**Vitamin D intake may halt periodontal disease progression**

**BOSTON, Mass., USA:** Vitamin D has become a controversial nutrition issue, as studies have shown that it has potential benefit for physical and oral health. Now, new research from the US has suggested that the anti-inflammatory mediator is associated with periodontal health, especially in older men.

The study included 562 male participants in the Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Longitudinal Study (mean age 62.9), who were examined one to four times between 1986 and 1998. In order to determine the link between total vitamin D intake and periodontal health, a calibrated examiner measured probing pocket depth and attachment loss around each tooth. In addition, alveolar bone loss was determined from radiographs.

The researchers observed that total vitamin D intake (≥800 IU) was associated with a lower risk of severe periodontal disease and moderate to severe alveolar bone loss. They concluded that vitamin D may help protect against the progression of periodontal disease.

Vitamin D has previously been linked to several cardiovascular risk factors, including hypertension, abnormal lipids, and obesity. Its role in preventing bone diseases, such as osteoporosis, is well documented. Moreover, recent studies have suggested that increased intake of vitamin D may reduce the risk of dental caries, various cancers, and diabetes.

The present study was conducted at Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dentistry.

**Synthetic membrane could accelerate healing after dental implants**

**JERUSALEM, Israel:** REGENECURE, an Israeli specialist in bone reconstruction, has developed a new membrane as a bone-stimulating aid for patients requiring dental implants. As preliminary studies have shown promising results, the membrane will go into clinical trials now. The company hopes that the new technology will help improve and accelerate healing in a variety of medical procedures.

Over a period of six months, researchers at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem and the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa will compare the amount of lateral bone fill generated by REGENECURE's membrane with that generated by collagen membranes, the company announced. The study will include 32 smokers and non-smokers with insufficient bone volume, a common problem in tooth replacement. In half of the participants, the newly developed synthetic membrane will be used, while the other half will receive collagen membranes, which is considered the gold standard in treatment today.

According to REGENECURE, the innovative AMCA (ammonium methacrylate copolymer type A) guided bone regeneration dental membrane has advantages over collagen membranes regarding quality and safety. It degrades slowly over time, giving the natural bone more time to properly regenerate, is entirely synthetic, and eliminates the risk of contamination by pathogens present in membranes derived from animal tissue.

In addition, the membrane accelerates healing by enabling cell adherence, proliferation, and differentiation of stem cells in the bone tissue, while preventing connective tissue from infiltrating the healing space. The company emphasised that the membrane is easy to use in orthopaedic surgery and requires no special surgical knowledge of preparation.

According to a recently published report by Research and Markets, a publisher of international market research and market data, the global dental implants market is projected to exceed US$6.5 billion (€5 billion) by 2018.