

EARN 3 CE CREDITS



PUBLISHED: **MARCH 2024**
EXPIRES: **FEBRUARY 2027**

ABSTRACT

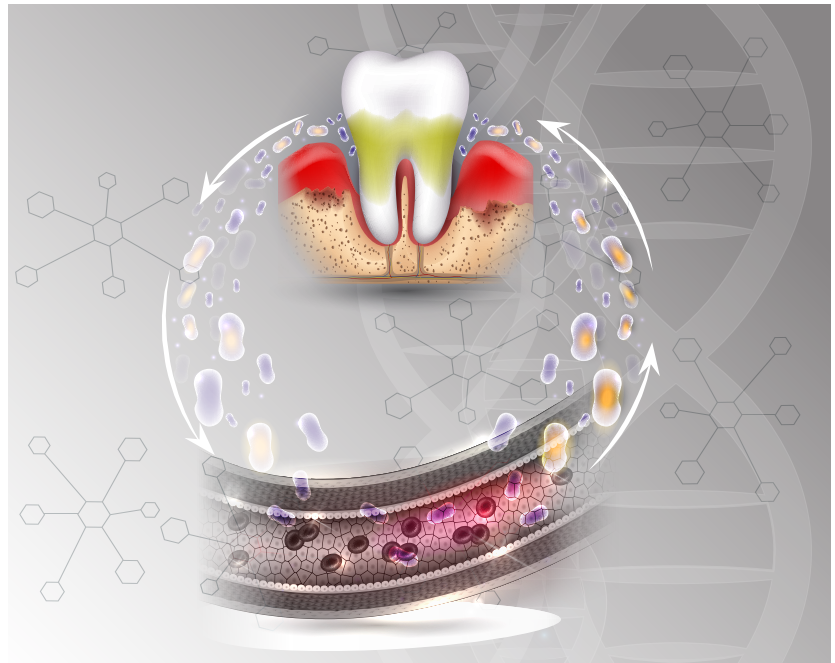
The relationship between periodontitis and diabetes has been well documented. Periodontitis is characterized by chronic inflammation and an accumulation of bacteria involving the gingiva and alveolar bone. Individuals with periodontitis have a 50% increased risk of developing diabetes. The risk and severity of periodontitis is increased by two- to threefold in people with diabetes.

This bidirectional relationship can be linked to chronic inflammation and altered autoimmune responses. In patients with uncontrolled diabetes, nonsurgical periodontal therapy has been associated with improved hemoglobin A1c. Further studies imply a decrease in diabetes-related health-care costs after periodontal therapy. Therefore, dental and medical professionals have an integral role in supporting disease management by implementing strategies in the clinical setting.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the dental professional should be able to:

1. Recognize and discuss the bidirectional relationship between periodontitis and diabetes.
2. Identify and list blood glucose and A1c goals for patients with diabetes to improve periodontitis.
3. Exhibit increased confidence when educating patients with diabetes and periodontitis.
4. Implement strategies into daily dental and medical practice to improve clinical outcomes.



Periodontitis and diabetes: Navigating a two-way street

A PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE | by Nykkia Sellers, DNP, FNP, BC-ADM, CDCES and Tameka S. Lee, MPA, RDH

Approximately 58% of people with diabetes (PWD) also have periodontal disease.¹ This bidirectional relationship can be linked to various autoimmune components. Likewise, individuals with periodontal disease were found to have a 50% increased risk of developing diabetes.²

As the prevalence of diabetes continues to increase, avenues and interventions to prevent diabetes-related complications should be a priority of health-care professionals. Oral health in PWD may be under-addressed in clinical practice.³ Each person living with diabetes should

be considered at risk for developing periodontal disease.

Integrating oral health interventions into routine diabetes care and incorporating collaboration between dental and medical professionals may help ameliorate health-care outcomes for PWD and periodontal disease.

Types of diabetes

It is estimated that over 37 million Americans are living with diabetes.⁴ Diabetes occurs due to hyperglycemia from beta cell destruction or from decreased insulin secretion and/or insulin resistance.³ The most

common types of diabetes include type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease in which the body attacks the beta cells in the pancreas.⁵ People with type 1 diabetes must take insulin daily to survive. In type 2 diabetes, pathophysiological defects in multiple organs and systems contribute to glucose intolerance and insulin resistance. Type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90%-95% of all cases of diabetes, can be managed with lifestyle changes, oral medications, injectables, or insulin. Gestational diabetes is a serious pregnancy condition that occurs due to impaired glucose tolerance and hyperglycemia during gestation in women without a known history of diabetes.⁶

Defining diabetes and hemoglobin A1c

Diabetes is diagnosed with a fasting plasma glucose ≥ 126 mg/dl (fasting is defined as no caloric intake for at least eight hours), two-hour plasma glucose ≥ 200 mg/dl, or an A1c $\geq 6.5\%$.⁷ Additionally, patients who exhibit symptoms of hyperglycemia with a random plasma glucose ≥ 200 meet the criteria for a diagnosis of diabetes.⁷

The hemoglobin A1c measures the level of glycemic control in PWD. The A1c is a summary of serum glucose levels over a three-month period. In people without diabetes, the average A1c is less than 5.5%.⁸ The American Diabetes Association recommends an A1c less than 7% for most nonpregnant adults. An A1c of 8.0% or higher suggests poor glycemic control.⁸

According to the United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS), with every 1% reduction in A1c, there is a significant reduction by 25% in microvascular complications such as diabetes-related retinopathy, diabetes-related neuropathy, and diabetes-related nephropathy.⁹ Additionally, a 12% reduction was found in other diabetes-related complications. Reductions in A1c

have also been shown to decrease the risk of macrovascular complications such as cardiovascular atherosclerotic disease and myocardial infarctions among PWD.⁹ The UKPDS concluded that long-term complications can be prevented or delayed with intensive blood glucose control and improvement in A1c.⁹ Therefore, controlling A1c is vital to management of diabetes.

