

January 28-29, 2019
Barcelona, Spain

Junima Rajkarnikar, J Den Craniofac Res 2019, Volume 4
DOI: 10.21767/2576-392X-C1-014

Awareness of periodontal medicine among different health care professionals

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Background: Destruction of the supporting periodontal tissues is mediated by an over reactive immune inflammatory response to bacteria in the sub-gingival environment. The complex composition of the dental biofilm and genetic, systemic and behavioral factors concur to a protective or a destructive nature of the immune inflammatory response. Tissue destruction in periodontitis occurs by the stimulatory action of proinflammatory cytokines and proteolytic enzymes released by neutrophils, macrophages, tissue resident cells and the action of bone resorption mediators all of which are being regulated by B and T cells. Although, bacterial proteases maybe involved in the periodontal destruction, it is believed that the major part is being played by the mediators of immune inflammatory response.

Aim: The aim of this study is to evaluate the awareness of periodontal medicine among different health care professionals in a hospital.

Materials & Methods: A sample size of 150 was taken which included students, interns, post graduate students and faculty. Data was collected using a questionnaire which included 15 questions used to assess the knowledge about systemic diseases and periodontal diseases.

Results: 57.3% said that periodontal disease is not related to coronary heart diseases. Only 14.7% had idea about the association of pre-term birth and periodontitis. 88% knew

the impact of diabetes on periodontium. 70% said that there is no association between periodontitis and hospital acquired pneumonia and 97.3% said that there is no association of COPD with periodontitis.

Conclusion: Knowledge about the association of periodontal disease with various systemic conditions is not satisfactory among the various medical professionals. When they have to teach and give counseling to the patient, they seem to be lacking in it. Periodontal medicine should be incorporated as a topic of discussion among the doctors.

Biography

Junima Rajkarnikar has completed her BDS at Manipal University, India and MDS in Periodontology at Kathmandu University, Nepal in 2011. Currently, she is working as an Assistant Professor at Nepal Medical College Teaching Hospital as an Academician and a Clinician. She has presented many papers both in national and international conferences. She has published eight papers in various international and national journals. Currently, she is the Treasurer of Nepalese Society of Periodontology and Oral Implantology (NSPOI).

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