Emerging Trends in the Link Between Oral and Systemic Health

Description: Does having periodontal disease increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, pre-term birth, cancer, or even Alzheimer’s disease?

Multiple studies have found that periodontal disease is associated with cardiovascular disease. Recent findings in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that severe periodontitis was associated with a 24% increased risk for cancer.

This course will review the current evidence on the link between oral and systemic health and provide talking points for communicating this information to our patients.

Learning objectives: Participants will learn to:
- Understand the difference between association and causation
- Assess the strength of the science supporting oral systemic relationships
- Discuss the oral systemic relationships for cardiovascular disease, adverse pregnancy outcomes, diabetes, dementia, and cancer
- Develop talking points for patient discussions
- Evaluate professional and self-care for managing periodontal disease in at-risk patients

Support for this program provided by:

Carol Jahn, MS, RDH

About our speaker

Carol Jahn, MS, RDH, is Director of Professional Relations & Education for Water Pik, Inc.

She holds a BS in dental hygiene from the University of Iowa and an MS in Continuing Education from the University of St. Francis. She has been a dental hygienist since 1982, practicing clinically for 14 years in general and periodontal practices.

A frequent lecturer and writer, she has published numerous papers and contributed to several textbooks, including the 10th, 11th, and 12th editions of Clinical Periodontology.

A past president of the Illinois Dental Hygienists’ Association and past Treasurer of the ADHA, she was a recipient of the ADHA/Johnson & Johnson Award of Excellence in 2013.