

# An analysis of the attitudes of dental patients attending general dental practice in Galway

## Précis

The aim of this paper is to describe the patterns of dental attendance and attitudes towards tooth loss of general dental practice patients in Galway.

## Abstract

**Aim:** To describe the patterns of dental attendance and attitudes towards tooth loss of general dental practice patients in Galway.

**Objectives:** 1. To determine the pattern of adult dental attendance in general practices in Galway; and, 2. To examine the oral health attitudes of these patients.

**Method:** Questionnaires were distributed to 311 consecutive adult patients in the waiting rooms of ten general dental practices in Galway, which were randomly selected from the telephone directory. **Results:** A total of 254 of the 311 questionnaires distributed were fully completed, returned and included in the results, giving a response rate of 81.7%. A total of 59% of dentate participants attended their dentist for annual or biannual examinations compared to 23% of edentate patients. Some 10.5% of medical card holders and 0.5% of non-medical card holders were edentulous.

**Conclusions:** The data from the survey indicated that medical card holders in Galway were more likely to be edentulous than non-medical card holders. Edentate patients were less likely to be regular dental attenders than dentate patients.

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# Effect of phase I periodontal therapy on pro-coagulant state in chronic periodontitis patients – a clinical and haematological study

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## Précis

This study validates the effect of periodontal therapy in reducing systemic inflammation, thus indirectly affecting the risk of cardiovascular disease.

## Abstract

**Statement of the problem:** The increase in white blood cell count (WBC) and platelet count due to systemic inflammation and infection is considered a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases. These parameters increase in periodontal disease. A decrease in WBC and platelet counts by periodontal therapy may decrease the risk for cardiovascular disease. **Purpose of the study:** The present study is a treatment intervention model to investigate the effect of non-surgical periodontal therapy on total leucocyte count (TLC), differential leucocyte count (DLC) and platelet count in patients with chronic periodontitis.

**Materials and methods:** Thirty systemically healthy patients were included in the study. Probing pocket depth (PPD), clinical attachment loss (CAL), bleeding on probing (BOP), TLC, DLC, platelet count, bleeding time (BT) and clotting time (CT) were evaluated at baseline and at two weeks after phase I therapy.

**Results:** A statistically highly significant decrease in the percentage of sites exhibiting BOP was observed, i.e., from 78.1% at baseline to 18.1% two weeks postoperatively ( $p=0.000$ ). There was also a statistically significant decrease in TLC from  $7595/\text{mm}^3$  at baseline to  $6690/\text{mm}^3$  two weeks following phase I therapy ( $p=0.02$ ). There was also a statistically highly significant decrease in platelet count from  $2.1 \text{ lac}/\text{mm}^3$  preoperatively to  $1.9 \text{ lac}/\text{mm}^3$  at two weeks postoperatively ( $p=0.003$ ).

**Conclusion:** The present study depicts the importance of periodontal therapy to reduce the TLC and platelet count, thereby possibly decreasing the risk for the development of cardiovascular disease by lowering the established risk factors for periodontal atherosclerosis.

**Key words:** WBC count, platelet count, oral bacteria, periodontal therapy, atherosclerosis.

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