

# **Antimicrobials Used in Periodontal Therapy**

*- A Review*

**Library Dissertation**

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Periodontal diseases are bacterial infections characterized by inflammation and destruction of attachment apparatus, often leading to tooth loss.<sup>28</sup> The main etiologic factor responsible for periodontal disease is known to be plaque and calculus. It is generally a well accepted fact that microorganisms act as primary etiologic agents, in the various forms of periodontal disease. Moreover, there is an increasing evidence that specific microorganisms cause specific disease<sup>39</sup>.

In the treatment of periodontal disease two different approaches are followed namely :

1. Surgical

2. Non surgical

The surgical phase at times may not be sufficient enough to overcome the bacterial flora thus an antibiotic cover is required and also an antibiotic follow up is necessary. In the non-surgical phase only root planing, scaling and debridement may not overcome the causative factor completely, thus antibiotic becomes a necessity.

Accordingly a rationale has been developed for the use of antibiotics in the prevention and treatment of periodontal conditions. Antibiotic treatment of periodontal disease aims at eradicating or controlling specific pathogens. It also aids the host defences in controlling and eliminating microbes that temporarily have overwhelmed the protective host mechanism. Selection of antimicrobial agents should be based on proper microbial diagnosis and sensitivity testing as well as considering the patients medical status.<sup>48</sup> In various systemic conditions having periodontal manifestations the choice of antibiotic varies in terms of the specific groups and also the dosage.<sup>47</sup>