

Should Quality of Glycemic Control Guide Dental Implant Therapy in Patients with Diabetes? Focus on: Peri-Implant Diseases

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Background and Aim: Traditionally patients with metabolic conditions such as diabetes mellitus are considered not suitable candidates for dental implant therapy due to increased risk of infection, impaired bone healing or the potential for vascular complications. Peri-implantitis as the more progressive form of peri-implant disease involves bone loss and estimated to occur in nearly half of all implant cases long-term. Despite extensive research on association of hyperglycemia with dental implants in preclinical and animal models, translational effort to clinical practice is hampered by discrepancies in reported outcome indicators for peri-implantitis in patients with a spectrum of glycemic profiles. This review aims to evaluate clinical evidence for peri-implant disease in metabolically compromised patients and in particular in patients with poorly-controlled diabetes in order to inform clinical management of peri-implant disease.

Materials and Methods: A comprehensive literature review was performed utilizing PubMed database and using the key word ‘diabetes’ combined with “dental implant” or “Periimplantitis” or/and “Preimplant disease”.

Results: Clinical studies with follow up more than 1year, systematic review and meta-analysis that evaluated peri-implant disease in diabetic patients in relation to glycemic control were taken into consideration in this review.

Conclusion: Studies reported conflicting results regarding the long-term effect of diabetes on peri-implant health regardless of the level glycemic control. Therefore, interpretation of finding and relevance to clinical practise should be considered on individual bases.

Keywords: dental implant, diabetes, glycemic control, osseointegration

Introduction

Peri-implant disease is characterized by plaque-induced inflammation of the oral soft tissue as peri-implant mucositis which can progress to peri-implantitis condition with peri-implant marginal bone loss (MBL) involvement.¹ Nearly half of all implant cases followed up to 19 years reportedly developed peri-implant mucositis^{2,3} with those without maintenance care progressing to peri-implantitis.⁴ Current treatment approaches for peri-implantitis is especially challenging in metabolically compromised patients such as in diabetes. Hyperglycemia is considered an important risk factor for peri-implant diseases especially peri-implantitis which adversely affects bone metabolism.⁵ Diabetes is a metabolic condition characterized by destruction of hepatic cells in type 1 diabetes and impaired insulin function in type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). Furthermore, microvascular complication of

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T2DM contributes to impaired immune response and bone remodelling leading to delayed healing and potentiating peri-implant infections.⁶

Similar to the heterogeneity of clinical evidence on dental implant survival, the research on association of peri-implant diseases in patients with diabetes in particular those with poorly-controlled glycemic profile is inconsistent and largely scarce with majority of relevant studies only emerging in the last four years. The evidence for the impact of diabetes on survival of dental implant has been discussed in part one of this series. In this second part we aim to focus on the evaluation of clinical evidence for the main complications of implant therapy as peri-implant diseases in patients with diabetes, in particularly poorly-controlled diabetes.

Diabetes and Peri-Implant Disease Implications of Glycemic Control on Peri-Implant Immune Response

Altered host response combined with environment inducive to excessive bacterial-plaque accumulation due to hyperglycemia is likely to contribute to more pronounced progression of peri-implant disease in patients with diabetes than metabolically healthy individuals.^{7,8} The underlying molecular mechanisms leading to impaired bone metabolism and poor osseointegration of implants together with the intricate signaling cascade influenced by hyperglycemia have been comprehensively discussed elsewhere.^{5,9} Given that there is lack of predictable therapies for management of peri-implant diseases in general, understanding host response at the bone to dental implant interface could provide important indicators or biomarkers for early diagnosis and design of tailored-therapies in management of metabolically compromised patients.¹⁰ Furthermore, evidence of inflammatory response modulators may help to identify patients with diabetes at increased risk of developing peri-implant disease.⁷

Several lines of evidence indicate specific cytokine levels (eg IL-1 β , IL-8 and TNF- α) in peri-implant crevicular fluid of patients with peri-implantitis compared to that of healthy patients markedly influence the host response leading to bone loss.^{7,11,12} In particular, in patients with poor glycemic control, high expression of IL-8 and TNF- α has been detected in peri-implantitis sites compared to well-controlled diabetes patient and healthy individuals.¹³ In addition to the potential inflammatory mediators of peri-implantitis, in patients with peri-

implantitis high levels of the matrix metalloproteinase collagenase MMP-8 has been detected in active peri-implantitis with progressive bone loss¹⁴ and considered an early indicator of peri-implant inflammation.¹⁵ MMP-8 belongs to the family of metal-dependent neutral proteases and has a dual role in immune protection as well as inflammatory pathogenesis.¹⁶ Similarly, in patients with diabetes significantly elevated salivary MMP-8 concentrations compared to healthy patients and independent of periodontal inflammation has been detected.¹⁷ However, it is not known whether MMP-8 levels are different between healthy and poorly-controlled diabetes patients with peri-implantitis and more research is needed to determine diagnostic value of MMP-8 in diabetes. A recent cross-sectional study of diabetic patients with different glycemic profile found abnormal levels of bone metabolism biomarkers vitamin D and osteocalcin in T2DM patients with poorly-controlled glycemic profile and concluded that hyperglycemia was an independent risk factor for these biomarkers.¹⁸

