Study: Gum disease may increase lung cancer risk

Analysis of existing research reveals possible link between periodontal disease and leading cause of cancer death

By AAP Staff

Chinese researchers have found that individuals with periodontal disease might be at an increased risk of developing lung cancer. The report, published ahead-of-print in the Journal of Periodontology, found that individuals with periodontal disease have a 1.24-fold increased risk of developing lung cancer.

In the report, titled “Periodontal Disease and Incident Lung Cancer Risk: A Meta-Analysis of Cohort Studies,” the authors assess the findings of five cohort studies that evaluated 321,420 participants. The analysis notes an increased risk even after adjusting for participants’ alcohol consumption and smoking habits, both of which are common risk factors for periodontal disease. Study participants who were drinkers, smokers and had been diagnosed with diabetes — which is an independent risk factor for both lung cancer and periodontal disease — demonstrated a 1.36-fold increase in lung cancer risk.

The data also indicate that women with periodontal disease are more likely than males to develop lung cancer.

One of the studies cited in the report suggests that certain oral bacteria may be involved in the development of cancer cells in the lungs, while another indicates successful treatment of periodontal disease may lead to a substantially reduced lung cancer risk. Further research is needed to fully understand the link between lung cancer development and periodontal disease.

“This report can be added to the body of literature that associates periodontal disease with other conditions in the body, including diabetes and heart disease,” said Wayne A. Aldredge, DMD, New Jersey periodontist and president of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), which publishes the Journal of Periodontology.

“While additional research is needed on the possible links between lung cancer and periodontal disease, we know for sure that taking care of your teeth and gums can reduce periodontal disease risk and possibly the risk of other systemic conditions.”

Periodontal disease affects one of every two Americans age 30 and older and is 2.5 times more prevalent than diabetes.

According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in men and women. About 158,000 Americans are expected to die from lung cancer this year. More people die of lung cancer than colon, breast and prostate cancers combined.

For more information, visit peri.org.

About the American Academy of Periodontology

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) is an 8,200-member professional organization for periodontists — specialists in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the gums and supporting structures of the teeth. Periodontics is one of the nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.
AAID releases comprehensive implant dentistry benchmarking study

By AAID Staff

The American Academy of Implant Dentistry recently announced the release of the first benchmarking study for the implant dentistry practice in the United States. This comprehensive resource provides dental professionals with critical information and statistics about the implant dentistry field. The AAID Benchmarking Study helps dentists better understand trends related to:

- Staffing models, compensation and benefits
- Overall practice performance in terms of revenue and expenses
- Procedures and fees
- Effective marketing techniques used to drive business

The AAID retained McKinley Advisors, a highly regarded research and consulting firm, to develop the questions, collect and compile the data, and provide insights based on years of experience in analyzing research data. Nearly 600 dentists completed the online survey during late summer and early fall, 2015. Respondents included both AAID members and non-members.

Some of the key findings were published in the Spring 2016 issue of the AAID News. Here’s a sampling:

- 57 percent of implant dentists reported that implant dentistry represents less than 25 percent of the gross receipts of the practice. Another 25 percent said it represented between 26 percent and 50 percent.
- 73 percent practice both surgical and restorative phases of implant dentistry.
- 42 percent reported total receipts in the practice of less than $1 million.

The AAID study is an essential tool for all implant dentistry professionals. With it, practicing implant dental professionals can benchmark practice performance against peer practices of similar size and focus, and against the broader field as a whole.

Participants in the study received a free copy of the full report. The full 68-page report can be purchased from AAID for $245 to $295 for members of the AAID and $345 for non-members. For more information about the AAID, visit AAID online or call (312) 385-1550.

For more information contact the ICOI Central Office at (973) 783-6300 or visit our website at www.icoi.org

“...our research team is humbled and honored to receive the AO and OF research grant. It clearly shows that the AO and its foundation are committed to supporting innovative research ideas especially in the field of implantology,” said Dr. Wang, collegiate professor of periodontics, and professor and director of graduate periodontics, in the department of periodontics and oral medicine at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and a diplomat of the American Board of Periodontology.

“The grant will be used to help support our team’s research to understand if soft-tissue biotype plays a role in influencing implant marginal bone loss. The grant will also help us to further support the AO’s mission: dedication to the highest standards in patient care, research and education.”

The 2015-2016 OF Research Grant recipients presented their findings at AO’s 2016 Annual Meeting and are expected to submit manuscripts to the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants (JOMI) later this year. A call for applications for the 2017-2018 OF Research Grants will be announced this fall. Follow AO on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed.

With 6,000 members in 70 countries around the world, the AO is recognized as a premier international association for professionals interested in implant dentistry.