

Infectious Smiles

July 2017

Focus on Anti-infectives



Severe periodontitis predicts higher cirrhosis mortality

Periodontitis in patients with cirrhosis is prevalent, and the systemic infections it could cause increase the risk of morbidity and mortality.¹

In a recent prospective cohort study, researchers in Denmark assessed the association of periodontitis with all-cause and cirrhosis-related mortality.¹

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A higher risk of all-cause mortality, mainly due to cirrhosis-related mortality, was associated with severe periodontitis.¹

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Of 184 consecutive patients enrolled in this study, 44% had periodontitis at study entry and almost 50% died during the follow-up period of 74,197 days.¹

In unadjusted and adjusted (for age, sex, cirrhosis aetiology, Child-Pugh score, Model of End-Stage Liver Disease score, smoking status, alcohol use, comorbidity and nutritional risk score) analyses, severe periodontitis was associated with:

- higher all-cause mortality (crude hazard ratio [HR] 1.56, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.06–2.54; and adjusted HR 1.45, 95% CI 0.79–2.45; respectively)
- higher cirrhosis-related mortality (crude HR 2.19, 95% CI 1.07–4.50; and adjusted HR 2.29, 95% CI 1.04–4.99; respectively).¹

Low-grade inflammation may be caused by persistent oral bacterial translocation from periodontitis, and could lead to more complications in patients with cirrhosis.¹

Results support interventional trials in patients with cirrhosis, to assess the effect of periodontitis treatment.¹

References

1. Grønkaer LL, Holmstrup P, Schou S, Jepsen P, Vilstrup H. Severe periodontitis predicts higher cirrhosis mortality. *J Hepatol* 2017; 66(Suppl 1): S104–S105.

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IN/AIN/0021/17a Date of preparation: July 2017

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