Oral manifestations of diabetes

Many living with diabetes are unaware of the multitude of associated oral complications. Xerostomia, dental caries, lichen planus, candidiasis, and other dental conditions are associated with diabetes.¹⁰ Additionally, geographic tongue, burning mouth syndrome, salivary and taste dysfunction, and halitosis can occur in PWD.¹⁰

Some medications that are commonly prescribed in people with diabetes, such as calcium channel blockers (e.g., amlodipine), may cause gingival overgrowth. Metformin, which is a common diabetes medication, can cause lichen planus.⁸ However, the most common oral complication associated with diabetes is periodontal disease.¹⁰ The risk of periodontal disease is increased by glucotoxicity (high levels of glucose) and the duration of diabetes.³

Periodontitis

Periodontitis, also known as periodontal disease, is a common chronic inflammatory disease found in adults, characterized by the destruction of supporting tissues, including periodontal ligament fibers, cementum, and alveolar bone surrounding teeth.¹¹ The earliest form, gingivitis (inflammation of the gums), can be reversed.¹² However, once the inflammation results in the loss of periodontal attachment, periodontitis becomes irreversible.¹² According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 47% of adults aged 30 and older have some form of

periodontal disease.¹³

Periodontal disease initiates from an immune response to an accumulation of bacteria and plaque biofilm beneath the gingival margin.¹⁴ However, periodontitis does not develop from bacteria alone. A susceptible host and predisposing risk factors, such as smoking and systemic diseases, are an integral part of the disease status.¹⁴ The defensive host's response against bacteria signals an infiltration of white blood cells into the junctional epithelium and gingival sulcus, causing early breakdown of collagen fibers.¹¹

The continued progression of periodontitis is distinguished by inflammation, ulceration of the junctional epithelium, loss of connective tissue and alveolar bone, and exposed cementum. This causes apical migration of the junctional epithelium and pocket formation.¹⁴

Early periodontitis is typically painless; however, if left untreated, periodontitis can cause receding gums, tooth sensitivity, tooth mobility, and tooth loss.¹¹ Periodontitis may also influence well-being, comfort level, mastication, food choices, and self-confidence.¹⁵ The presence of periodontal disease has been linked to many systemic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and Alzheimer's disease.¹⁵ People with periodontal disease also have higher rates of respiratory tract infections and adverse pregnancy outcomes.¹⁵

Risk factors associated with periodontitis

There are several risk factors that predispose people to periodontitis. The following are common risk factors for periodontitis: age, genetics, obesity, inadequate nutrition, disease states such as diabetes, vitamin deficiencies, poor oral health, recreational drug use, and tobacco use.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Diabetes and tobacco use are the most common contributing factors.¹⁷ Smoking tobacco and the

use of tobacco products significantly increases the risk of periodontitis and impairs treatment response. Cessation of tobacco use can prevent further deterioration of periodontal health.¹²

In addition to the listed risk factors, misaligned teeth, which are difficult to keep clean, may lead to increased plaque and inflammation.¹⁹ Certain medications can also affect periodontal health. Several medications can cause dry mouth, gingival enlargement, and other oral manifestations.^{8,10} Hormonal changes associated with pregnancy and menopause place women at an increased risk for gingivitis and periodontal disease.¹⁵ Additionally, people with conditions that impair immunity, such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), leukemia, and cancer, are at a higher risk of developing periodontitis.

Disease states, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and Crohn's disease, are associated with a greater incidence of developing periodontitis.^{15,20}

Diabetes and periodontitis

Previous literature has elucidated the bidirectional relationship between periodontitis and diabetes. Over time, prolonged hyperglycemia, associated with diabetes, causes increased inflammation, which can cause gingival disease.²¹ Additionally, alveolar bone loss is increased with hyperglycemia.²² Patients with diabetes and periodontitis have higher levels of local inflammatory mediators, such as TNF α , IL-1 β , and prostaglandin E₂, which causes prolonged osteoclast formation and activity.²¹ In addition, inflammation is increased with the accumulation of reactive oxygen species and oxidative stress.^{22,23} The gastrointestinal tract, which includes the oral cavity, has large amounts of microbiota bacteria. People with type 2 diabetes, compared to people without diabetes, often lack

antibodies to pathogens and bacteria, which increases the risk of periodontitis.²² Similarly, higher levels of glucose interfere with healing.

