

Complications of periodontitis in pregnant women

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Introduction: Periodontitis is a chronic inflammatory disease of supporting structure of the teeth which was finally lead to tooth mobility and tooth loss. Bacterial plaque on teeth surfaces is a major risk factor of this disease. The inflammatory condition caused by periodontitis in oral cavity can increase the inflammatory factors in the body. On the other hand, the periopathogen microorganisms can enter into the blood circulation through ulcerated and inflamed sulcular epithelium (which was in contact with teeth) and find in the other site of the body. In recent decades many studies assessed the effect of periodontitis on the other systemic disease or conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Results: Periodontitis affects about 6% of women in child bearing age. Researches showed that periodontitis of the pregnant women have association with preterm birth and as a consequence low birth weight. Additionally, studies revealed that periodontitis of pregnant women can increased the possibility of gestational diabetes which had life threatening effects on mothers and infants. The increased risk of pre-eclampsia (a major cause of perinatal and maternal morbidity and mortality) also was shown in pregnant women with periodontitis. **Conclusion:** This review assessed the complications of periodontitis in pregnant women and their infants.

Key words: Periodontitis, Pregnant women, Gestational diabetes, Preterm birth, Pre- eclampsia