REVIEW

Oral microbiome and peri-implant diseases: where are we now?

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Abstract: Peri-implant infective diseases (PIIDs) in oral implantology are commonly known as peri-implant mucositis (PIM) and periimplantitis (PI). While PIM is restricted to the peri-implant mucosa and is reversible, PI also affects implant-supporting bone and, therefore, is very difficult to eradicate. PIIDs in clinical outcome may resemble gingivitis and periodontitis, as they share similar risk factors. However, recent study in the field of proteomics and other molecular studies indicate that PIIDs exhibit significant differences when compared to periodontal diseases. This review aims to elucidate the current knowledge of PIIDs, their etiopathology and diversified microbiology as well as the role of molecular studies, which may be a key to personalized diagnostic and treatment protocols of peri-implant infections in the near future.

Keywords: dental plaque, infection, titanium, microbiome, periimplantitis

Introduction

Titanium is widely used in implantation procedures in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Despite a high success rate ranging up to 98%, biological complications such as peri-implant mucositis (PIM) and periimplantitis (PI) are still possible threats to treatment success.[1,2] PIM describes an inflammatory lesion that resides in the mucosa, while PI also affects the supporting bone.[3,4] Inflammatory destruction of the implant-supporting tissues is a result of biofilm formation on the implant surface. The prevalence of peri-implant infective diseases (PIIDs) was reported to be up to 80% for PIM and 56% for PI.[5] PIID in oral surgery may develop in the early postoperative period as a result of impaired wound healing (early infection), or after the process of implant integration (late infection).[6]

Surgical procedures in the oral cavity are classified as type 2 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.[7] Hence, to minimize the risk of early infection, a prophylactic antibiotic therapy is applied. Broad-spectrum antibiotics such as penicillin or clindamycin are usually administrated in the pre- and early postoperative period in almost all fields of implant surgery in medicine.[8,9] Dental implants, however, being partially external devices, are under increased risk of bacterial contamination during the whole period of the implant functioning in the oral cavity.[10] Late infections represent a significant cause of dental implant failure, and they develop most commonly. This fact distinguishes oral PIIDs from other biomaterial-associated infections (BAIs).[11] The latter are usually a result of surgical site infections (SSIs), which develop soon after surgery and are related to major procedures such as artificial joint implantation or the application of fracture fixation devices. As these patients are monitored postoperatively in the hospital, SSIs can be easily detected and treated with simple wound drainage and antibiotic administration.[12] Once an implant – such as an

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internal fixator or endoprosthesis – is healed, it is unlikely to develop infection as it is retained beneath the protecting barrier of tissues such as the skin, muscles and fascia.[10] By contrast, an implant is exposed in the oral cavity throughout its functioning time. Therefore, the risk of bacterial contamination of the peri-implant area is constant, as bacterial plaque is forming steadily on the implant's surface. Hygiene measures are for now the only weapon against biofilm formation. Unfortunately, it frequently poses a challenge for the clinicians to detect the infection before irreversible damage occurs around the implant. Moreover, subjective symptoms of the patient may differ. That is why some patients only seek help when advanced infection is already established. Because current possibilities in disease detection are still not explicated, implication for new diagnostic tools is required.

Biofilm formation on oral implants and disease development

Bacterial adhesion to an abiotic surface is a complex physicochemical phenomenon, which was first described as the "race for the surface" by Gristina et al.[13,14] It describes the process where the surface poses a substratum on which host and bacterial cells compete. If bacteria inhabit the surface in sufficient numbers, the implant will become infected and in some cases require removal.[15] This model of infection development proposed by Gristina et al was a benchmark for technological and material studies in the field of regenerative medicine for many years. However, the composition of the bacterial biofilm responsible for infections of orthopedic devices is not as diversified as the dental plaque which forms in the oral cavity. Biofilms formed around orthopedic fixators are mainly composed of *Staphylococci* and/or *Streptococci* and are infrequently followed by *Escherichia coli* or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.[12] Bacterial colonies in oral infections are characterized by manifold and multispecies composition.[16,17]

