Diabetic women face higher risk of oral cancer, study finds

By DTI

SYDNEY, Australia: The links between oral health and overall health are numerous, with their importance continually filtering into broader society. In a new study that may bring more attention to the topic, researchers at the George Institute for Global Health at the University of New South Wales in Australia and the University of Oxford in the UK have discovered that women with diabetes face a dramatically increased chance of developing oral cancer.

Speaking to Dental Tribune International one of the two lead researchers Dr Yoshiki Okuma said, “Evidence has already been published showing that women with diabetes are at an increased risk of stroke, coronary heart disease and dementia compared to men with diabetes. However, there has been no systematic overview of the evidence on sex difference in the association between diabetes and cancer which are growing health problems worldwide.”

To collect the data needed for the systematic review and meta-analysis, a systematic search was performed in PubMed for cohort studies published up to December 2016. The selected studies reported sex-specific relative risk estimates for the association between diabetes and cancer adjusted at least for age in both sexes.

In total, data from 19,239,302 individuals was collected, and according to the study’s results, women had a 13 per cent higher chance of developing oral cancer if they had Type 1 diabetes. Overall, women faced a 27 per cent greater risk of developing any form of cancer if they had diabetes, while men had a 19 per cent increased risk. Additionally, the researchers found that diabetes conferred a higher site-specific risk for women than men for oral, stomach and kidney cancers and leukaemia, but a lower risk for liver cancer.

Commenting on the research, CEO of the Oral Health Foundation Dr Nigel Carter, OBE, said, “This makes regular dental visits an absolute must. If your dentists know that you are diabetic, they will check your mouth accordingly. For many years we have known that diabetic patients are more likely to get gum disease and need extra dental care but this is yet another reason for regular checks.”

The study, titled “Sex differences in the association between diabetes and cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis of 121 cohorts including 20 million individuals and one million events”, was published in Diabetologia on 20 July 2018 ahead of inclusion in an issue.

TAD talks: 2018 World Implant Orthodontic Conference to address evolution and development

By DTI

NUSA DUA, Indonesia: In less than two weeks, international orthodontists and clinicians will gather on the Indonesian island of Bali to share experiences and knowledge at the tenth World Implant Orthodontic Conference (WIOC). To be hosted under the theme of “Versatile applications of TADs: The evolution and future developments” from 6 to 8 September, the event will offer hands-on workshops and lectures by more than 60 speakers.

Besides learning about the latest scientific research conducted all over the world, congress-goers will have the opportunity to learn about the newest technological developments in their field of expertise. Dental suppliers offering a variety of state-of-the-art dental equipment will be showcasing their products at an industry exhibition during the event. Also on the programme are a poster presentation and a dinner party at the Ritz-Carlton on 7 September.

WIOC, to be hosted together with the 13th Annual Meeting of the Indonesian Association of Orthodontists (IAO), will again take place at Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center. The venue boasts a 70,000 m² garden landscape and a 50,000 m² building area and offers 32 fully equipped meeting rooms and 15 offices for breakout sessions, luncheons, dinners, workshops and press conferences.

“The WIOC conference is meant to bring together all orthodontists globally, regionally and of course locally to foster seeds of orthodontic knowledge, especially in the field of temporary anchorage devices, which has now become a new paradigm in orthodontic mechanics,” explained IAO President Dr Krisnawati Tarman. “There will be world-class high-calibre speakers who are experts in this field who will be sharing their expertise in the meeting, hands-on courses, as well as oral and poster scientific awards and a dental trade exhibition.”

Detailed congress and registration information can be found at www.wioc2018.com.

South Korean researchers have developed a coating that reduces bacterial growth on dental appliances. (Photograph: vvoe/Shutterstock)
FUKUOKA, Japan: According to new research from Japan, elderly people with poor oral health constantly ingest oral microbial populations that are more dysbiotic, which could lead to respiratory health problems and pneumonia. The study highlights the importance of dental health and the attention that should be given to tongue microbiota status in older adults with poor oral health.