According to the CDC, every 1% increase in A1c increases the risk of periodontal disease by 18%.²⁴ It has been found that periodontal disease in PWD also increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, retinopathy, and nephropathy.²⁵ Moderate periodontal disease consists of advanced bone and tissue destruction. Periodontal disease is considered severe with extensive bone and tissue loss.¹⁹ People with moderate to severe periodontal disease have higher rates of diabetes-related deaths, 19.6% to 28.4% respectively, compared to people without diabetes.²⁶

Burden of disease

The risk of diabetes-related complications is increased with poorly controlled diabetes. Poorly controlled diabetes increases the economic burden of patients, patients' families, and the health-care system. Diabetes is one of the most expensive chronic diseases that negatively impacts health care. The estimated cost of diabetes is \$327 billion, with \$237 billion in direct costs and \$90 billion in decreased productivity.²⁷ Likewise, the economic burden of periodontal disease in the United States is substantial. Periodontal disease costs an estimated \$154 billion annually. The cost of diabetes and periodontal disease significantly influences the health-care system.²⁸

With poor oral health, PWD may also have decreased quality of life and increased incidence of depression.^{15,25} Often, people with diabetes who have poor health may also have cavities and tooth loss. These conditions may affect their personal appearance and self-esteem. Periodontal treatment can also help improve oral health and quality of life. However, only 27% of patients with periodontal disease receive periodontal treatment.²⁹ Studies have shown

that with increased dental coverage and access to care, periodontal treatment increases among patients with periodontal disease.³⁰

Periodontitis treatment

Nonsurgical intervention is very effective for the management of periodontal disease and should be first-line therapy for treating periodontitis. Nonsurgical periodontal therapy, also known as scaling and root planing (SRP), includes mechanical removal of supra- and subgingival bacterial plaque and smoothing the root surface with scalers, curettes, or ultrasonic scalers.¹¹ After completion of SRP, patients are given thorough home-care instructions followed by periodic maintenance visits. In some cases, systemic or localized antibiotics may be used as adjunctive therapy to SRP.¹¹ However, in most severe cases of periodontal disease, adjunctive systemic antimicrobial therapy is frequently prescribed.^{31,32}

When nonsurgical treatment does not achieve optimal results, surgical treatment may be recommended. Common surgical procedures include open-flap debridement, periodontal plastic surgery, and implant surgery.³³ According to the American Academy of Periodontology, patients with periodontitis can undergo gum graft surgery, regenerative procedures, dental crown lengthening, or periodontal pocket procedures for surgical interventions. Most procedures will restore gum and tissue damage as well as improve patients' quality of life.³⁴

It is imperative that patients take an active role in periodontal treatment and diabetes management. A strict daily oral hygiene regimen must be followed to control bacterial plaque and prevent reinfection of the periodontal tissues.¹⁹ The treatment approach for periodontitis and diabetes requires a lifelong strategy that is tailored to the clinical condition with a focus on behavior change, patient self-care,

and regular professional monitoring and support.¹⁹

Improvement post periodontal treatment

Poor periodontal health has been proven to alter blood glucose levels in patients with type 2 diabetes, resulting in elevated A1c levels.²⁰ In addition, improved metabolic control has been theorized to reduce the severity of periodontal disease.²⁰ Several studies have shown that periodontal treatment may reduce A1c in PWD.²⁵ In patients with uncontrolled diabetes with an A1c greater than 9%, periodontal treatment may reduce A1c by 0.6% without changes in medications. Patients who receive periodontal treatment and have medication changes may see a 1.4% reduction in A1c.²² Periodontal treatment has been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular events such as myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular accident in patients with diabetes.¹

Blood glucose control has a considerable clinical impact on patients' health and treatment outcomes. As previously noted, every 1% reduction in A1c reduces the risk of diabetes-related complications.²⁰ The exact mechanisms that may lead to improvements in A1c and hyperglycemia post periodontal treatment in PWD are not lucid.³⁵ However, it is hypothesized that insulin resistance and insulin stimulation may improve due to reductions in inflammation and bacteria.³⁵

Barriers in oral health

There are many possible barriers that may limit oral health assessment in routine diabetes care. Medical providers and PWD may have the perception that oral health is not as important as systemic health.² Therefore, oral conditions may be overlooked in the clinical setting. Medical providers may not be aware or knowledgeable of the signs of periodontal disease, which may lead

to untimely dental intervention. Also, lack of a standardized communication process among professions could be a barrier.² Additionally, patients may not be aware of the connection between periodontitis and diabetes.¹ Previous studies have deduced that PWD are not as likely to perform daily interproximal cleaning or obtain dental care.¹

Other possible barriers to dental care include limited access, lack of dental relationships, financial restraints, and inadequate dental insurance coverage.³⁶ Millions of Americans are living in areas with a limited number of dental professionals.³⁶ Likewise, health literacy—defined as having the capability to obtain, process, and comprehend health information—is a common barrier that affects oral health. Over 88% of the population lacks health literacy.³⁶ Increasing access to care can improve oral health literacy.³⁶ Fears associated with dental procedures and misconceptions regarding dental care are potential barriers as well.³⁶

Medical professionals' role in oral health

Medical professionals' role in oral health can help advance efforts in dental hygiene and oral health. Medical professionals can provide oral evaluations to assess for inflammation, edentulism (evidence of loss of teeth), diastemas (teeth spreading and open spaces), dental accumulation of plaque, and gingival bleeding.³ In fact, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) recommends that oral care be incorporated into routine diabetes care. In 2019, the IDF published *Guideline on Health for People with Diabetes* to outline their recommendations for dental care.³

Hyperglycemia, associated with diabetes, causes higher levels of glucose to accumulate in the mouth and saliva, which promotes bacterial growth.² Medical professionals can encourage regular flossing and brushing with a fluoride-containing toothpaste. They

can also educate patients on the importance of reducing carbohydrates in their diet. Carbohydrate intake should be individualized for PWD.³⁷

Carbohydrates, which are composed of sugars, starches, and fibers, are commonly referred to as simple or complex carbohydrates.³⁷ Most carbohydrates break down into sugars, which can cause damage to teeth and gums.³⁷ Patients with diabetes who also have tobacco dependence have a greater risk of periodontal disease. Tobacco use and smoking cause decreased perfusion, delayed immune response, and increased inflammation.³⁸ Medical providers should encourage smoking cessation and offer smoking cessation aids to PWD.

