



DIABETES AND PERIODONTAL DISEASES-THE CURRENT SCENERIO

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ABSTRACT

In the present scenario Periodontitis and diabetes have appeared as common and complex set of chronic diseases with an interrelated disease manifestations and the relationship has been mutually dependent on the state of the body perhaps that is the reason these two diseases are fast gaining the status of a potential public health hazard. For such obvious reasons, treatment and management of periodontitis in people with diabetes is particularly important. This article envisages the current scenario of diabetes and periodontal diseases from dentists and diabetologists perspective.

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INTRODUCTION

Periodontitis and diabetes are two common prevalent diseases, with huge dependence on line of treatment that both follow and association between these two common diseases has been recognized by both dental professionals as well as diabetologists across the world.

Epidemiological studies have clearly identified that diabetes is a major risk factor for periodontitis, increasing the risk approximately three-fold compared to non-diabetic individuals, particularly if glycemic control is poor. [1]

Diabetes mellitus is defined as a clinical syndrome characterized by hyperglycemia due to absolute or relative deficiency of insulin [2]

The two main types of diabetes are classified primarily on the basis of their underlying pathophysiology.[3]

Type 1 diabetes, which constitutes about 5 to 10 percent of all cases in the United States, results from autoimmune destruction of insulin-producing β -cells in the pancreas, leading to total loss of insulin secretion.[4]

Type 2 diabetes, which constitutes about 85 to 90 percent of all cases, results from insulin resistance rather than from total absence of insulin production.[4]

Gestational Diabetes mellitus .This is defined as any degree of glucose intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy [5]. Women who have had gestational diabetes are at increased risk of developing NIDDM later in life [6][7]

Autoimmune destruction of β -cells does not occur in type 2 diabetes, and patients retain the capacity to secrete some insulin, although production often diminishes over time. Patients with type 2 diabetes can remain undiagnosed for years because hyperglycemia appears gradually and often without symptoms.[4] The American Diabetes Association provided the most recent classification of DM, in 1974 [Table 1].[8]

Table 1: Classification of diabetes mellitus

Classification	Etiology
Type 1	Insulin dependent diabetes: juvenile diabetes
Type 2	Noninsulin dependent diabetes: adult onset diabetes
	Gestational diabetes (pregnancy diabetes)
Other types of diabetes	Genetic defects affecting beta cell function or insulin action Pancreatic diseases or injuries (pancreatic cancer, pancreatitis, traumatic injury, cystic fibrosis, pancreatectomy) Infections (congenital rubella, Cytomegalovirus infection) Drug induced diabetes (steroid hormones, glucocorticoids, thyroid hormone) Endocrine disorders (hypothyroidism, Cushing's syndrome, glucagonoma, acromegaly, pheochromocytoma) Other genetic syndromes (with associated diabetes) Reproduced with permission from American Diabetes Association ¹

The American Diabetes Association's Expert Committee on the Diagnosis and Classification of Diabetes Mellitus also recently approved new criteria for diagnosis of DM [Table 2];[9]

Measurement	Diagnostic values for diabetes	Characteristics
Glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c)	≥ 6.5%	The test should be performed in a laboratory using the standardized method. It reflects average blood glucose levels over a 2- to 3-month period of time
Fasting plasma glucose	≥ 126 mg/dl (7.0 mmol/l)	Fasting is defined as no caloric intake for 8 h
Postprandial plasma glucose (2 h after caloric intake)	≥ 200 mg/dl (11.1 mmol/l)	The test should be performed as described by the World Health Organization, using a glucose load containing the equivalent of 75g anhydrous glucose dissolved in water
Random plasma glucose	≥ 200 mg/dl (11.1 mmol/l)	

The current status of diabetes mellitus in India

Diabetes is fast gaining the status of a potential epidemic in India with more than 62 million diabetic individuals currently diagnosed with the disease.[10][11]

According to Wild et al.[3] the prevalence of diabetes is predicted to double globally from 171 million in 2000 to 366 million in 2030 with a maximum increase in India. It is predicted that by 2030 diabetes mellitus may afflict up to 79.4 million individuals in India, while China (42.3 million) and the United States (30.3 million) will also see significant increases in those affected by the disease.[12][13]

The etiological factors of diabetes in India are multiple ranging from genetic, environmental, rapidly developing urbanization lifestyle modifications and many others. Yet despite the incidence of diabetes within India, there is no national health policy or framework on mitigation of DM and its complications in Indian population.

