

## Role of Herbal Substitutes for Periodontal Treatment

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As we approach in the era of 21<sup>st</sup> century it is appropriate to have a glance on progress made in overall oral hygiene. Periodontal disease is one of the most common chronic diseases. It is found that their prevalence is undoubtedly higher than prehistoric times. Can we consider this as a "tribute" to progress made in the field of oral hygiene products.

In recent years attempts have been rightly made to test herbs and herbal products for their effectiveness. Varieties of herbal plants from India, Japan, China, Africa have been evaluated for their specific anti-plaque properties. It is observed that use of herbs and herbal products for oral hygiene care is a very common practice even in ancient system.

Various herbal extracts commonly used are in the form of chewing sticks, paste, mouth washes, local drug delivery systems, herbal bone grafts and chewing gum etc. These are from herbal plants like *Salvadora Persica*, *Azadirachta Indica*, *Acacia Gum*, *Sanguinaria* etc.

By using these the notion of self-reliance can be encouraged in poor and developing countries. These are available locally in most rural areas of developing countries and does need minimum technology to manufacturer.

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