The process of formation of oral bacterial biofilm, which is responsible for periodontal disease, was thoroughly evaluated by Teles et al,[18] Haffajee and Socransky[19] and Quirynen et al[20] at Forsyth Dental Center. These researchers assumed that the tooth surface is consecutively colonized by different, subsequently appearing complexes of bacteria in the following order: yellow/purple → orange → red/green. Moreover, the clinical symptoms of infection usually reflect the amount and composition of dental plaque harbored around the tooth. This pattern of bacterial settlement was also translated into a model of oral implant infections, as it was assumed that PIIDs shared common features with periodontal diseases. With time, despite some similarities, it became obvious that they do in fact differ

in many ways.[21,22] PIID is a result of concomitant factors associated with the general status of the patient, the quality and quantity of the surrounding tissues and the characteristics of the implant material. Uncontrolled diabetes mellitus, autoimmune disorders, genetic factors, bisphosphonate therapy, head and neck radiotherapy, chemotherapy, smoking and alcohol consumption are the most commonly listed general risk factors for infection.[23,24] Chronic systemic diseases, chemotherapy, surgical trauma or bacterial contamination during implant surgery are considered risk factors associated with early implant failures. These result in impaired healing of the surgically wounded tissues.[25–27] Antibiotic prophylaxis, as well as preoperative mouth rinse with 0.2% chlorhexidine, can reduce the incidence of early failures.[28,29] Local factors such as dental calculus, improper dental fillings, and failed endodontic treatment of neighboring teeth increase the risk of implant infection, and hence these issues must be resolved prior to any surgical procedure in the oral cavity.[30–32]

Dental implant susceptibility to infection is also caused by the morphology of peri-implant tissues. Healing after implant insertion consists of osseo- and periointegration. These two independent but highly related phenomena are a result of host's response to foreign material being placed into the jawbones.[33] Osseointegration describes the biological connection of the living bone with the intraosseous screws.[34] It is completed within 3–6 months after implant placement into the dental alveolus. At the genetic level, osseointegration appears to be a result of inflammation decrease in favor of osteo-, angio- and neurogenesis at the early stages of wound healing.[33] Periointegration describes the formation of peri-implant mucosa around the transmucosal abutment, which usually takes place within 8–12 weeks after abutment insertion.[35,36] Nevertheless, even when properly healed, peri-implant tissues differ significantly from periodontal tissues surrounding natural teeth.[35] The latter constitute a collar seal formed by alveolar bone, periodontal ligament and a cementum called periodontium which separates teeth from the environment of the oral cavity. While those structures develop during tooth eruption, peri-implant tissues form as a result of surgical trauma during wound repair.[36,37] These fundamental differences in tissue morphogenesis implicate further distinct features of peri-implant tissue morphology.[22,38] These include the following: a lack of periodontal space, the scar tissue nature of soft tissues, receded blood flow caused by poor vascularity and a deeper sulcus which allows for deeper penetration of bacteria.[39,40] Thus, even a fully integrated dental implant exhibits a space which is more susceptible to bacterial infection than periodontal tissues.

