By ADAA

In Western society, toothbrushing was introduced as an oral care habit in the 18th century, and plastic toothbrushes with nylon bristles have been used since the middle of the last century. However, while there are numerous versions of manual toothbrushes on the market, there has been no clear evidence that any specific design is superior to another. Therefore, the choice of toothbrush is mainly a matter of individual preference. Despite daily use, in practice the efficacy of manual brushing is such that it does not appear to result in optimal oral hygiene.


The two best-known databases, Pubmed and Cochrane, were searched for articles that addressed the efficacy of a manual toothbrush following a single brushing exercise. In order for an article to be included in the review, subjects in the study had to be healthy adults who were not wearing an orthodontic appliance or a removable prosthesis, and who had brushed without using ad-
Coronary heart disease patients with no teeth have nearly double risk of death

Researchers connect levels of tooth loss (due primarily to poor dental hygiene that leads to periodontal disease) with increases in risk of death and stroke

Coronary heart disease patients with no teeth have nearly double the risk of death as those with all of their teeth. Among patients with established coronary heart disease, defined as prior myocardial infarction and/or severe angina, every increase in category of tooth loss was associated with a 6 percent increased risk of major cardiovascular events, 17 percent increased risk of cardiovascular death, 16 percent increased risk of all-cause death and 2 percent increased risk of stroke.

746 patients had a myocardial infarction during the study

Compared with those with all of their teeth, after adjusting for risk factors and socioeconomic status, patients with no teeth had a 27 percent increased risk of major cardiovascular events, 83 percent increased risk of cardiovascular death, 83 percent increased risk of all-cause death and 67 percent increased risk of stroke.

“The risk increase was linear with the highest risk in those with no remaining teeth,” said Vedin. “For example, the risks of cardiovascular death and all-cause death were almost double to those with all teeth remaining. Heart disease and gum disease share many risk factors such as smoking and diabetes, but we adjusted for these in our analysis and found a seemingly independent relationship between the two conditions. Many patients in the study had lost teeth, so we are not talking about a few individuals here,” continued Vedin. “Around 16 percent of patients had tooth loss and 27 percent were missing half of their teeth.”

During the study period, 746 patients had a myocardial infarction. There was a numerically increased risk of myocardial infarction for every increase in tooth loss, but this was not significant after adjustment for risk factors and socioeconomic status. Vedin said, “We found no association between number of teeth and risk of myocardial infarction. This was puzzling (because) we had robust associations with other cardiovascular outcomes, including stroke.”

Tooth loss could identify patients who need more prevention efforts. Gum disease is one of the most common causes of tooth loss. The inflammation from gum disease is thought to trigger the atherosclerotic process, which is a primary cause of heart disease. Vedin said, “But tooth loss could be an easy and inexpensive way to identify patients at higher risk who need more intense prevention efforts. While we can’t advise people to look after their teeth to lower their cardiovascular risk, the positive effects of brushing and flossing are well established. The potential for additional positive effects on cardiovascular health would be a bonus.”

About the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology

The European Society of Cardiology describes itself as being the world’s leading preventive cardiology journal, playing a pivotal role in reducing the global burden of cardiovascular disease.

About the European Society of Cardiology

The European Society of Cardiology represents more than 90,000 cardiologists professionally across Europe and worldwide. Its mission is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Europe.

References


(Sources: European Society of Cardiology and European Journal of Preventive Cardiology)
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New toothpaste removes four times more plaque than other toothpastes

By DTI

CHICAGO, USA: Microbial biofilms, or dental plaque, on teeth significantly contribute to the development of dental caries, gingivitis and periodontitis, and should therefore be managed through daily brushing and flossing. A recently published study has now shown that a new toothpaste, which contains teal disclosing agents to color and identify plaque build-up on teeth, helps users remove up to four times more plaque than a standard toothpaste does.

In the study, 35 healthy patients aged 18–64 who had all 12 anterior teeth were divided into two groups. At two visits to the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry over the course of seven to ten days, participants in the first group brushed their teeth with a control toothpaste only. Participants in the experimental group used the control toothpaste at one visit and the Plaque HD toothpaste, which contains an FDA-registered annatto seed extract dye, as well as FD&C Blue No. 1, giving the toothpaste a green color that adheres to intra-oral plaque, at the second visit.

After brushing, participants rinsed with fluorescein solution. The presence of plaque on tooth surfaces was visualized by plaque-bound fluorescein, photographed and digitally quantified to calculate the percentage of remaining plaque. The data analysis showed a statistically significant mean plaque reduction between the initial baseline appointment and the second appointment for the experimental group. While participants in the control group were only able to eliminate about 8 percent more plaque, participants in the experimental group removed over 50 percent more dental plaque compared with the first visit.

“This study demonstrates that brushing with a toothpaste with plaque-indicating dye, combined with proper use instructions, significantly increases plaque removal efficacy,” the researchers concluded.

According to the manufacturer of Plaque HD, the toothpaste incorporates Targetol Technology, which contains all-natural, plant-based disclosing agents, and colors any plaque. Currently Plaque HD is sold through dental and orthodontic offices across the U.S. and on Amazon. It is available in a professional version for $21.00 and a retail version for $14.95.


Study finds high urinary mercury levels in children with amalgam fillings

By DTI

DAEGU, South Korea: Although equivalent alternatives have become available over the past decade, dental amalgam remains in use as a restorative material for dental caries in children in many countries. The safety of dental amalgam, however, is still a controversial issue among experts, as it has been associated with developmental disorders and systemic conditions. A Korean study has recently provided evidence that dental amalgam exposure could affect systemic mercury concentration in children.

In order to assess chronic exposure to elemental mercury, researchers at Kyungpook National University in South Korea evaluated mercury concentrations in urine samples from more than 1,000 children aged 8–12, who also underwent oral examination.

They found that children with more than one amalgam-filled tooth surface exhibited significantly higher urinary mercury concentrations than those with none. The researchers thus concluded that dental amalgam exposure could affect systemic mercury concentration in children.

A number of studies have indicated that mercury exposure could be involved in problems in early brain development. Mercury has also been associated with adverse health effects relating to the digestive and immune systems, as well as the lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes. Awareness and recognition of these health and environmental implications have led to a ban on the use of dental amalgam in some high-income countries. However, dental amalgam restorations are still taught in the dental curriculum in South-East Asia. In Myanmar, for example, about 30 per cent of fillings placed are of amalgam.

The study, titled “Dental amalgam exposure can elevate urinary mercury concentrations in children,” was published online on February in the International Dental Journal.
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Address the pain and discomfort of hypersensitivity resulting from periodontal therapy by recommending Colgate® Sensitive Pro-Relief™ to your patients – clinically proven to treat hypersensitivity and relieve pain fast.

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