JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND THERAPEUTICS

Volume: Nine

Part: Seven

The Official Journal of the Society of Biomedical Sciences and Therapeutics.

(Egypt)

1993

ISSN 1110-2071

JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND THERAPEUTICS

The Official Journal of the Society of Biomedical Sciences and Therapeutics, Cairo - Egypt

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ISSN 1110-2071

J. Biomed. Sci. Ther., 9 (7) 1 Jul., 1993

LIGHT AND SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC STUDY OF BACTERIA INVADING THE SOFT TISSUE WALL OF THE POCKET IN RAPIDLY PROGRESSIVE PREIODONTITIS

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ABSTRACT: The presence of bacteria within the soft tissue wall of deep peridontal pocket in rapidly progressive periodontitis (RPP) was studied by light and scanning electron microscope (SEM). Five gingival specimens from five different patients and other three specimens from three periodontally healthy persons were the subjects of this study. Different morphological forms of bacteria were noted throughout the pocket wall of the diseased specimens by light and SEM. The majority of bacteria were cocci, coccobacilli with some rods and some spirocheats. Mycoplasma like organisms also appeared. Wide intercellular spaces with areas of haemorrhage were noticed as well as ulceration of the pocket wall with collection of bacteria around the ulcer. It could be concluded that bacterial penetration into the epithelium and connective tissue in cases of RPP may cause rapid and severe tissue destruction and the invading bacteria may reside within the tissue after scaling and root planing and even after flap operation which may play a role in recurrence of this disease. This in turn strengthen the need for systemically administered agents as an adjunct to local treatment of R P P.

INTRODUCTION

The role of bacterial plaque in the etiology of inflammatory periodontal diseases is well established (1). It has been suggested that, the microorganisms do not invade the periodontal tissues and the inflammatory reaction is provoked by bacterial products diffusing through the epithelium into the connective tissue (2, 3).

Bacterial invasion of the peridontal tissues and its possible direct involvement in tissue breakdown remain a controversial subject. Many studies have shown bacteria within the pocket soft tissues and have related their presence with tissue breakdown and even with alveolar bone resorption (4-7).

Received Jan. 1993 Accepted March 1993 99