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Prevalence of gingivitis, periodontitis and high percentage of tooth loss among male type-2 diabetes patients as compared to the control non diabetic Saudi population

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**Background:** Periodontitis is a severe gum infection which is known to damage the soft tissues and the supporting structures of teeth such as periodontal ligament and alveolar bone. Diabetes is considered to be a major risk factor for periodontitis. According to some estimates prevalence of periodontitis increases about three fold in diabetic patients suggesting a relationship between hyperglycemia and severity of periodontitis. We recently reported rising rate of adult diabetes in male and the female Saudi population.

**Aim:** In this study we wanted to analyze the relationship between diabetes and the prevalence of periodontitis in Saudi male and female diabetes patients.

**Methods:** Extensive oral exams were performed by 5th year male dental students on a total of 200 members randomly selected male non diabetic subjects and 100 male and female T2DM patients to look for dental carries, gingivitis, periodontitis and tooth decay and or tooth loss. Data was carefully recorded and analyzed.

**Results:** In control group (age range 17-68 years, mean age 31.31 years), 63% showed signs of gingivitis and 37% showed signs of periodontitis with 6.01% tooth loss (13.4% incisors, 5.4% canine, 22.93% premolars and 58.25% molars were lost in the control group). In comparison the male and female diabetic patients (age range 13-90 years, mean age 52.91 years); we found 35% of T2DM patients with gingivitis and 65% had severe periodontitis. Additionally we found a threefold increase (18.9%) in tooth loss (20.8% incisors, 8.6% canine, 23.14% premolars and 47.23% molars were lost) among diabetic patients as compared to the control group (6.01%).

Conclusion: Our results show a significant increase in the prevalence of periodontitis among diabetic patients (65%) as compared to the randomly selected control group (37%) our results also show a high percentage of diabetic patients with severe cases of periodontitis (65%) and increased tooth loss (18.9%) as compared to the control non diabetic patients with 6.01% tooth loss. Among the lost tooth predominantly molars were lost (58.25% in control and 47.43% in diabetics) and canines were the least lost (5.4% in controls and 8.6% in diabetics) teeth.

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