Diabetes and periodontal disease –the rapidly progressing complication

Impact of periodontal disease on diabetes

Evidence to support a negative impact of periodontal disease on diabetes was first postulated following studies of the Gila River Indian Community, a population of Native Americans with a high prevalence of diabetes. It was noted that severe periodontitis was associated with increased risk of poor glycaemic control (HbA1c >9.0%, 75 mmol/mol) at follow-up (minimum of two years later), suggesting that periodontitis may be compromising diabetes control.[14]

Other studies have reported increased prevalence of diabetes complications, such as cardiovascular complications, retinopathy, neuropathy and proteinuria in people with advanced periodontitis.[15-18]

The impact of periodontitis on deaths from cardiovascular complications and diabetic nephropathy has also been investigated in a longitudinal study of Pima Indians with type 2 diabetes. Age- and sex-adjusted death rates (deaths per 1,000 person-years) were 3.7 for those with no/mild periodontitis, 19.6 for those with moderate periodontitis and 28.4 for those with severe periodontitis. After adjustment for known confounders, it was shown that diabetic individuals with severe periodontitis had 3.2 times increased risk of cardiorenal mortality (ischaemic heart disease and diabetic nephropathy

combined) compared with the reference group (those with no periodontitis, mild and moderate periodontitis combined). [19] Changes in HbA1c in non-diabetic individuals who were monitored for a period of five years have also been associated with the presence of periodontitis. In a longitudinal study, the (non-diabetic) participants with the most advanced periodontitis at baseline were found to have a five times greater increase in their HbA1c values over five years (change in HbA1c $0.106 \pm 0.03\%$) compared to those who did not have periodontitis at baseline (change in HbA1c $0.023 \pm 0.02\%$).[20]

Impact of diabetes on periodontal diseases

In 1999, the American academy of periodontology issued a position paper about diabetes and periodontal diseases. [21].this report indicates that DM, especially when poorly controlled increases the risk of periodontitis. Several contributing factors have been proposed including reduced polymorphonuclear leucocyte function, Abnormalities in collagen metabolism and the formation of advanced glycation end products or AGE which adversely affect collagen stability and vascular integrity. AGE binding to macrophage and monocyte receptors also may result in increased secretion of interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor@ resulting in increased susceptibility to tissue destruction.

Some evidence suggests that periodontal infection and periodontal treatment have the potential to alter glycemic control. [21]. the presence of severe periodontal infection may increase the risk of microvascular and macrovascular diabetic complications. Control of periodontal infection has been shown to have a positive effect in glycemic control [21]

Patients with poorly controlled diabetes mellitus have an increased rate of surgical wound infections and poor wound healing and therefore some researchers have recommended that management of periodontal diseases be conservative and non-surgical as much as possible [22]. Since prevention plays a primary role in periodontal disease control in diabetic patients they may need more frequent plaque control and scaling than non-diabetic patients [22]

Studies have indicated that smoking increases the risk of periodontal diseases several fold in diabetic patients [23][24]

Most of the evidence also suggests that diabetes increases the risk of developing periodontitis. In a classic cross-sectional study, type 1 diabetes was associated with a fivefold increased prevalence of periodontitis in teenagers.[25]

A recent case-control study confirmed that attachment loss is more prevalent and extensive in children with diabetes than in children without diabetes.[26]

In addition, epidemiologic research supports an increased prevalence and severity of attachment loss and bone loss in adults with diabetes.[27][28]

A multivariate risk analysis showed that subjects with type 2 diabetes had approximately threefold increased odds of having periodontitis compared with subjects without diabetes, after adjusting for confounding variables including age,sex and oral hygiene measures.[27][28]

Role of a Dentist in Diabetes

In 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board acknowledged the intrinsic link between oral health,

general health and quality of life.[29]It has been suggested that oral health is a neglected area of global health, and an editorial in The Lancet proposed that promoting and improving oral health should be part of the routine agenda of healthcare policymakers and clinicians.[30]

In 2000, the US Surgeon General referred to a ‘silent epidemic’ of oral and dental diseases, and stressed the importance of oral health as being essential for general health and well-being.[31] the implications of diabetes mellitus and periodontal disease on patients has been gradually becoming synergistic and the relationship between these two diseases is becoming a new complication for health professionals to deal with. it, thus becomes imperative that dentist’s role in prevention and management of DM and periodontal disease becomes essential and should be integral part of treatment strategy of diabetic patients.

Better Screening and early diagnosis of the disease- as an established fact Diabetes is associated with an increased risk of developing inflammatory periodontal diseases and poor oral health and periodontal disease should serve as an indicator for a dentist for referral for further screening thus dentist acts as the first health practioner to suspect a patient with diabetes.

Medical history- dental treatments last for long hours marked with exertion and high levels of anxiety in patients. it becomes essential that the dentist must obtain an elucidative and comprehensive medical history of diabetic patients, their medication, level of dependence and frequency of hypoglycemic episodes and complications, if any, due to exertion or past dental treatments. Anti diabetic medications, dosages times of administration, and status of diabetes control should be determined. And if necessary drug dosage and dietary management should be consulted with the diabetologists before undergoing dental treatment.