The hallmark of peri-implantitis is collagenase matrix degradation accompanied by alveolar bone loss¹⁹ and overproduction of advanced glycation end products (AGEs) which further contributes to the destruction of periodontal tissue.²⁰ Despite differences in histopathological presentation, the underlying mechanism of pathogenesis of peri-implant diseases is very similar to periodontal disease²¹ involving chronic inflammatory and immune responses to bacterial biofilm although the size of the inflammatory connective tissue at the implant site is reportedly twice as large as the tooth sites indicating a potentially more aggressive progression clinical profile.¹⁹ Similar to chronic periodontitis, the main clinical markers of peri-implantitis in addition to soft tissue inflammation and suppuration include bleeding on probing (BOP), plaque index (PI) and probing depth (PD) while marginal bone level is a radiographic marker.²² However, clinical studies do not consistently report on all of these outcome indicators when comparing patients with diabetes to non-diabetes making comparisons across studies challenging.²³

There is clinical evidence in diabetic patients for increased levels of advanced glycation end products (AGEs) in their peri-implant sulcular fluid²⁴ especially in patients with poorly-controlled glycemic profile (>10% HbA1c levels).²⁵ Since AGEs are involved in negative modulation of bone metabolism and remodeling, therefore higher levels of AGEs especially in diabetic patients with

poor glycemc profile could serve as a potentially promising biomarker for peri-implantitis.²⁵

Recent experimental studies have shown improved osteoblast adhesion and differentiation due to modulation of oxidative stress by the released titanium from dental implant.²⁶ In diabetes, however, the evidence from preclinical and animal studies suggest that at the bone to dental implant interface, hyperglycemia results in reduced bone formation due to impaired angiogenesis which is proposed to have resulted from excessive oxidate stress production affecting several key signaling pathways.^{5,27} Furthermore, diabetes-induced oxidative stress results in impaired osteoblast function on titanium surfaces through inactivation of the canonical Wnt signaling pathway (Wnt/ β -catenin)²⁸ which is involved in bone healing through differentiation and matrix production of osteoblasts.²⁹ Further investigations of the underlying biological mechanisms adversely affected by hyperglycemia at the bone to dental implant interface and understanding the potential impact of peri-implant disease in metabolically compromised patients will facilitate the design of novel targeted therapies to manage peri-implantitis in this vulnerable group.

Clinical Evidence for Association of Hyperglycemia with Peri-Implant Disease

Although emerging evidence from a number of systematic reviews and meta-analyses suggest that chronic hyperglycemia is an important risk factor for peri-implant diseases,^{23,30,31} however more recent lines of evidence do not indicate any significant association between diabetes and peri-implantitis.^{6,32,33} Several recent meta-analyses have shown that diabetes and in particular poor glycemc control significantly correlates with predisposition and development of peri-implantitis.^{23,30,31} A recent meta-analysis found that compared to non-diabetics, twice as many patients with diabetes were at risk of peri-implantitis and that higher glycemc levels (HbA1c >8%) were associated with greater prevalence of peri-implant diseases.³⁰ Similarly, another meta-analysis found that patients with diabetes were at a significantly higher risk of peri-implantitis than healthy controls.³¹ However, other more recent studies have not found a similar trend between diabetes and peri-implantitis compared to metabolically healthy individuals.^{6,32,33} While two studies only looked at patients with well-controlled diabetes,^{6,32,33} in another independent study the male patients with poorly-controlled

diabetes (HbA1c >8%) showed elevated peri-implant clinical and radiographic markers independent of peri-implantitis.⁶ Collectively, these studies emphasize the need for further well-controlled and long-term trials that compare patients with different glycemc profiles using consistent definitions as well as outcome indicators which can then be translated to appropriate management during implant therapy. Table 1 summarize the evidence from systematic reviews and meta-analyses on link between diabetes and peri-implant diseases.

Diabetes Comorbidities and Peri-Implant Diseases

While the impact of diabetes on implant therapy has been extensively researched, much less is known of the role of other associated comorbidities such as obesity where studies have been focusing on adipose-derived inflammation as the cause for deterioration of oral health in this population.³⁴ Obesity has been shown to be associated with severity of periodontal disease^{35–37} and therefore likely a contributing factor to the progression of periodontal disease in peri-implantitis.³⁸

In obese patients with increasing body mass index high serum C-reactive protein (an inflammatory biomarker) was significantly associated with peri-implant bleeding.³⁹ Another study showed that compared to control group in patients with obesity both PD and MBL were significantly increased after 5 years of follow-up.⁴⁰ Furthermore, individuals with obesity have a markedly higher levels of proinflammatory biomarkers in peri-implant crevicular fluid compared to non-obese individuals.⁴¹ A meta-analysis of six studies showed a significant association between obesity and decreased peri-implant health outcomes although the authors did not rule out the potential effects of different length and type of implants on peri-implant markers as confounding factors reported in identified studies.⁴²

