

**PREVALENCE OF PERIODONTITIS AMONG PATIENTS SUFFERING
FROM CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD)**

By

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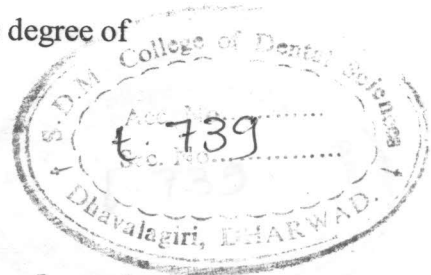
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Abstract

Background: Lower respiratory tract infection like Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) can be exacerbated by the aspiration of bacteria from oral/pharyngeal surfaces. Periodontitis being a bacterial infection; may increase the risk of serious lower respiratory tract infection. Thus, the aim of the present study was to estimate the prevalence of periodontitis among patients suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and to correlate possible relationship between periodontitis & severity of COPD using Spirometry.

Material & Methods: Cross-sectional study included a study population of 120 patients. Lung function estimation was carried out by using a Spirometer. Subjects were then classified into mild moderate and severe COPD. Oral health status was assessed from the Gingival Index, Plaque Index, probing depth and gingival recession. Statistical analysis was carried out for the results obtained.

Results: Periodontitis was observed in all the patients suffering from COPD. Gingival index scores among mild, moderate and severe cases of COPD were 1.6000, 1.9000 and 2.0447 respectively. Plaque index scores among mild, moderate and severe cases of COPD were 1.0000, 2.2500 and 2.3765 respectively. Number of pockets, which were 4-6mm deep and more than 6 mm were significantly more in severe cases of COPD. Generalized recession was seen in 100%, 50% and 75.29% of subjects with mild, moderate and severe cases of COPD respectively

Conclusions: The finding of the present study demonstrates that periodontitis was widely prevalent in patients suffering from COPD. Periodontal health status, evaluated by GI, PI, pocket depth and gingival recession were significantly higher in subjects with severe COPD. A positive correlation between poor periodontal health and severity of COPD could be established.

Keywords: COPD; Periodontitis; Lung Function; Spirometry.