According to the recent consensus of the American Diabetes Association (2010),[9] glycosylated hemoglobin, that is, HbA1c 6.5%, a preprandialglycemia of 126 mg/ dl and a postprandial glycemia 200 mg/dl are suggestive diagnostic values of diabetes

Basic Dental Treatment Considerations for A Diabetic Patients

- *Schedule dental appointments in the early to mid-morning hours
- * Keep appointments short
- * Use adjunct sedation procedures when appropriate
- * Instruct patient to continue normal dietary intake before dental procedures
- * Prior to an invasive procedure, check the patient’s blood glucose
- * Modify diet to soft solids and liquids when patient is expected to have difficulty eating solid foods after dental procedures
- * Perform appropriate follow-up care in the postoperative period
- * Frequent recall examinations and prophylaxis
- * Use of topical fluoride when patients are at risk of caries
- * Supportive, palliative care for dry mouth, using salivary substitutes

Table 3 Basic patient management strategies³²

Further periodontal maintenance for diabetic patients have been elaborated in study - Oral health management considerations in patients with diabetes mellitus [36]

Role of Diabetologist in Periodontal Diseases

Bidirectional communication

There should be clear and regular communication between dentist and diabetologist. This communication should be critical as well as integral component of treatment plan of patients with diabetes. Communication must be comprehensive, bidirectional and primordial. Both dentist and diabetologist must be mutually appraised of oral manifestations and glycemic control of the disease respectively.

Referrals

Patients with Diabetes Mellitus and periodontal diseases should provide an opportunity for both practioners to expand their referral base. During intra oral examination, Dentists should carefully examine the patient and any signs and symptoms predisposing of poor glycemic control should be referred to diabetologist. Similarly diabetologists who treat patients with diabetes should serve as a good referral source of patients with poor oral prophylaxis.

Treatment modalities

It is essential that Diabetologist should be well aware of the treatment modalities of various periodontal diseases and their impact on glycemic control of diabetic patients. Dental treatment should not interfere with the medical control of diabetes. However serum glucose levels and metabolic insulin levels should be carefully monitored before carrying any periodontal surgical procedures.

It is also mandatory that stress level management should be carried before all dental procedures in patients with diabetes. Therefore, Dentists must consider modifying medical therapy in consultation with the patient’s diabetologist.

Periodontal Disease and Mortality in Type 2 Diabetes

Studies have been made regarding the chronic effect and relationship between periodontal diseases and diabetes. It has become a major public health Challenge, all over the world.

In fact, India is home to 40.9 million people with diabetes – nearly 15% of the global diabetes burden; it contributes 1% of the world’s diabetes research.[33]

Projections show that this will increase to 70 million by 2025. As India has a population of 1.2 billion, 40% of whom are under the age of 18, investment in the health of India's future workforce is crucial.[34]

A strong relationship between Periodontal Disease and Mortality in Type 2 Diabetes has also been established. Periodontal disease is a strong predictor of mortality from IHD and diabetic nephropathy in Pima Indians with type 2 diabetes. The effect of periodontal disease is in addition to the effects of traditional risk factors for these diseases.[Diabetes Care28:27-32, 2005][35]

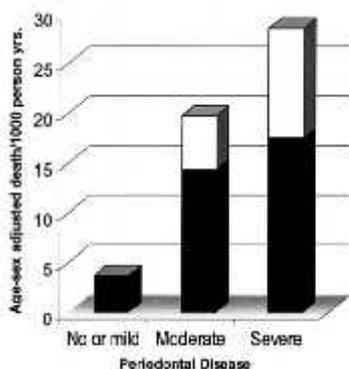


Figure 1—Mortality rates for all-cause mortality by periodontal disease (adjusted for age and sex) to the 1993 Pima Indian population: □, cardiovascular disease; ■, all other non-cardiovascular diseases.

Figure 1-Periodontal disease and mortality in type 2 diabetes[Diabetes Care28:27-32, 2005][35]

Steps needed to prevent diabetes and periodontal problems in India

1. The potent diabetes mellitus and periodontal diseases has been termed as grave problem and recognized as top priorities of public health care. However its prevention needs a professional watchdog and primordial approach for early detection and prevention viz. inclusion of oral health specialist/doctor's in PHC /CHC's in consultation with diabetologists, using modern means of digital technology, to play a primary role in prevention of these diseases.
2. Dietary and lifestyle modifications that have been predisposing factors for both diabetes and periodontal diseases needs to be addressed. Diabetes and periodontal diseases through introduction of healthier diets and dietary guidelines are basic preventive principles of such chronic diseases.
3. Patient education, health care promotion and empowerment in healthcare settings are crucial for ensuring good management and control of diabetes and periodontal disease.
4. It's imperative to campaign and highlight the basic etiological factors among the general population. Village to village, block to block-awareness and counseling center's plus college and school symposiums for creating awareness in youth and adults about the harmful dietary habits, ill valued and bizarre life styles that prove as predisposing factors for DM and periodontal diseases.
5. To control the increasing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, Better implementation and execution through the National Programme on Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular

diseases and Stroke (NPDCS) 2008 under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Government of India, is need of hour.

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