

Oral health in multiple sclerosis patients

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Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic demyelinating disease of the central nervous system occurring in young adults, mainly female. MS dominates in Caucasians living in regions far away from the equator. The coexistence of genetic and environmental factors is considered in its etiopathogenesis. MS mostly occurs in the form of relapses and remissions, leading to the physical disability and cognitive decline. The diagnosis is based on MRI images and cerebrospinal fluid testing. The current guidelines for therapy recommend immunosuppression (steroids during relapses) and immunomodulation. Symptomatic treatment of pain or muscle rigidity is used additionally. The epidemiological data draw attention to the geographical distribution of indicators related to the increased prevalence of MS and dental caries. The role of D3 vitamin is discussed in the development of both diseases, but the role of amalgam filling in the development of MS is rejected. There have been claims over the years that mercury leaking from amalgam dental fillings damages the immune system and causes a broad range of diseases, including MS. While the cause of MS remains unknown, there is no scientific evidence that heavy metal poisoning is responsible for either the onset or worsening of MS. The demyelinating process in MS and applied treatment predispose to the neurological pain in the facial area or the temporomandibular joints. The increasing disability and used treatment enhance the susceptibility to mucosal inflammation and xerostomia, and activate viral and fungal infections. Patients with MS require regular dental control often in conditions arranged for disable people .

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