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Educational Objectives:

- Understand the biological pathways of oral inflammation and the impact on systemic health*
- Understand the role and influence of the dental hygienist in risk intervention strategies*
- Sel-evaluate present assessment protocols related to risk intervention*
- Discover how science and strong evidence have influenced today's oral care products.*

References & Resources:

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Notes:

First on the Scene

A First Responder

“a person with specialized training who is among the first to arrive and provide assistance at the scene”

The dental hygienist is a ‘first responder’ to the oral cavity with our profession being optimally situated at the portal of entry and the gateway to systemic health.

As a critical stakeholder, we strongly influence both the quality and quantity of life of every patient seated in our treatment room.

The biological pathways of oral inflammation and the impact on systemic health

Periodontitis Burden of Disease

Periodontitis and peri-implant disease rank 11th among the most prevalent global diseases

Canada ranks 6th in disease prevalence globally

- 1 in 3 patients or one in five implants are affected by peri-implantitis
- 7 out of 10 Canadians will develop periodontal disease at some stage in their lifetime

Systemically, the impact is far reaching;

- 19% increased risk of cardiovascular disease; > 44% in individuals aged 65 and over
- 3.2x greater mortality risk in Type II diabetics with moderate/severe periodontitis
- 12.5% of live births considered preterm with infectious pathogens contributing to 25 – 40%

Evolution of Beliefs, Science and Knowledge

Historical Beliefs

- Equal susceptibility and that disease severity was directly related to magnitude bacterial exposure over time
- All patients would respond predictably to bacterial load reduction and regular maintenance care

Present Day Science and Knowledge

- Bacteria is an essential initiating factor; however level of clinical severity is a complex, multifactorial host response
- Variations in host response capability to address inflammation, tissue repair influencing overall therapeutic outcomes necessitates a different approach to modulating the host
- Our mechanical approach to periodontitis and the oral inflammatory burden is in fact a continual and repetitive reactive effort

“The most important health provider that you may see during the pandemic and beyond is a dental hygienist.” Dr. Tim Donley

Why is this so? Fast forward to today's world...

- The pandemic has taught us the relationship of COVID severity with cytokine storms; elevated IL-6 levels were predictors of pulmonary complications and the need for ventilation;
 - COVID-19 patients with periodontitis were 3.5 times more likely to be admitted to intensive care, 4.5 times more likely to need a

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Endotoxins released by microorganisms together with proinflammatory cytokines stimulate production of PGE2 which in turn stimulate the uterus (myometrium) to contract resulting in onset of preterm labor

Cardiovascular Disease

CVD is the leading cause of death in Canada

- 1 in 12 (or 2.6 million) Canadian adults age 20 and over live with diagnosed heart disease
- Every hour, about 14 Canadian adults age 20 and over with diagnosed heart disease die
- Males are 2x more like to suffer a heart attack and diagnosed on average 10 years earlier than females

How is this linked to periodontitis?

- Shared risk factors
- Subgingival biofilms serving as reservoirs of gram-negative bacteria
- Altered host response as a result of chronic inflammation and the influx of systemic inflammatory mediators

Diabetes

In Canada;

30% live with diabetes or prediabetes;

10% live with diagnosed diabetes, a figure that climbs to 15% when cases of undiagnosed type 2 diabetes are included.

How is this linked to periodontitis?

Altered host response as a result of chronic inflammation and the influx of systemic inflammatory mediators resulting in insulin resistance and decreased insulin action.

Increased collagenase activity (MMP-8) coupled with decreased collagen synthesis especially in poorly controlled diabetes

Alzheimer's Disease

AD is a progressive neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative disease of the brain

1 in 9 are living with Alzheimer's dementia; Risk doubles every 5 years between the ages of 65 and 84

2/3's of Canadians over the age of 65 who have dementia are women

Alzheimer's disease is fatal with people over 65 y.o. surviving an average of 4 – 8 years after diagnosis

Disease is characterized by three major hallmarks;

- Accumulation of beta-amyloid plaques
- Neurofibrillary tangles
- Neuroinflammation

How is this linked to periodontitis?