Strategies and recommendations

Although periodontal disease is common, it is also preventable. However, the focus of most periodontal research is on treating the disease rather than preventing it. Prevention should focus on risk assessment, plaque control, risk modifications, and prompt detection.¹⁹ Support from medical and dental professionals plays a critical role in prevention and management of the disease.

Strategies to improve oral health include providing education, promoting awareness, and forming partnerships between dental and medical professionals. For example, educating medical providers on the need for dental exams can help improve awareness. Medical professionals should stress the importance of routine dental visits and follow-up office visits. Additionally, protocols can be implemented into practice to increase dental referrals. Patients should receive education on the importance of oral health and possible complications. Medical professionals can promote awareness with educational materials and handouts to distribute to patients while in the clinical setting.

Dental and medical professionals can collaborate regarding patients' conditions. This collaboration can create partnerships within the community to promote oral health awareness and decrease possible complications. Patients with undiagnosed diabetes may exhibit signs of hyperglycemia at their dental office visits. According to the American Diabetes Association's *Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes*, clinical guidelines recommend that diabetes screenings occur in dental practices. It is noted that over 30% of patients seen at dental office visits also have some form of dysglycemia.³⁹

This is also an opportunity for referrals to medical professionals to screen patients for diabetes. Dental professionals can inquire about recent A1c levels in patients with known diabetes.

Dental and medical recommendations

In recent years, oral health has been linked to a range of systemic conditions, emphasizing the importance of working as a team with other health-care professionals.³¹ Periodontitis and diabetes are both prevalent diseases that adversely impact each other. Dental and medical professionals have a responsibility to support the management of periodontitis and diabetes. Dental and medical professionals may use the following strategies to support disease prevention and management.

Recommendations for dental professionals

- Promote dental and medical collaboration, particularly in cases of diabetes.³⁵
- Inform patients of the connection between periodontal disease and diabetes.³⁵
- Encourage regular periodontal monitoring.³⁵
- Consider using a diabetes screening questionnaire in daily practice to assess the risk of diabetes.³⁵

- Recommend regular periodontal assessments; all newly diagnosed patients with diabetes should receive periodic periodontal assessments.³⁵
- Recommend follow-up with a medical professional if diabetes is suspected; possibly perform a point-of-care A1c test in the dental office.³⁵
- Become knowledgeable of the potential oral side effects of medications prescribed to patients.³⁵
- Provide additional preventive care and support to those at a higher risk for disease and those with decreased access to care.³⁵

Recommendations for medical professionals

- Inform patients of the relationship between periodontal disease and diabetes.³⁵
- Encourage regular dental visits.³⁵
- Recommend a periodontal assessment for newly diagnosed patients.³⁵
- Provide education regarding symptoms of periodontitis, including red, swollen, tender gums, gums that bleed easily, and chronic halitosis.³⁵
- Collaborate with dental professionals regarding possible periodontal disease.³⁵
- Become knowledgeable of the potential oral side effects of medications prescribed to patients.³⁵
- Provide additional preventive care and support to those at a higher risk for disease and those with decreased access to care.³⁵

Benefits of collaboration

Treating periodontal disease has been shown to lower health-care expenditures by improving dental care and overall health. It has also been found that treating periodontal disease can lower health-care costs by over \$1,700 for PWD.⁴⁰ The associated annual cost savings for dental care with at least an annual dental exam is approximately \$515–\$574 per person for PWD.⁴¹ With the collaboration of dental and medical health-care professionals, patients

have increased access to care, greater health literacy, and cost-effective quality care that can improve oral health-care outcomes.¹⁵

Conclusion

The association between periodontitis and diabetes has been well documented. Diabetes is one of the leading risk factors for periodontitis. It is important for both disciplines—dental and medical—to be cognizant of the co-existence of periodontitis and diabetes. Both conditions can negatively affect the lives of patients with these chronic diseases. The benefits of collaboration between dental and medical professionals include increased periodontal treatment, increased access to care, improved health-care outcomes, and decreased health-care expenditures.

References

1. Zhang Y, Leveille SG, Shi L, Camhi SM. Disparities in preventive oral health care and periodontal health among adults with diabetes. *Prev Chronic Dis.* 2021;18:E47. doi:10.5888/pcd18.200594
2. Glurich I, Schwei KM, Lindberg S, Shimpi N, Acharya A. Integrating medical-dental care for diabetic patients: qualitative assessment of provider perspectives. *Health Promot Pract.* 2018;19(4):531-541. doi:10.1177/1524839917737752
3. Verhulst MJL, Loos BG, Gerdes VEA, Teeuw WJ. Evaluating all potential oral complications of diabetes mellitus. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2019;10:56. doi:10.3389/fendo.2019.00056
4. National diabetes statistics report: estimates of diabetes and its burden in the United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed June 29, 2022. Accessed September 19, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/index.html>
5. American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee. 2. Classification and diagnosis of diabetes: standards of medical care in diabetes—2022. *Diabetes Care.* 2022;45(Suppl 1):S17-S38. doi:10.2337/dc22-S002
6. McIntyre HD, Kapur A, Divakar H, Hod M. Gestational diabetes mellitus—innovative approach to prediction, diagnosis, management, and prevention of future NCD—mother and offspring. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2020;11:614533. doi:10.3389/fendo.2020.614533
7. American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee. 6. Glycemic targets: standards of medical care in diabetes—2022. *Diabetes Care.* 2022;45(Suppl 1):S83-S96. doi:10.2337/dc22-S006
8. Casanova L, Hughes FJ, Preshaw PM. Diabetes and periodontal disease: a two-way relationship. *Br Dent J.* 2014;217(8):433-437. doi:10.1038/sj.bdj.2014.907
9. Genuth S, Eastman R, Kahn R, et al. Implications of the United Kingdom prospective diabetes study. *Diabetes*

