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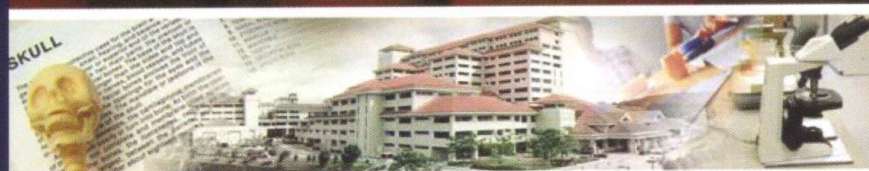
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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PERIODONTAL DISEASE AND SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

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Background:

Periodontal disease has been recognised as a major global public health problem because of its prevalence, economic impact and health consequences. Nevertheless, its burden to the health care system is often largely neglected. With mounting interest in the association between periodontal disease with certain systemic diseases and disorders, dentists and primary care physicians must find ways to work together for optimal control of the common risk factors affecting periodontal and general health. The objective is to review recent data on association between periodontal disease and some systemic conditions. Integration of oral and periodontal health promotion into management of these systemic conditions in primary care settings were also appraised.

Materials and Methods:

Electronic literature search was done using Medline database for period between 2001 to May 2011. The search was limited to clinical/ human studies published in English and included the following levels of available evidence: systematic reviews, narrative reviews, clinical trials as well as cross-sectional and cohort studies. Selected papers were articles relating to studies investigating whether or not a systemic condition is a risk factor for periodontitis.

Results:

An overwhelming body of evidence supports the association between periodontal disease and systemic conditions such as cardiovascular disease (OR 1.1-2.2), type 2 diabetes mellitus (OR 1.5-2.3) and adverse pregnancy outcomes (OR 1.10-20.0). Etiological and pathological links between periodontal disease and these conditions have also been suggested. There is global support towards control of periodontal disease through common risk factor approaches with these systemic conditions.

Conclusion:

Findings support associations between periodontal disease and some important systemic conditions. There is a need to translate these findings into a practical and feasible model of care that consolidates efforts to manage and prevent these diseases efficiently.

Keywords:

periodontitis, systemic diseases, review