



For India Healthcare Professionals

# Infectious Smiles

Focus on Anti-infectives



## Feature of the Month

**Periodontal infection may trigger rheumatoid arthritis:** A possible link between bacterial pathogens and the initiation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in some susceptible individuals has been suspected for many years. A publication in Science Translational Medicine identified a link between the periodontitis pathogen *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (Aa) and the production of both disease-specific anti-citrullinated protein antibodies and rheumatoid factor, in a subset of patients with RA.<sup>1</sup>

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## Journal Report

Providing dentists with audit & feedback on their antibiotic prescribing may reduce antibiotic prescribing rates, according to the results of the Reducing Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry (RAPiD) study. This could help healthcare professionals tackle the challenge of antimicrobial resistance.<sup>2</sup>

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## Newsfeed

There is a misunderstanding about the spread of HIV and there is little, if any, risk of spreading the HIV virus in the dental setting as long as appropriate precautions are taken. Various medicines, including those used to manage HIV, can affect oral health and can cause negative interactions.<sup>3</sup>

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### References:

1. Konig MF, Abusleme L, Reinholdt J, Palmer RJ, Teles RP, Sampson K *et al.* *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*-induced hypercitrullination links periodontal infection to autoimmunity in rheumatoid arthritis. *Sci Transl Med* (2016); 8 (369): 369ra176.
2. Elouafkaoui P, Young L, Newlands R, Duncan EM, Elders A, Clarkson JE *et al.* An Audit and Feedback Intervention for Reducing Antibiotic Prescribing in General Dental Practice: The RAPiD Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial. *PLoS Med* 2016; 13(8): e1002115.
3. Managing patients with HIV (<https://www.cda.org/news-events/managing-patients-with-hiv>; Accessed on 9th May, 2019)

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