

ENDODONTIC - PERIODONTAL INTERRELATIONSHIP

- A REVIEW

**LIBRARY DISSERTATION
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SATTUR - DHARWAD
1994**

(The tooth, its pulp and its supporting structures must be viewed as a biological unit. The inter-relationships among these structures influence each other during health, function and disease.)

Pulpal and periodontal problems are responsible for more than 50% of tooth mortality today. Diagnosis is often difficult since these diseases have been primarily studied as separate entities. Only recently emphasis has been placed on the inter-relationships in which one of these diseases may progress to the second tissue resulting in a distinct and more complex pulpo-periodontal lesion.²⁸ The vitality of the tooth depends on its ability to function and not on the viability of the pulp, therefore, the health of the structures is of prime importance.²¹ The normal dental pulp consists of vascular connective tissue contained within rigid dentinal walls. The elaboration of dentin to form the tooth and to protect against and to repair the effects of noxious stimuli is the primary function of the pulp. Intimately related to these formative and protective functions is a nutritive function concerned with the preservation of the vitality of all cellular elements. Moreover, a sensory function allows the perception