- Care. 2003;26(Suppl 1):S28-S32. doi:10.2337/diacare.26.2007.s28
10. Rohani B. Oral manifestations in patients with diabetes mellitus. *World J Diabetes*. 2019;10(9):485-489. doi:10.4239/wjd.v10.i9.485
 11. Stanko P, Holla LI. Bidirectional association between diabetes mellitus and inflammatory periodontal disease. A review. *Biomed Pap Med Fac Univ Palacky Olomouc Czech Repub*. 2014;158(1):35-38. doi:10.5507/bp.2014.005
 12. Guidance. Chapter 5: periodontal diseases. Gov.uk. Updated November 9, 2021. Accessed November 22, 2022. <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-better-oral-health-an-evidence-based-toolkit-for-prevention/chapter-5-periodontal-diseases>
 13. Periodontal disease. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed July 10, 2013. Accessed November 22, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/periodontal-disease.html>
 14. Kina JR, Suzuki TYU, Kina EFU, Kina J, Kina M. Non-inflammatory destructive periodontal disease. *Open Dent J*. 2016;10(1):50-57. doi:10.2174/1874210601610010050
 15. Bui FQ, Almeida-da-Silva CLC, Huynh B, et al. Association between periodontal pathogens and systemic disease. *Biomed J*. 2019;42(1):27-35. doi:10.1016/j.bj.2018.12.001
 16. Jepsen S, Suvan J, Deschner J. The association of periodontal diseases with metabolic syndrome and obesity. *Periodontol 2000*. 2020;83(1):125-153. doi:10.1111/prd.12326
 17. Gupta S, Maharjan A, Dhani B, et al. Status of tobacco smoking and diabetes with periodontal disease. *JNMA J Nepal Med Assoc*. 2018;56(213):818-824. doi:10.31729/jnma.3610
 18. Genco RJ, Borgnakke WS. Risk factors for periodontal disease. *Periodontol 2000*. 2013;62(1):59-94. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0757.2012.00457.x
 19. Scannapieco FA, Gershovich E. The prevention of periodontal disease—an overview. *Periodontol 2000*. 2020;84(1):9-13. doi:10.1111/prd.12330
 20. Graves DT, Ding Z, Yang Y. The impact of diabetes on periodontal diseases. *Periodontol 2000*. 2020;82(1):214-224. doi:10.1111/prd.12318
 21. Persson GR. Diabetes and periodontal disease: an update for health care providers. *Diabetes Spectr*. 2011;24(4):195-198. doi:10.2337/diaspect.24.4.195
 22. Ahmad R, Haque M. Oral health messengers: diabetes mellitus relevance. *Diabetes Metab Syndr Obes*. 2021;14:3001-3015. doi:10.2147/dmso.s18972
 23. How to promote oral health for people with diabetes. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed March 3, 2022. Accessed September 19, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/professional-info/health-care-pro/diabetes-oral-health.html>
 24. Bissett SM, Preshaw PM, Presseau J, Rapley T. A qualitative study exploring strategies to improve the inter-professional management of diabetes and periodontitis. *Prim Care Diabetes*. 2020;14(2):126-132. doi:10.1016/j.pcd.2019.11.010
 25. Oguntimein O, Butler J 3rd, Desmond S, Green KM, He X, Horowitz AM. Patients' understanding of the relationship between their diabetes and periodontal disease. *J Am Board Fam Med*. 2020;33(6):1004-1010. doi:10.3122/jabfm.2020.06.190454
 26. American Diabetes Association. Economic costs of diabetes in the U.S. in 2017. *Diabetes Care*. 2018;41(5):917-928. doi:10.2337/dci18-0007
 27. Botelho J, Machado V, Leira Y, Proença L, Chambrone L, Mendes JJ. Economic burden of periodontitis in the United States and Europe: an updated estimation. *J Periodontol*. 2022;93(3):373-379. doi:10.1002/JPER.21-0111
 28. Choi SE, Sima C, Pandya A. Impact of treating oral disease on preventing vascular diseases: a model-based cost-effectiveness analysis of periodontal treatment among patients with type 2 diabetes. *Diabetes Care*. 2020;43(3):563-571. doi:10.2337/dci19-1201
 29. Zivkovic N, Aldossri M, Gomaan N, et al. Providing dental insurance can positively impact oral health outcomes in Ontario. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2020;20(1):124. doi:10.1186/s12913-020-4967-3 [Erratum in *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2021;21(1):224. doi:10.1186/s12913-021-06237-2]
 30. Jacob G. Diabetes and periodontal disease: a two-way relation—a commentary. *Ann Dent*. 2013;20(1):27-30. doi:10.22452/adum.vol20no15
 31. Graziani F, Karapetsa D, Alonso B, Herrera D. Nonsurgical and surgical treatment of periodontitis: how many options for one disease? *Periodontol 2000*. 2017;75(1):152-188. doi:10.1111/prd.12201
 32. Kanmaz M, Kanmaz B, Buduneli N. Periodontal treatment outcomes in smokers: a narrative review. *Tob Induc Dis*. 2021;19:77. doi:10.18332/tid/142106
 33. Surgical periodontal procedures. American Academy of Periodontology. Accessed November 14, 2022. <https://www.perio.org/for-%20patients/periodontal-treatments-and-procedures/surgical-procedures/>
 34. Teshome A, Yitayeh A. The effect of periodontal therapy on glycemic control and fasting plasma glucose level in type 2 diabetic patients: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Oral Health*. 2016;17(1):31. doi:10.1186/s12903-016-0249-1
 35. Preshaw PM, Bissett SM. Periodontitis and diabetes. *Br Dent J*. 2019;227(7):577-584. doi:10.1038/s41415-019-0794-5
 36. Bersell CH. Access to oral health care: a national crisis and call for reform. *J Dent Hyg*. 2017;91(1):6-14.
 37. Ludwig DS, Hu FB, Tappy L, Brand-Miller J. Dietary carbohydrates: role of quality and quantity in chronic disease. *BMJ*. 2018;361:k2340. doi:10.1136/bmj.k2340
 38. Silva H. Tobacco use and periodontal disease—the role of microvascular dysfunction. *Biology (Basel)*. 2021;10(5):441. doi:10.3390/biology10050441
 39. American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee. 4. Comprehensive medical evaluation and assessment of comorbidities: standards of medical care in diabetes—2022. *Diabetes Care*. 2022;45(Suppl 1):S46-S59. doi:10.2337/dc22-S004
 40. Nasseh K, Vujicic M, Glick M. The relationship between periodontal interventions and healthcare costs and utilization. Evidence from an integrated dental, medical, and pharmacy commercial claims database. *Health Econ*. 2017;26(4):519-527. doi:10.1002/hec.3316
 41. Borah BJ, Brotman SG, Dholakia R, et al. Association between preventive dental care and healthcare cost for enrollees with diabetes or coronary artery disease: 5-year experience. *Compend Contin Educ Dent*. 2022;43(3):130-139.



