We know that calculus plays a role in periodontal disease and a significant one. This is best demonstrated by a patient who presented with an enormous piece of calculus distal to the third molar and the accompanying very severe periodontal defect. As you can see in the photographs, this may take the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest single piece of calculus in an individual.
Interestingly enough, he had calculus everywhere in his dentition resulting in very severe bone loss around Tooth #27. Upon extracting this tooth, the defect observed was extremely large. An implant was the best restoration to place but it required a great deal of bone regeneration which fortuitously was obtained.

A follow-up x-ray taken 7 years later shows the complete regeneration occurring with an implant in a stable state in a healthy mouth as seen in a photograph of the final restoration.

This gentleman was able to be turned around with a great deal of effort in terms of the effectiveness of his plaque control. Despite the severity of the pathology in a man in his early 60's, the disease was reversible and repairable once the debris was removed and the patient had a chance to regenerate such a large quantity of bone.

The take-away: many of our patients are extremely heavy calculus formers and are highly vulnerable to periodontal disease. Often it is difficult to remove all the calculus; certainly #17 and #27 would demonstrate this.
However, once these patients are turned around and truly committed to their oral hygiene and effective frequent maintenance, the repair that we noted on Tooth #27 is possible.

As always, your feedback is appreciated.

Yours truly,
Victor M. Sternberg, D.M.D.

Dental Office of:
Victor M. Sternberg, D.M.D., PC
Westchester Center of Periodontal and Implant Excellence
141 North State Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
EMAIL: officesternberg@verizon.net
WEBSITE: www.DrSaveMyTeeth.com
O: 914-762-1885
F: 914-762-1880