

Microbiology of Periodontal Diseases

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The microbial colonization of the oral cavity believed to start close to the time of birth. Within hours after birth the sterile oral cavity will be colonized by less numbers of mainly facultative and aerobic bacteria. It is estimated that more than 700 different species are capable of colonizing the adult mouth and that any individual typically harbours 150 or more different species (Moore W.E, 1994). Most oral bacteria are harmless commensals under normal circumstances.

The bacteria are classified based on morphology cocci, bacilli, spirochetes. Based on staining characteristics, based on shape etc.

The similarity between periodontal diseases and other infectious diseases are individuals may be colonized continuously by periodontal pathogens at or below the gingival margin and yet not show the evidence of ongoing periodontal destruction.

In spite of the presence of periodontal pathogens periodontal tissue does not takes place. This phenomenon is consistent with other infectious diseases in which it may be observed that a pathogen is necessary but not sufficient for a disease to occur. The organism that periodontal diseases in biofilm/plaque that exist on tooth or epithelial surfaces.

These structures provide a protective environment for the colonizing organisms and fosters metabolic properties that would not be possible if the species existed in a free-living state (planktonic).

The specific etiologic agents of these diseases have been sought for over 100 years, however the complexity of the micro biota, an incomplete understanding of the biology of periodontal disease, and technical problems have handicapped this search towards the interpretation of diagnostic test for the detection of subgingival bacterial species.

It is found that the thorough knowledge of oral microorganisms is very important for diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of periodontal diseases.

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