

#DM2002-5

“DENTAL DNA”

GENETIC RESEARCH HAS BEEN ON THE RISE AND IT COULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON YOUR DENTAL HEALTH.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH IS THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT. RESEARCHERS HOPE TO MAP OUT AN ENTIRE SEQUENCE OF DNA. WHAT THAT MEANS FOR YOU IS SUBSTANTIAL.

DNA IS WHAT DETERMINES HOW EACH OF US LOOKS, HOW EFFICIENT WE ARE AT CONVERTING FOOD INTO ENERGY, AND HOW WELL WE CAN FIGHT OFF AN INFECTION.

WITH GENE MAPPING, SCIENTISTS MAY ALSO LEARN WHY SOME PEOPLE HAVE STRAIGHT TEETH AND OTHERS DON'T. ALSO, IT MAY BE ABLE TO TELL US WHO IS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CAVITIES AND GUM DISEASE. THAT COULD GIVE DENTISTS THE FORESIGHT TO FIX A PROBLEM BEFORE IT EVEN HAPPENS.

GENE MAPPING MAY HELP DENTISTRY PREVENT AND TREAT ORAL AND DENTAL DISEASES EVEN BETTER THAN WE DO TODAY.

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.

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