

Oral health and brain connection: is there any relationship?

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Several studies reported the association between periodontal diseases, a persistent inflammatory process and other chronic ailments such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, Alzheimer's disease and cancer. Although many epidemiologic data support these associations, a cause-and-effect relationship has not been established. Numerous articles reporting oral bacteria in samples collected directly from brain abscesses confirmed the association between brain abscess and odontogenic infection. Dental diseases can be treated with ambulatory care rather than hospitalization and emergency care. Older adults should establish daily oral hygiene care routines during the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Several studies reported the association between periodontal diseases, a persistent inflammatory process and other chronic ailments such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, Alzheimer's disease and

cancer (1-14). Other conditions such as low birth weight and premature delivery due to chorioamnionitis are also known to be linked to poor periodontal health. Although many epidemiologic data support these associations, a

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cause-and-effect relationship has not been established (15-21). Numerous articles reporting oral bacteria in samples collected directly from brain abscesses confirmed the association between brain abscess and odontogenic infection. Upper molars were the teeth most often associated with brain abscesses (22-29). Spontaneous brain abscesses and intracranial empyema are rare but life-threatening diseases. They can result from potential complications of chronic oral infections. Given the similarity between germs commonly found in cerebral abscesses and the oral cavity and its anatomic proximity, the oral cavity represents a significant source of cerebral infections (30-52).

The oral microbiota has been implicated in various neurologic conditions, including autism spectrum disorder and Alzheimer's disease. Recent data propose the etiopathogenetic role of intestinal microbiota in autism spectrum disorder (52-62). Oral cavity pathogens may reach the brain in various ways: 1) direct contiguity spread (notably upper jaw teeth), 2) systemic hematogenous bacteremia (after an invasive oral procedure or even spontaneous), 3) direct venous drainage (52,63-72). Cerebral abscesses linked to oral infection are usually polymicrobial: streptococci, staphylococci, Actinomyces sp, Actinobacillus sp, and Fusobacterium sp (52). Researchers found that bacteria associated with gum disease can be passed into the bloodstream through everyday routines like brushing teeth. When the brain gets repeated exposure to these germs, responses are triggered that can kill brain cells.

Dementia is one of the leading causes of disability among older adults. It is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects older adults' ability to perform daily living activities. Alzheimer's disease is the primary subtype of dementia and causes declining memory, reasoning, and communication skills. They also have behavioural and psychological symptoms, such as depression and aggression. Therefore, it is essential for them to maintain good oral health, as oral health is an essential and integral part of their general health (73). However, dental diseases can be treated with ambulatory care rather than hospitalization and emergency care. Therefore, older adults should establish daily oral hygiene

care routines during the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. (73).

Therefore, continuous observation with daily clinical practice by physicians and surgeons, continuous scientific research and further discoveries, 3-dimensional virtual reality, and new technologies can improve patient outcomes and provide new solutions (74-89). Poor oral hygiene, difficulty in wearing dentures, and the inability to self-care, including carrying out oral hygiene procedures, are the most probable cause of impaired oral health in Alzheimer's disease. Collecting information on oral/dental conditions from Alzheimer's disease patients or their caregivers/relatives is often tricky and scientific literature on the topic is sparse (90-155). The problem of awareness of good oral health for keeping quality of life more acceptable in adult-onset dementia disorders is discussed.

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