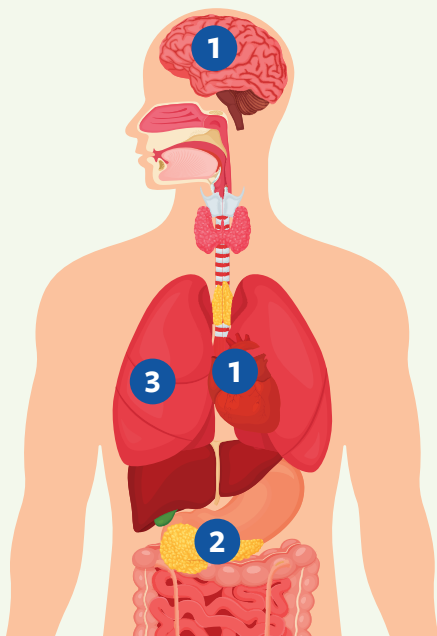


Oral health and other conditions



1 Heart disease and stroke. Bacteria associated with gum disease can enter the bloodstream and contribute to inflammation in the arteries. This may increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

2 Diabetes. People with diabetes are more likely to develop gum disease, which in turn can make it harder to control blood sugar levels. Diabetes can also slow down healing, which can interfere with the treatment of gum disease.

3 Respiratory health. Bacteria from the mouth can be inhaled into the lungs, potentially leading to respiratory infections such as [pneumonia](#).

Reproductive health and pregnancy.

Hormonal changes during puberty, pregnancy, and menopause can increase the risk of developing gum disease. And some studies have suggested that gum disease during pregnancy could lead to complications like preterm birth and low birth weight. If you are pregnant, it's especially important to take care of your oral health for you and for the baby.

