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Interrelationship Between Rheumatoid Arthritis and Periodontitis

Melo, M.C.F¹, Macêdo, T.S², Oliveira, J.C³, Araújo, M.G.C⁴, Vidal, A.K.L⁵

¹Cirurgiã-Dentista, Especialista em Periodontia, Residente do Programa de Residência em Odontologia Hospitalar com enfoque em Oncologia da Universidade de Pernambuco, ICB/HUOC/UPE. 2,3,4Cirurgiãs-Dentistas Residentes do Programa de Residência em Odontologia Hospitalar com enfoque em Oncologia da Universidade de Pernambuco-ICB/HUOC/UPE. 5Profa. Dra. Adjunta Regente da Disciplina de Processos Patológicos Gerais-ICB/UPE, Cirurgiã-Dentista Chefe do Serviço de Odontologia-CEON/HUOC/UPE, Coordenadora do Programa de Residência em Odontologia Hospitalar com enfoque em Oncologia da Universidade de Pernambuco-ICB/HUOC/UPE.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Rheumatoid arthritis and periodontitis are two chronic inflammatory diseases where inflammatory mediators induce bone loss and destruction involving joints and supporting tooth tissues, respectively. The observance of similarities in its pathogenic mechanisms has aroused interest in research on the association between these conditions. **Objectives:** To verify the interrelationship between rheumatoid arthritis and periodontitis. **Methodology:** Literature review where articles were searched in the 2007-2017 period, available on the Internet, in the database systems: Medlars on line International Literature (Medline), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (Lilacs) and Brazilian Bibliography of Dentistry (BBO) present on the website of the Virtual Health Library (BVS). **Results and Discussion:** The literature does not yet confirm the interrelation between rheumatoid arthritis and periodontitis. However, considering the similarity of the pathogenic processes, these chronic and destructive inflammatory diseases are still under investigation worldwide, and it is believed that the relationship between the two processes can be scientifically proven. Although several clinical trials show worse periodontal conditions and higher frequency of dental loss in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, when compared to healthy controls; yet it is not possible to point out the interrelation or degree of dependence and / or favoring the development of these processes between these two diseases. **Conclusion:** The interrelation between rheumatoid arthritis and periodontitis has not been completely clarified nor scientifically proven despite the similarity between pathogenic mechanisms. However, considering the severity of the same should seek the prevention, diagnosis and appropriate treatment, as early as possible.

Keywords: Rheumatoid Arthritis; Periodontitis; Dentistry; Chronic disease.

*Correspondence to Author:

Melo, M.C.F

Cirurgiã-Dentista, Especialista em Periodontia, Residente do Programa de Residência em Odontologia Hospitalar com enfoque em Oncologia da Universidade de Pernambuco, ICB/HUOC/UPE.

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