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Literature Abstract

Association of aggressive periodontitis with reduced erythrocyte counts and reduced hemoglobin levels

The authors investigated effects of generalized aggressive periodontitis (GAP) on a variety of erythrocyte parameters. GAP is defined as probing depth and clinical attachment ≥ 5 mm on at least eight permanent teeth of which at least three are not the first molars or incisors. A total of 64 patients (32 men, 32 women) with GAP were compared with 58 periodontally healthy people (33 men, 25 women). A variety of confounding variables known to be associated with anemia and periodontal diseases were recorded. Gingival and plaque indices and periodontal statuses were measured. Fasting venous blood was analyzed for mean corpuscular volume, hematocrit, mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH), mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC), red cell distribution width (RDW), and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR). Results indicated that erythrocyte count, hemoglobin concentration, hematocrit, and MCH were significantly lower in the GAP group. ESR was higher. Erythrocyte count and hemoglobin concentration were negatively correlated with mean probing depth, mean clinical attachment level, and percentage of severe sites. After adjusting for the confounding variables, the GAP group still had significantly lower erythrocyte counts and hemoglobin levels. The authors concluded that GAP, like chronic periodontitis, may be associated with an increased risk of "anemia of chronic disease."

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