



## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

### Prevalence and progression of untreated periodontal disease in a young Indonesian population

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## THE INDONESIAN - DUTCH CO-OPERATION

The research that is presented in this thesis by Mark Timmerman could never have been accomplished without the extraordinary good co-operation with the Dental Faculty of the Padjadjaran University in Bandung (UNPAD), as well as the support of numerous individuals. In research it is quite common that projects are established by coincidence. In the early eighties clinical research in the department of Periodontology of the Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA) started to focus on the topic of susceptibility to periodontitis. The purpose of these studies was to find prognostic indicators that could play a rôle in the risk for the development of periodontitis. Therefore several studies were carried out in order to acquire a better understanding of differences between individuals in relation to the susceptibility to develop periodontal inflammation. This research was the basis for the PhD thesis of Frank Abbas defended in 1986 at ACTA. However, right from the beginning it was clear that prognostic indicators as found in cross sectional research needed to be investigated in longitudinal research. This, preferably in a population deprived from dental care. When Frank Abbas travelled to Indonesia in the summer of 1983 he was fortunate to come into contact with the then dean of UNPAD Prof. T. Soeparwadi. From their conversations it became apparent that there was a need for co-operation in the area of research. Already in November 1983, Prof. Soeparwadi came to visit the Netherlands. Thanks to her enthusiasm and efforts the possibility for co-operation was established. In 1984 Frank Abbas and myself participated in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of UNPAD at Bandung and further discussed possibilities for a longitudinal study. It appeared that the conditions for research were more or less ideal on a tea estate in the mountains south-east of Bandung.

People who were involved from the very beginning and to whom we are greatly indebted are besides Prof. Soeparwadi, Prof. Soelarko head of post-graduate education, and the staff of the department of Periodontology in particular drgs. S. Armand and S. Wendari. They established the contact with the tea-company that offered the possibility to carry out the baseline examination in 1987. The research team that accomplished the baseline examination consisted of S.

Armand and a large group of dental students of UNPAD, A.J. van Winkelhoff of the department of Oral Microbiology (ACTA) and F. Abbas, G.A. van der Weijden, E.G. Winkel and myself of the department of Periodontology (ACTA). For the realisation of the baseline examination the help of the directors of the tea-company PTP XIII and the continuous support the general physician of the tea company dr. Dedi was extremely important.

As can be expected with regard to longitudinal research changes in the circumstances occur during the years. The establishment of the follow-up examination in 1994 would never have been possible without the support of the staff of the department of Periodontology of UNPAD in particular the present head of the department Prof. T. Lambri, drg. E. Arief and a new large group of dental students of UNPAD. The dedicated support of our Indonesian partners made it possible to carry out this research project. It is the merit of Mark Timmerman that the obtained extensive data set has been analyzed and presented to the international scientific community.

Prof. dr. U. van der Velden

## KERJA SAMA INDONESIA BELANDA

Penelitian yang diuraikan dalam tesis ini oleh Mark Timmerman tidak akan mungkin terselesaikan tanpa kerja sama yang luar biasa baik dengan Fakultas Kedokteran Gigi, Universitas Pajajaran (UNPAD), Bandung ataupun tanpa dukungan dari berbagai pihak secara pribadi. Di bidang penelitian adalah biasa bahwa proyek diawali oleh suatu kebetulan. Pada awal tahun-tahun delapanpuluhan penelitian klinis di Departemen Periodontologi di Pusat Akademik Kedokteran Gigi Amsterdam (ACTA) mulai difokuskan pada kerentanan terhadap periodontitis. Tujuan studi itu adalah menemukan indikator prognostik yang mungkin berperan dalam risiko berkembangnya periodontitis. Karena itu dilakukan beberapa kali studi untuk mendapatkan pengertian yang lebih baik mengenai perbedaan antar individu sehubungan dengan kerentanan terhadap radang periodontitis. Penelitian ini merupakan dasar bagi tesis PhD yang dipertahankan oleh Frank Abbas pada tahun 1986 di ACTA. Namun dari awal sudah jelas bahwa indikator prognostik seperti yang terdapat dalam penelitian silang seksi harus diselidiki pula dalam penelitian jangka panjang (longitudinal). Dan ini sebaiknya pula dilakukan pada populasi yang tidak memperoleh perawatan gigi.

Ketika Frans Abbas datang di Indonesia pada musim panas tahun 1983 ia beruntung bisa berkenalan dengan Prof. T. Soeparwadi yang ketika itu menjabat sebagai dekan di UNPAD. Dari pembicaraan antara mereka berdua mulai jelas bahwa perlu ada kerja sama di bidang penelitian. Pada bulan November 1983 Prof. Soeparwadi berkunjung ke Negeri Belanda. Berkat semangat dan usahanya kemungkinan kerja sama menjadi terbuka. Pada tahun 1984 Frank Abbas dan saya sendiri ikut dalam peringatan hari jadi ke-25 UNPAD di Bandung dan mengadakan pembahasan lebih lanjut tentang kemungkinan mengadakan penelitian jangka panjang. Ternyata bahwa kondisi penelitian yang mendekati ideal dapat ditemukan di sebuah perkebunan teh di daerah pegunungan di sebelah tenggara Bandung.

Di samping Prof. Soeparwadi masih banyak orang yang terlibat sejak awal dan kami merasa berterima kasih kepada mereka semua. Mereka adalah Prof. Soelarko kepala pendidikan pasca-sarjana dan staf Departemen Periodontologi khususnya drg. S. Armand dan drg. S. Wendari. Mereka yang menghubungi

pihak perkebunan yang kemudian menawarkan peluang untuk melakukan survei dasar (baseline) pada tahun 1987. Tim peneliti yang melakukan survei dasar terdiri atas S. Armand dan sekelompok besar mahasiswa fakultas kedokteran gigi UNPAD, A.J. Winkelhoff dari Departemen Mikrobiologi Oral (ACTA) DAN F. Abbas, G.A. van der Weijden, E.G. Winkel dan saya sendiri dari Departemen Periodontologi (ACTA). Yang sangat menentukan pula bagi keberhasilan pelaksanaan survei dasar adalah bantuan yang diperoleh dari pimpinan Perkebunan PTP XIII dan dukungan sepenuhnya dari dokter umum perkebunan, dr. Dedi.

Sehubungan dengan penelitian jangka panjang memang sudah lumrah bahwa perubahan keadaan terjadi selama sekian tahun berlangsungnya penelitian. Diadakannya pemeriksaan follow-up pada tahun 1994 tidak akan mungkin terlaksana tanpa dukungan staf Departemen Periodontologi UNPAD, teristimewa Ketua Departemen Prof. T. Lambri, drg. E. Arief dan satu regu baru mahasiswa Fakultas Kedokteran Gigi UNPAD. Proyek penelitian ini terlaksana berkat dukungan yang diberikan oleh mitra kami di pihak Indonesia. Mark Timmerman yang kemudian berjasa menganalisa data set yang ekstensif ini dan kemudian menyajikannya bagi masyarakat ilmiah internasional.

Prof. Dr. U. van der Velden

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