

Oral Microbial Alterations and Breast Cancer: Is Truth Discovered?

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Published March 24, 2021

ABSTRACT

Introduction: With growing evidence of periodontal diseases and general health of the patients, it is needless to say that oral micro flora will have an impact on cancer patients. Breast cancer being one of the most prevalent conditions is also one of the conditions where role of oral microflora cannot be denied. Even though plethora of studies does suggest this association, there is still a need to leap into this ocean of knowledge and come up with concrete evidence that can open new horizons in our understanding of breast cancer and its dental relationships.

Objectives: 1) To explore the link between altered oral microbiota and breast cancer focusing on the underlying mechanisms that can lead to breast cancer progression; and 2) To assess the cancer treatment-caused alterations in oral microbiota which may lead to the emergence of potential pathogens and subsequent other systemic health problems to patients.

Methodology: The findings of the recent researches showing a correlation between oral microbiome and breast cancer will be analyzed and presented.

Results: There is an undeniable association with respect to the microbial dysbiosis and breast cancer and to add to that is the fact that there is change in the microflora before, during and after the treatment of patients with breast cancer. Oral cavity microbes and their dynamics have a clear role when prognosis of the breast cancer and its associated mortality needs to be studied. All these factors play a key role in treatment planning, speculating the outcome and overall prognosis of the patients.

Conclusion: In our quest for better strategies for disease management, understanding risk factors, markers of susceptibility or for potential prevention strategies, an impaired microbiome can prove as a very beneficial tool, which also has an added advantage of ease of studying and available readily.

Keywords: Dysbiosis, Microorganisms, Prognosis, Risk

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Citation: Issrani R. (2021) Oral Microbial Alterations and Breast Cancer: Is Truth Discovered? J Oral Health Dent, 4(S1): 07.

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