Nykkia Sellers, DNP, FNP, BC-ADM, CDCES, is a board-certified family nurse practitioner who practices in adult endocrinology and specializes in diabetes management. Nykkia is the founder and owner of Diabetes Care and Wellness. She earned a master's degree in nursing from Arkansas State University in 2007. She then obtained a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of South Alabama. Nykkia is a certified diabetes care and education specialist and is board certified in advanced diabetes management.



Tameka Schley Lee, MPA, RDH, has more than two decades of service in the dental field. In 2003, she earned a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from Clayton State University, and then went on to obtain a master's degree in public administration from Grand Canyon University in 2021. With a profound passion for oral health and relentless drive to enhance health outcomes, Tameka has donned multiple hats throughout her career. Her visionary spirit and dedication culminated in the establishment of Empower, RDH, a consulting company tailored to dental hygiene clinicians.

QUESTIONS

QUICK ACCESS CODE 22196

ONLINE COMPLETION: Use this page to review questions and answers. Visit dentalacademyofce.com and sign in. If you have not previously purchased the course, select it from the Course Library and complete your online purchase. Once purchased, click the "Start Course" button on the course page. You will have an opportunity to review an online version of the article. When finished, click the "Next" button to advance to the quiz. Click "Start Quiz," complete all the program questions, and submit your answers. An immediate grade report will be provided. Upon receiving a grade of 70% or higher, your verification form will be provided immediately for viewing and printing. Verification forms can be viewed and printed at any time in the future by visiting the site and returning to your Dashboard page.

1. The A1c is a summary of serum glucose levels over:
 - A. 2 months
 - B. 3 months
 - C. 4 months
 - D. 6 months
2. Diabetes can be defined as:
 - A. Fasting plasma glucose equal to or greater than 120
 - B. 2-hour plasma glucose equal to or greater than 125
 - C. A1c equal to or greater than 6.5
 - D. Both A and C
3. People without diabetes have an average A1c less than:
 - A. 7%
 - B. 6.5%
 - C. 5.7%
 - D. 5.5%
4. Which is a possible barrier for providing oral health assessments in people with diabetes?
 - A. Decreased perception of the need for oral health
 - B. Decreased knowledge of medical professionals of signs of periodontal disease
 - C. Decreased awareness of the connection between periodontal disease and diabetes
 - D. All of the above
5. Which hemoglobin A1c value suggests poor glycemic control?
 - A. 7.0%
 - B. 7.6%
 - C. 8.4%
 - D. None of the above
6. The amount of carbohydrate intake for people with diabetes should be:
 - A. 50% of dietary intake
 - B. Approximately 15 g each meal
 - C. Individualized per patient
 - D. None of the above
7. Type 2 diabetes can be managed with:
 - A. Insulin
 - B. Lifestyle modifications
 - C. Oral medications and injectables
 - D. All of the above
8. Individuals with periodontal disease were found to have an increased risk of developing diabetes by:
 - A. 50%
 - B. 59%
 - C. 68%
 - D. 25%
9. Which organization published the *Guideline on Health for People with Diabetes*?
 - A. International Diabetes Foundation
 - B. American Diabetes Association
 - C. American Dental Association
 - D. International Diabetes Society
10. Smoking and tobacco use increase the risk of periodontal disease and cause:
 - A. Increased perfusion
 - B. Decreased inflammation
 - C. Delayed immune response
 - D. Hypoglycemia
11. The percentage of patients with periodontal disease who receive periodontal treatment is:
 - A. 64%
 - B. 59%
 - C. 38%
 - D. 27%
12. Type 2 diabetes accounts for what percentage of the PWD population?
 - A. 75%–80%
 - B. 85%–90%
 - C. 90%–95%
 - D. 50%–60%
13. How can medical professionals assist with decreasing periodontal disease?
 - A. Refer patients for dental exams
 - B. Encourage brushing with fluoride toothpaste and flossing
 - C. Provide smoking cessation counseling
 - D. All of the above
14. People with diabetes also have a higher rate of:
 - A. Lichen planus
 - B. Xerostomia
 - C. A and B
 - D. None of the above
15. The American Diabetes Association recommends an A1c for most nonpregnant adults of:
 - A. Less than 7%
 - B. Less than 8%
 - C. Less than 5.5%
 - D. Less than 9%
16. What percentage of patients seen at dental office visits also has some form of dysglycemia?
 - A. 30%
 - B. 70%
 - C. 25%
 - D. 40%
17. Which is a sign of periodontitis that medical professionals can share with their patients?
 - A. Chronic bad breath (halitosis)
 - B. Red, swollen gums
 - C. Gums that bleed while brushing
 - D. All of the above
18. How much of a reduction in HbA1c is required to lower the risk of diabetic complications?
 - A. 2%
 - B. 4%
 - C. 1%
 - D. 0.1%
19. What systemic condition has periodontitis been linked to?
 - A. Cardiovascular disease
 - B. Diabetes
 - C. Alzheimer's disease
 - D. All of the above
20. In addition to bacteria, what other component must be present for periodontitis to develop?
 - A. Bleeding
 - B. Susceptible host
 - C. Gram-positive bacteria
 - D. Calculus

