## THE DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTS OF ANTIMICROBIAL ACRYLIC STRIPS ON THE SUBGINGIVAL MICROFLORA IN CHRONIC PERIODONTITIS

(A CLINICO-MICROBIOLOGICAL STUDY)

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Periodontal disease comprises a group of inflammatory conditions of the supporting tissues of the teeth<sup>9</sup>. The most common forms of periodontal diseases are caused by the presence of specific bacteria adjacent to or associated with periodontal structures. These bacteria along with plaque, calculus and other local factors are the principal components that perpetuate the disease process.

Many a times systemic and local host factors may influence the nature and severity of disease and often influence the choice and response to therapy.

Emerging evidence of bacterial specificity and subgingival microflora that is associated with different states of periodontal health and disease has led to treatment strategies which are primarily aimed at suppression or elimination of specific periodontal pathogens, associated with the periodontium/ tooth interface. The most widely used approach has been mechanical cleaning methods. This has been a fairly successful treatment modality, but there is still a high recurrence rate. There is also difficulty in motivating patients to maintain good oral hygiene habits<sup>50</sup>.

Because of these problems, therapeutic rationales may rely heavily on systemic and local administration of antimicrobial agents. The aim