- Major concentration of P. gingivalis, a gram-negative anaerobic predator is found in the subgingival sulcus
- Also found in brains of people with AD through autopsy findings and in cerebrospinal fluid of individuals living with AD
- Gingipains are chief virulence factor in P. gingivalis promoting disruption and manipulation of the inflammatory response; abundant in autopsy specimens promoting neuronal damage

The role and influence of the dental hygienist in risk intervention strategies

Today's Healthcare Focus

Healthcare generally is a 'reactive model' vs a 'proactive model'

This is where our profession truly can make an impact

Risk assessment and risk mitigation are critical components of our dental hygiene assessment

Notes:-

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dental mirror sticks to the patient's tongue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dental mirror sticks to the buccal mucosa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No saliva pooling in the floor of the patient's mouth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saliva is frothy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patient's tongue shows generalized shortened papillae
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered gingival architecture (i.e., smooth)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patient's oral mucosa, especially the palate, appears glassy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tongue lobulated/fissured
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patient has cervical caries on more than 2 teeth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Debris sticks to teeth or palate

5 KEY Questions if you suspect Sjögren's Syndrome

1. Do you have other dryness in your body? (i.e. skin, eyes)
2. Do you have overall marked fatigue?
3. Do you have joint pain?
4. Do you have any other autoimmune disease?
5. Do autoimmune diseases run in your family?

Treatment Considerations:

- Hydration throughout the day
- Chewing gum/pastilles with xylitol
- Remineralization toothpastes
- Salivary substitutes
- Effective oral hygiene and interval of care
- Avoidance of antihistamines, decongestants, and alcohol

4. Salivary pH Chairside Assessment

The xerostomic patient is compromised due to lack of buffering capabilities of saliva

- Healthy saliva should measure no lower than pH of 6.5
- Demineralization occurs below a pH of 5.5
- Elderly clients or those with exposed dentin need to know that root demineralization can occur when pH levels fall to 6.0

5. Loupes (Magnification) and Illumination

Your eyes are your most important clinical instrument and Investment. Without the use of magnification early changes in the oral mucosa will not be visible to the naked eye.

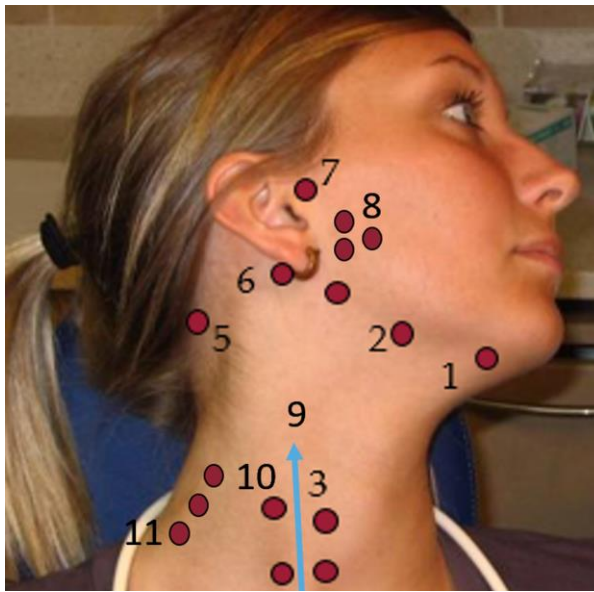
6. Saving Lives

Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancer Screening Examination

Extraoral Examination of High Risk Anatomical Areas

1. Submental
2. Submandibular
3. Anterior cervical chain
4. Supraclavicular
5. Occipital
6. Posterior auricular
7. Anterior auricular
8. Parotid
9. Sternocleidomastoid muscle
10. Posterior superficial cervical chain
11. Posterior cervical spinal nerve chain

Notes:-



Intraoral Examination of High Risk Anatomical Areas
Tongue, Floor of Mouth (FOM), Palatal and Oropharyngeal tissues



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Human papillomavirus vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-9-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.html>

Healthy Heart. Healthy Brain. The Personalized Path to Protect Your Memory, Prevent Heart Attacks and Strokes, and Avoid Chronic Illness

Amy Doneen/Bradley Bale www.amazon.ca

Get Your Spit Together www.amazon.ca

Life Interrupted: Dr. Dua's Survival Guide www.amazon.ca

The Subtle and Life-Saving Symptoms

Continuous sore throat; persistent infection

Pain when swallowing or difficulty swallowing

Unilateral ear pain

Pain when chewing

Non-healing oral lesions

Bleeding in the mouth or throat

Hoarseness

A lump in the throat or the feeling that something is stuck in the throat

Continual lymphadenopathy

Unexplained weight loss

Slurred speech

Tongue that tracks to 1 side when stuck out

Asymmetry in tonsillar area

Persistent neck masses despite antibiotic therapy

7. Do Your Patients Know What to Look For?

www.checkyourmouth.org

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Resources:

HPV Vaccine Virtual Consultation with a Healthcare Professional <https://www.gardasil9.ca/virtual-consultation/>

8. Education is all it takes to prevent over 90% of future HPV cancers!



The 9-valent HPV vaccine is recommended for boys and girls in the school immunization program across the U.S.