The findings come from a large population-based study, led by Dr. Yoshihisa Yamashita from the Faculty of Dental Science at Kyushu University in Fukuoka in Japan, that identified variations in the tongue microbiota among elderly people in Japan. Prior to the study, researchers knew that aspiration of saliva in combination with dysbiotic tongue microbiota can lead to pneumonia. In their study, Yamashita and his colleagues investigated the tongue microbiota variations and dental health of 506 men and women aged 70–80 using next-generation sequencing to analyse the samples and identified factors associated with dysbiotic shift in the tongue microbiota composition.

The researchers found that the total bacterial density was independent of dental health, whereas the microbiota composition showed an association with tooth conditions. They found two cohabiting groups of predominant commensals, one of which was primarily composed of Prevotella histicola, Veillonella atypica, Streptococcus salivarius and Streptococcus parasanguinis, which have been previously associated with an increased risk of mortality due to pneumonia among frail elderly people. This bacterial group was more predominant in the participants with fewer teeth, a higher plaque index and more caries-affected teeth.

"Fewer teeth, poorer dental hygiene, and more dental caries experience are closely related to dysbiotic shift in the tongue microbiota composition, which might be harmful to the respiratory health of elderly adults with swallowing problems," said Yamashita.

The study, titled "Tongue microbiota and oral health status in community-dwelling elderly adults," was published online in *mSphere* on 15 August 2018.
New Zealand children miss annual dental check-ups

By DTI

MANAWATU, New Zealand: Frequent dental check-ups are important to maintain good oral health. However, in the Manawatu district on the North Island of New Zealand, more than 4,000 schoolchildren have missed their annual dental checks because of a backlog at the MidCentral District Health Board’s (DHB) Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service since 2016. The backlog has caused many children to suffer from dental afflictions.

The DHB service provides free dental treatment for children up to 17 years and uses mobile clinics to visit more than 70 schools. In 2016, four resignations at the DHB, the introduction of a new records system and damage to one of the service’s mobile dental units caused the backlog. By December that same year, 8,000 children had not had a check-up for more than a year.

In October 2017, there were still more than 6,500 children on the waiting list because of staff shortages. At that time, the service had 17 staff members and five vacant roles, Dr Phil Marshall, Clinical Director of Dental Services for the MidCentral DHB, told the New Zealand-based news website Stuff.co.nz.

“Over the last couple of years, the service has seen a number of retirements as the dental therapists have reached the end of their careers, and recruitment of graduates can only be done at the end of each year when they graduate,” added Marshall in a written response to Stuff.co.nz.

As a consequence of the missed check-ups, 354 children needed to be treated under general anaesthetic in the last 12 months, often to have decayed teeth pulled or restorative work done. During this time, more than 4,800 Manawatu children missed their annual check-ups again.

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Owing to a backlog in service, many New Zealand children have missed their annual dental check-ups. (Photograph: Tewan Banditrukkanka/Shutterstock)
CANBERRA, Australia: To allow manufacturers and suppliers of dental products to express their level of business confidence in the industry, the Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) conducts the Australian Dental Products Business Conditions Survey on a quarterly basis. According to the results of the most recent survey, there is an overall feeling that the industry is facing some challenges, mostly due to rising costs.

“Businesses that supply the products used by dentists and allied oral healthcare professionals are facing challenges that range from rising electricity costs to higher prices associated with importing products from overseas. This doesn’t diminish the dental industry’s commitment to making available the latest innovations, it just means that the businesses have increased challenges,” said ADIA CEO Troy Williams.

According to ADIA, the survey is a clear indicator that the Australian government needs to maintain its efforts to reduce bureaucratic hurdles. However, a new proposal by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for a tax on the supply of medical devices in the dental and medical industries may be doing the exact opposite.

Speaking about some of the positive aspects of the survey, Williams noted that the dental industry is growing, and the survey provides clear indication that businesses are employing more people. In addition, the survey revealed that large-scale trade shows such as ADX18 Sydney, Australia’s largest healthcare trade show, can positively influence sales volumes. This result Williams said reinforces ADIA’s commitment to providing the industry with “world-class trade shows.”

Summing up the results of the survey, Williams went on to say “ADIA members want to invest in their business and want to create jobs. This survey shows they are being challenged by rising business costs and that’s why we need government to cut the red tape, which will lead to reduced compliance costs.”

The 66th Annual Meeting of Japanese Association for Dental Research

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