This continuing education (CE) activity was developed by Endeavor Business Media with no commercial support. This course was written for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, from novice to skilled. **Educational methods:** This course is a self-instructional journal and web activity. **Provider disclosure:** Endeavor Business Media neither has a leadership position nor a commercial interest in any products or services discussed or shared in this educational activity. No manufacturer or third party had any input in the development of the course content. **Presenter disclosure:** Author discloses that they do have a leadership or financial relationship to disclose related to this continuing education activity. **Requirements for successful completion:** To obtain three (3) CE credits for this educational activity, you must pay the required fee, review the material, complete the course evaluation, and obtain an exam score of 70% or higher. **CE planner disclosure:** Laura Winfield-Roy, Endeavor Business Media dental group CE coordinator, neither has a leadership nor commercial interest with the products or services discussed in this educational activity. Ms. Winfield-Roy can be reached at lwinfield@endeavorb2b.com or 800-633-1681. **Educational disclaimer:** Completing a single continuing education course does not provide enough information to result in the participant being an expert in the field related to the course topic. It is a combination of many educational courses and clinical experience that allows the participant to develop skills and expertise. **Image authenticity statement:** The images in this educational activity have not been altered. **Scientific integrity statement:** Information shared in this CE course is developed from clinical research and represents the most current information available from evidence-based dentistry. **Known benefits and limitations of the data:** The information presented in this educational activity is derived from the data and information contained in the reference section. **Registration:** Rates for print CE have increased due to the manual nature of producing and grading courses in this format. For a lower-cost option, scan the QR code or go to dentalacademyofce.com to take this course online. MAIL/FAX: \$69 for three (3) CE credits. DIGITAL: \$39 for three (3) CE credits. **Cancellation and refund policy:** Any participant who is not 100% satisfied with this course can request a full refund by contacting Endeavor Business Media in writing.

PROVIDER INFORMATION

Dental Board of California: Provider RP5933. Course registration number CAcode:03-5933-22196. Expires 7/31/2024. "This course meets the Dental Board of California's requirements for three (3) units of continuing education."



Endeavor Business Media is a nationally approved PACE program provider for FAGD/MAGD credit. Approval does not imply acceptance by any regulatory authority or AGD endorsement. 11/1/2019 to 10/31/2024. Provider ID# 320452. AGD code: 490, 750



Endeavor Business Media is designated as an approved Provider by the American Academy of Dental Hygiene, Inc. #AADHPNW (January 1, 2023–December 31, 2024). Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial Board of Dentistry. Licensee should maintain this document in the event of an audit. AADH code: AADHEBM-174-3-2024-3

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

Endeavor Business Media is an ADA CERP-recognized provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of dental continuing education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at ada.org/cerp.



21. Periodontitis may have an impact on which aspect of a person's quality of life?

- A. Health
- B. Mastication
- C. Self-confidence
- D. All of the above

22. Which is a risk factor for periodontitis?

- A. Smoking
- B. Brushing only once a day
- C. Not visiting the dentist
- D. Bipolar disorder

23. What is the cure for periodontitis?

- A. Nonsurgical scaling and root planing
- B. Periodontal flap surgery
- C. Tooth extraction and implant placement
- D. Periodontitis is irreversible; treatment requires a lifelong strategy.

24. What percentage of adults has some form of periodontal disease?

- A. 62%
- B. 47%
- C. 50%
- D. 38%

25. What can medical and dental professionals do to support prevention and management of disease?

- A. Identify risk factors
- B. Educate patients on the link between periodontitis and diabetes
- C. Be aware of the potential oral side effects of medications prescribed to patients
- D. All of the above

26. What exact mechanism leads to improved glycemic control following periodontal treatment?

- A. Increased A1c
- B. The release of white blood cells
- C. The exact mechanism is unclear; hypothesized that insulin resistance improves because of reduced inflammation and reduced bacterial load systemically
- D. Reducing the periodontal pocket depth

27. What can patients do to lower the risk of periodontitis?

- A. Visit the dentist regularly to receive periodontal assessment
- B. Adhere to a strict plaque control regimen
- C. Become a vegetarian
- D. A and B