Over 92% of future HPV-attributable cancers can be prevented with the vaccine. The HPV vaccination is recommended for males and females who have already had HPV-related disease. The decision to vaccinate at any age is a shared decision between the patient and the medical provider.

Prevalence in HPV oral infection 88% lower in those reporting at least one dose of HPV vaccine vs unvaccinated

Reduces recurrence of abnormal paps in woman who were previously treated for cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions; 75% reduction of recurrence of genital warts

More than 500 million doses of the HPV vaccine (Gardasil) have been administered worldwide (World Health Organization, 2022) since the introduction of the vaccine in 2006.

9. My appointment is so full! I don't have time to probe.

10. Are you still treating periodontal disease as a bacterial infection?

A Patient for Life!

“It was accepted that a patient with gingivitis can revert to a state of health, but a periodontitis patient remains a periodontitis patient for life, even following successful therapy, and requires life-long supportive care to prevent recurrence of disease.”

1st Step: Mechanical Debridement and Delayed Bacterial Colonization

Why we need to treat beyond mechanical debridement

Periodontal disease is a bacterially-initiated, infection-driven, host response-mediated inflammatory disease

“The course of periodontal disease is marked by a discontinuous pattern of disease activity and inactivity showing exacerbation and remission of tissue destruction.”

The updated 2017 Periodontal Classification System has assisted in determining progression by identifying;

- Staging – indication of severity and distribution of pathologic damage; essentially the history of the disease
- Grading – identifies risk influence and rate of disease progression; attempt to predict future of the disease

The way in which the host responds to periodontal pathogens is impacted by many different factors; the threshold level of bacterial load successfully withstood varies greatly from patient to patient.

What are the Primary Biomarkers of Periodontal Destruction?

- Hs CRP
- Active-matrix metalloproteinase (aMMP) was identified as the first primary biomarker for periodontal staging and grading by the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) which has been implemented into the new classification of peri-implantitis
- Neutrophils

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ADA Statement <http://www.perio.org/resources-products/periostat.htm>

Comprehensive reference listing for low-dose doxycycline available upon request.

• How do we measure?

Current practice relies heavily on clinical parameters and radiographic interpretation of existing disease

Current evidence supports some individuals are more susceptible to develop periodontitis, more susceptible to develop progressive severe generalized periodontitis, less responsive to standard bacterial control principles for preventing and treating periodontitis, and theoretically more likely to have periodontitis adversely impact systemic diseases

How do we eradicate?

Current practice relies heavily on clinical parameters and radiographic interpretation of existing disease

Reliable measurable markers of inflammation and tissue destruction would provide the necessary quantitative evaluation to mitigate risk of irreversible damage

2nd Step: Treating Host Response

What do our guidelines suggest?

Current JADA Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines

Adding Low-dose Doxycycline to Scaling and Root Planing (SRP) Increases Clinical Attachment Gain by 71%

"A panel of experts convened by the American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs presented an evidence-based clinical practice guideline on nonsurgical treatment of patients with chronic periodontitis by means of scaling and root planing (SRP) with or without adjuncts."
JADA 146(7) <http://jada.ada.org> July 2015 p. 525-535 Table 4.



Observation:

The Council voted only in favor of two clinical recommendations as nonsurgical treatments for chronic periodontitis;

- SRP (no adjuncts)
- SRP + subantimicrobial-dose doxycycline (SDD, Periostat)



Clinical recommendation statements from the American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs' Nonsurgical Treatment of Chronic Periodontitis Expert Panel.

Mechanism of Action: Low-Dose Doxycycline

Low dose doxycycline will reduce the over-production of collagenase (MMP-8, MMP-9, enzymes responsible for accelerated breakdown and destruction of collagen) and osteoclasts (bone cell responsible for the resorption of bone) that are present in overabundance during a chronic, prolonged & destructive inflammatory response.