Despite limited studies on patients with diabetes and obesity, nevertheless available clinical evidence supports the association of obesity with the development of peri-implantitis.^{5,39–41} In a recent study, patients with diabetes (HbA1c > 8.1) and high BMI showed significantly higher PI, BOP, PD and bone loss compared to the non-diabetic patients after a mean of 6.3 years follow-up. In addition, this study showed that patients with diabetes had markedly higher AGEs in their crevicular fluid.²⁵ Although a recent meta-analyses of 12 studies on the effect of hyperglycemia and peri-implantitis reported a higher risk in diabetes versus non-diabetes study

Table 1 Summary of Evidence from Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses on Link Between Diabetes and Peri-Implant Diseases

Study (Year)	Study Design	Focus of Study	Studies Identified	Follow-Up (Years)	DI Findings	Conclusions
Jiang et al (2020) ²³	Meta	Osteointegration based on biological parameter measures*	10 clinical studies	1–7 Years	Significant marginal bone loss only in 3 studies. Increased bleeding in four studies ($p < 0.00001$)	Bleeding around DI was significant irrespective of HbA1c levels in patients with diabetes
Lagunov et al (2019) ⁴⁶	Meta	Osteointegration based on biological parameter measures*	7 clinical studies	1–12 Years	Significant marginal bone loss ($p < 0.001$), bleeding on probing ($p < 0.04$) and probing depth ($p < 0.001$) in well-controlled T2DM (HbA1c 6–8%)	Despite no significant difference in DI survival, patients with T2DM were at higher risk of peri-implantitis
Meza Mauricio et al (2019) ⁴⁷	UR	Peri-implant diseases	2 SR & 1 Meta**	2 months-21 Years	Only 3 reviews provided evidence from limited number of studies	Insufficient evidence to support diabetes associated with peri-implant diseases
Papi et al (2018) ⁴⁸	SR	Peri-implant disease and MetS	5 clinical studies and 1 SR	Not reported	Only reported findings of Monje et al (2017)	There is lack of reported research on association of peri-implant disease and hyperglycemia component of MetS
Monje et al (2017) ³⁰	Meta	Peri-implant diseases	7 clinical studies	1–16 Years	50% higher risk of peri-implantitis in non-smoker patients with diabetes than in healthy controls	Patients with diabetes at higher risk of peri-implantitis
Tseng et al (2016) ³¹	Meta	Peri-implant diseases	5 clinical studies	Not reported	Significant relationship between peri-implantitis and diabetes (OR, 1.89; 95% CI, 1.31–2.46)	Limited number of studies. Caution should be observed when implants are placed in patients with diabetes

Notes: *Osseointegration biological parameters measured: marginal bone loss, probing depth and bleeding on probing. **Only two SR and one Meta were related to peri-implant diseases.

Abbreviations: DI, dental implant; Meta, meta-analysis; MetS, metabolic syndrome; SR, systematic review; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus; AGEs, advanced glycation end products; BMI, body mass index; BOP, bleeding on probing; PI, plaque index; PD, probing depth; Wnt/ β -catenin, Wnt signaling pathway.

subjects, however most of the included studies did not address the effects of confounding factors such as history of periodontal disease or poor plaque control³⁰ despite strong evidence suggesting these factors are significant risk factors for peri-implantitis.^{43,44} Majority of eligible studies in the meta-analysis did not report any oral hygiene measures (89%) with only 11% of the studies reporting that study subjects had good oral hygiene. A more recent study of short dental implants showed that in patients with poorly-controlled T2DM (HbA1c 7.3 to 10.5%) and high BMI (37 kg/m²), the variables of PI ($P < 0.01$), BOP ($P < 0.01$) and radiographic bone loss ($P < 0.01$) and therefore risk of peri-implantitis increased significantly compared to healthy patients. However, the increase in bone

loss for the diabetic group remained statistically significant after adjusting for HbA1c, lipids as well as BMI ($P < 0.05$) indicating other pathways than inflammation may be involved which needs further clarification.⁴⁵ Moreover, although there is currently very limited evidence on the impact of smoking and peri-implant disease in diabetes patients, preliminary data suggests that smoking does not exacerbate peri-implantitis in diabetes.³⁰

Conclusion

The literature linking glycaemic control to peri-implant disease is highly heterogeneous due to lack of consistency of the definition of peri-implantitis and its clinical

indicators among studies. Consensus on the criteria for diagnosis of peri-implant diseases requires standardization of clinical and radiological outcome indicators in research. In addition, other factors that affects peri implant health like high BMI, history of periodontal disease, oral hygiene and smoking is unequivocal but not well-researched especially in diabetic patients. Research on bone biomarkers will also provide additional diagnostic tool for early diagnosis and management of active peri-implant diseases. Together with monitoring glycemic profile of patients with diabetes, oral implant rehabilitation and associated complications in this metabolically compromised population will be more predictable.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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