28. What is the increase in periodontitis risk caused by diabetes?

- A. 10%
- B. Two- to threefold
- C. 90%
- D. 15%

29. Periodontal disease has been demonstrated to alter blood glucose levels in patients suffering from:

- A. Type 2 diabetes
- B. Gingivitis
- C. Kidney disease
- D. Oral cancer

30. What should prevention of periodontitis focus on?

- A. Risk assessment/early detection
- B. Plaque control
- C. Lowering risk factors
- D. All of the above

Periodontitis and diabetes: Navigating a two-way street

NAME:	TITLE:	SPECIALTY:	
ADDRESS:	EMAIL:	AGD MEMBER ID (IF APPLIES):	
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	COUNTRY:
TELEPHONE (PRIMARY):	TELEPHONE (OFFICE):		

REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING CE CREDITS BY MAIL/FAX: 1) Read entire course. 2) Complete info above. 3) Complete test by marking one answer per question. 4) Complete course evaluation. 5) Complete credit card info or write check payable to Endeavor Business Media. 6) Mail/fax this page to DACE.

If you have any questions, please contact dace@endeavorb2b.com or call (800) 633-1681. A score of 70% or higher is required for CE credit.

COURSE CAN ALSO BE COMPLETED ONLINE AT A LOWER COST. Scan the QR code or go to dentalacademyofce.com to take advantage of the lower rate.



EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize and discuss the bidirectional relationship between periodontitis and diabetes.
2. Identify and list blood glucose and A1c goals for patients with diabetes to improve periodontitis.
3. Exhibit increased confidence when educating patients with diabetes and periodontitis.
4. Implement strategies into daily dental and medical practice to improve clinical outcomes.

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Were the individual course objectives met?
Objective #1: Yes No Objective #3: Yes No
Objective #2: Yes No Objective #4: Yes No

Please evaluate this course by responding to the following statements, using a scale of Excellent = 5 to Poor = 0.

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|----|
| 2. To what extent were the course objectives accomplished overall? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. Please rate your personal mastery of the course objectives. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. How would you rate the objectives and educational methods? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 5. How do you rate the author's grasp of the topic? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 6. Please rate the author's effectiveness. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 7. Was the overall administration of the course effective? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 8. Please rate the usefulness and clinical applicability of this course. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 9. Please rate the usefulness of the references. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 10. Do you feel that the references were adequate? | | | | | Yes | No |
| 11. Would you take a similar course on a different topic? | | | | | Yes | No |

12. If any of the continuing education questions were unclear or ambiguous, please list them.

13. Was there any subject matter you found confusing? Please describe.

14. How long did it take you to complete this course?

15. What additional dental continuing education topics would you like to see?

Mail/fax completed answer sheet to:

Endeavor Business Media

Attn: Dental Division; 7666 E. 61st St. Suite 230, Tulsa, OK 74133
Fax: (918) 831-9804

Payment of \$69 is enclosed (this course can be completed online for \$39. Scan the QR code or go to dentalacademyofce.com to take advantage of the lower rate).

Make check payable to Endeavor Business Media

If paying by credit card, please complete the following:

MC Visa AmEx Discover

Acct. number: _____

Exp. date: _____ CVC #: _____

Billing address: _____

Charges on your statement will show up as Endeavor.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 16. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 17. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 21. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 22. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 8. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 23. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 9. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 24. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 25. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 11. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 26. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 12. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 27. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 13. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 28. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 14. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 29. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 15. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 30. (A) (B) (C) (D) |

CUSTOMER SERVICE: (800) 633-1681

EXAM INSTRUCTIONS. All questions have only one answer. If mailed or faxed, grading of this examination is done manually. Participants will receive confirmation of passing by receipt of a Verification of Participation form. The form will be mailed within two weeks after receipt of an examination.

COURSE EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK. We encourage participant feedback. Complete the evaluation above and e-mail additional feedback to Rachel McIntyre (rmcintyre@endeavorb2b.com) and Laura Winfield-Roy (lwinfield@endeavorb2b.com).

COURSE CREDITS AND COST. All participants scoring 70% or higher on the examination will receive a verification form for three (3) continuing education (CE) credits. Participants are urged to contact their state dental boards for CE requirements. The cost for courses ranges from \$20 to \$110.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY. Participants who are not 100% satisfied can request a refund by contacting Endeavor Business Media in writing.

RECORD KEEPING. Endeavor Business Media maintains records of your successful completion of any exam for a minimum of six years. Please contact our offices for a copy of your CE credits report. This report, which will list all credits earned to date, will be generated and mailed to you within five business days of receipt.

IMAGE AUTHENTICITY. The images in this educational activity have not been altered.

PROVIDER INFORMATION. Endeavor Business Media is an ADA CERP-recognized provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP neither approves nor endorses individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Concerns about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at ada.org/cefp.

Endeavor Business Media is designated as an approved PACE program provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. The formal continuing dental education programs of this program provider are accepted by the AGD for fellowship, mastership, and membership maintenance credit. Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of dentistry or AGD endorsement. The current term of approval extends from 11/1/2019 to 10/31/2024. Provider ID# 320452. AGD code: 490, 750.

Dental Board of California: Provider RP6933. Course registration number CA code: 03-5933-22196. Expires 7/31/2024. *This course meets the Dental Board of California's requirements for three (3) units of continuing education.*

Endeavor Business Media is designated as an approved provider by the American Academy of Dental Hygiene Inc. #AADHPNW (January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2024). Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of dentistry. Licensee should maintain this document in the event of an audit.