Adding low-dose doxycycline to SRP increases clinical attachment gain by 71%. CRP levels have also been reduced with LDD. IL-6 levels reduced 32%. Why is this so critical?

Systemically, this exaggerated inflammatory response is common among inflammatory diseases such as periodontitis, cardiovascular disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

Chronic inflammatory burden increases risk for new inflammatory disease in consecutive anatomical sites

Peri-Implantitis

Historical Treatment

An alarming increase in implant failures is being explored along with a strong prevalence of peri-implantitis occurring in 22-43% of implants placed 5 – 10% failure rate with highest rate amongst diabetics

Existing model for treating chronic periodontitis has been used for managing implant-associated infections;

- Placement of antimicrobials after localized debridement
- Regenerative treatments

References:

Resources:

Understanding Periodontitis

https://www.philips.com/c-dam/b2c/category-pages/personal-care/dental-professionals/periodontitis/PatientProfiles_Perio_C_hairsideGuide_Digital.pdf

Your Periodontal Assessment and Treatment

https://www.usa.philips.com/c-m-pe/dental-professionals/dental_indications/periodontitis#!=Dentistry_IQ:_Chairside_Connection_-_How_to_discuss_the_oral-systemic_connection_with_patients

Dentistry IQ: Chairside Connection - How to discuss the oral-systemic connection with patients

<https://www.dentistryiq.com/dentistry/oral-systemic-health/video/14248274/chairside-connection-how-to-discuss-theoral-systemic-connection-with-patients>

Check Your Mouth™ Campaign

www.checkyourmouth.org

Check Your Mouth Tools/Practice Cards

www.ocfstore.org

TelScope Telehealth System

www.hollandhealthcareinc.com

Magnification/Loupes/Illumination

www.orascope.com

VoiceWorks (Voice controlled hands-free perio charting)

www.oralscience.com

Oral Science Periodontitis Protocol

<https://oralscience.com/en/protocols/periodontitis>

American Academy of Periodontology

Periodontal Disease and Systemic Health

<http://www.perio.org/consumer/other-diseases>

Oral Systemic Link Resources for Healthcare

Providers, Patients and Research

www.oral systemic link.net

CDHA Talking Points – Oral Systemic Link

https://files.cdha.ca/profession/resources/FactSheet_WholeBody_final2.pdf

Philips World Oral Health Day Infographics

<https://www.philips.com/c-dam/corporate/newscenter/global/standard/resources/healthcare/2021/world-oral-health-day/philips-wohd-infographic.pdf>

Thank you to Oral Science for their continued support of education for the dental hygiene community and their dedicated team of professionals. For further information; <https://oralscience.com/en/presentations/>

If I may assist you any further in regard to this presentation, please contact me via email; jjones@jo-annejones.com Wishing you continued practice success!

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“Do you understand the treatment fully? Do you also understand what will happen if you choose not to accept the treatment?”

Next step is patient engagement...ownership of the ‘problem’

3rd Solution: Teamwork Messaging

STOP CLEANING TEETH!!

It is a dental hygiene appointment, it is a hygiene therapy appointment,

It is a Comprehensive Periodontal Therapy- CPT or Active Therapy – AT;

It’s not just a “cleaning”. It is an important part of the client’s health and healing abilities. It impacts the immune system functionality. It impacts both the quality and quantity of their lives.

4th Solution: Breaking through the insurance driven mindset

Powerful and effective language and responses to frequently asked questions

Acknowledgment that insurance is a BENEFIT

Team collaboration and support for one another

Clear, non-conflicting information for the dental patient

“Dental benefits were designed to assist a relatively healthy, disease-free mouth having had regular professional care and requiring minimal maintenance. The level of active disease and infection will not be fully assisted your dental benefit coverage; however your benefits will certainly help reduce your fee.”

“Even though you have dental benefit assistance, some procedures may not be covered. Your level of benefit assistance is determined by the policy your employer has chosen for you. It’s based on a group benefit plan and doesn’t take your individual needs into consideration. The patient normally handles a portion of the cost of the treatment.”

“I promise you that I would never base your dental needs and treatment on what your insurance covers.”

5th Solution: Communicating the Oral Systemic Link Powerfully

- First of all, the mouth is unique.
- Second of all, every bacteria, virus, toxin has access to the body’s highway.
 - Lastly, what does this mean to YOU?

aha moment

We must treat the host response to periodontal disease, or we are placing our patients at risk for systemic disease.

