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PERIODONTAL DISEASES

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Periodontal disease involves inflammation and destruction of the tissues supporting the teeth, leading to attachment loss, destruction of the bone, and conceivably tooth loss. A healthy periodontium is characterized by stippled, pale pink or coral pink gingiva, tightly attached to the teeth, with a gingival crevice depth of 1–3 mm and no bleeding on probing. Periodontal disease has been recognized since ancient times, with modern understanding evolving through the work of pioneers like Pierre Fauchard and John Hunter. The bacterial etiology of periodontitis was established in the late 19th century.

The classification includes gingival diseases, aggressive and chronic periodontitis, necrotizing periodontal diseases, periodontitis as a manifestation of systemic diseases, periodontal abscesses. Chronic periodontitis is the most widespread form, characterized by slow to moderate progression, but can have periods of quick progression. It is associated with local factors like plaque and calculus, and can be influenced by systemic diseases such as diabetes. Aggressive periodontitis mostly affects younger individuals and is characterized by fast attachment loss. Necrotizing Periodontal Diseases include conditions like necrotizing gingivitis and periodontitis, often linked to compromised immune responses, stress, malnutrition, and dreadful oral hygiene. Periodontal abscesses are localized infections that can lead to tooth loss and systemic complications. They often have recourse to pre-existing periodontal disease or foreign body impaction.

Treatment includes professional hygiene, antimicrobial therapy, immunotherapy, and periodontal surgery. Rapidly progressive periodontitis often requires surgical intervention. The aim of surgical procedures is to correct imperfection in the gingiva and alveolar mucosa. Optimal outcomes depend on controlling risk factors like dreadful oral hygiene, smoking.

Periodontitis is associated with systemic conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The mechanisms include bacteremia and systemic inflammation.

Cooperation between dental and medical professionals is critically important for early detection and management of periodontal diseases, especially in patients with systemic conditions. Patient-related outcomes, including aesthetic satisfaction and post-operative morbidity, are important considerations in periodontal plastic surgery and should be standardized in future research.