A mechanical approach is inadequate. Periodontal disease must be treated as inflammatory disease.

Bacteria are essential to initiating the local inflammatory response, however it is the host response that results in destruction both locally and systemically.

To continue to ignore the inflammatory component is setting up our patient for risk of systemic disease.

All chronic inflammatory disease is a consequence of unchecked or undiagnosed inflammation. The primary difference is anatomical inflammation.

Uncontrolled inflammation is responsible for tissue destruction. Not treating host response will place tx outcomes at a standstill.

Essential to employ an evidence-based medical, whole body health model.

Anything new, abnormal, or different that persists beyond 14 days always warrants further investigation. Don’t assume! A life may depend on your decision.

Medical History Update

Patient Name: _____ Date: _____

Recent research indicates a strong relationship between the mouth and the body. Since we now know how closely they are related, we are going to be asking you some questions about your family history and your overall health that we may not have asked you about before. This additional information will assist us in providing the best possible care to maintain your oral health and overall wellness.

1. Any changes in your health since your last dental visit? Yes No If yes, please list: _____

2. What medications are you taking? _____

3. Any changes in medication dosage or medications? Yes No If yes, please list: _____

4. What over the counter or 'herbal/natural' supplements are you taking on a regular basis? Please list: _____

5. Do you smoke, use vaping products, cannabis products or any other smokeless tobacco products? Yes No
if yes, please list: _____

6. Are you taking any bisphosphonates in the past or presently? Yes No If yes, please provide details: _____

7. Do you have a persistent sore throat, hoarseness, earache or feeling of something being caught in your throat?
 Yes No If yes, please provide details: _____

8. Have you ever been diagnosed with a high-risk strain HPV infection? Yes No

9. Have you had the HPV vaccination? Yes No If yes, how many years ago? _____

10. Have you had any surgery or been hospitalized since your last visit? Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

11. Are you being treated for any medical problem presently? Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

12. Have you ever taken antibiotics prior to having your teeth cleaned or before dental work? Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

13. Any allergies to drugs, food, metal or latex? Yes No
If yes, please list: _____

14. History of illness or disease in family?
If yes, please explain: _____

15. Were you diagnosed with COVID? Hospitalized Yes No If, yes, please provide details: _____

16. Have you been diagnosed with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis? Yes No

17. Have you experienced increased joint pain or decrease in mobility? Yes No

18. Have you been diagnosed with diabetes? Type I Type II Pre-diabetes

Diet-controlled Medication controlled Under control: Yes No

19. Does your mouth frequently feel dry? Yes No

20. Have you had any heart problems or a knee, hip or prosthetic joint replacement? Yes No

If yes, provide details: _____

21. Have you had a bone mineral density test? Yes No Results: _____

22. Female clients; Are you pregnant? Yes No

23. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how would you rate your general health at this time? _____

24. How would you rate your level of stress presently? Low Moderate High

25. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how closely related is the health of your mouth to your overall health in your opinion?

Date:

Client Name:

Our findings today reveal the presence of an active inflammatory infection in your mouth referred to as Periodontal Disease and is classified as follows:

Gingivitis Mild Periodontal Disease Moderate Periodontal Disease Severe Periodontal Disease

Periodontal Disease has different stages which are often silent and painless, however if left untreated will involve further destruction of bone support and teeth. Science also confirms that untreated chronic oral inflammation is associated with many other inflammatory diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's and some cancers. In keeping with our practice's philosophy of dedication to prevention and early diagnosis, we recommend the following course of non-surgical therapy to eliminate infection and oral inflammation:

Proposed Treatment	Procedure	Time	Fee
First Visit			\$
Second Visit			\$
Third Visit			\$
Fourth Visit			\$
Evaluation			\$
Maintenance/Care Interval			\$

Informed Consent:

I have been advised that I have an active infection in my mouth. If I choose to decline treatment I understand that the infection will continue to be active and that destruction to soft tissues and bone support is unpredictable and may also be associated with placing me at greater risk for inflammatory disease in other areas of my body. If I choose to accept treatment I understand that treatment outcomes may be affected by genetics, risk factors, the completion of my treatment, adherence to home care and any prescribed medications and regular preventive care at the suggested interval. I further understand that a non-surgical approach to the infection has been suggested at this time.

I accept the recommended treatment _____
Client Signature DDS/RDH

I decline the recommended treatment _____
Client Signature DDS/RDH