The process of biofilm formation on implant surface is comparable to biofilm formation on natural teeth. Surface characteristics of the colonized material may influence the amount and composition of biofilm formation, as with the enamel of natural teeth.[41,42] Nevertheless, the role of surface properties on biofilm formation is still being investigated. Rough surfaces may accumulate more supra- and subgingival dental plaques than smooth ones.[41] This is due to deeper plaque retention in irregular surface niches where bacteria are protected from the natural cleansing effect of saliva, cheeks and tongue movements and oral hygiene measures.[3,43] Bacterial colonization patterns are also related to factors other than just the value of the mean surface roughness.[44] The aspect of surface wettability is regarded as the second most relevant factor in the dynamics of cell adhesion to the surface.[45,46] Some researchers described hydrophobic surfaces as accumulating more bacterial plaque than hydrophilic ones.[47,48] The explanation for this phenomenon has usually referred to the simplified principles of thermodynamics based on adhesion forces calculated with the DLVO (Derjaguin and Landau, Verwey and Overbeek) theory.[49] As most species of oral bacteria possess cell walls of a hydrophobic nature, they will easily adhere to the similar surfaces. Analogously, bacteria with hydrophilic cell walls will adhere to surfaces of hydrophilic nature. However, the large heterogeneity of the phylotypes of the microbial population in the oral cavity as well as their ability to switch from hydrophobic to hydrophilic in response to environmental changes should be taken into consideration.[50,51] In clinical conditions, bacteria attach to implant surfaces through a protein medium called acquired pellicle (AP) composed of proteins and sugars derived from saliva. Formation of AP prior to bacterial adhesion is crucial for subsequent biofilm formation. Pellicle covers all surfaces in the oral cavity regardless of their wettability or roughness.[52] Hence, it constitutes an isolating medium that triggers an initial attachment of the bacterial species through trans-membranous proteins, commonly known as adhesins.[53,54] AP is an intermediate conditioning film separating the implant surface from oral bacteria. Therefore, it may also have an impact on implant surface properties obtained during implant manufacturing. Moreover, in biological fluid, the presence of salts and proteins may regulate the interactions between hydrophilic and hydrophobic surfaces.[50] The mechanisms and forces governing AP formation prior to biofilm settlement are still under evaluation.

Some authors suggest that material type and its purity should also be taken into consideration as titanium and zirconium may exhibit different patterns of bacterial biofilm formation.[44] No differences, however, were found in AP protein composition or its bacterial binding properties between them.[55] Therefore, the current data are still too inaccurate to draw any conclusions as to which of these materials is more prone to bacterial adhesion. Consequently, the forces responsible for microbial adhesion to implant surfaces in the oral cavity are still not fully understood. Disparities between the available data make it challenging to draw conclusions concerning the role of surface wettability in biofilm formation around oral implants in the clinical environment.[56] None of in vitro and in vivo studies have found a practical exploitation in the field of antibacterial and anti-adhesive surfaces application in oral implantology so far. Therefore, the problem of biofilm formation around dental implants is still pending, regardless of the shape, macro- and microfeatures or surface modification.[23]

Bacterial colonization of the surface irregularities starts around 30 minutes after the implant is introduced into the environment of the oral cavity.[20,57] Initial adhesion begins at locations where bacteria are sheltered from shear forces.[49,58] Initial attachment of bacteria is driven by hydrophobic, electrostatic and van der Waals forces which bring the cells closer to the implant surface coated by AP. After bacteria directly adhere to the AP's proteins, an irreversible attachment is established. From this moment on, bacterial metabolic activity is upregulated, and migration spreads out on the implant surface. As dental plaque matures, the diversity of the microbial community increases.[14,59,60] Recent studies with a high throughput of sequencing technologies identified more than 700 bacterial species and 25,000 phylotypes in the oral cavity.[16,17,61,62] The precise definition of the oral microbiome is still difficult.[63] Nonetheless, a major proportion of bacterial sequences obtained from patients in different studies seem to be comparable. This indicates that there might be specific "core microbiota," which are different in "healthy" and "diseased" mouths.[16,17,61] Pathological conditions, such as untreated periodontal disease or other concomitant factors, may, however, induce changes in the oral ecosystem which favor the colonization of the implant sites. During the early phase of biofilm formation, supra- and subgingival dental plaque is dominated mostly by Gram-positive cocci, nonmotile bacilli and a limited number of Gram-negative anaerobic species.[27,38] A healthy peri-implant socket is mainly colonized by oral *Streptococci* which constitute from 45% to 86% of supra- and subgingival peri-implant sulcus microbiota. *Actinomyces naeslundii*, *Actinomyces oris* and *Actinomyces meyeri*, as well as *Neisseria* and *Rothia* species, are also frequently isolated.[20,64,65] In the study by

Diaz et al,[66] early colonizers were as follows: *Streptococcus thermophilus*, *Streptococcus oralis*, *Streptococcus infantis* and *Streptococcus sanguinis* species followed by *Neisseria pharyngis* and *Gemella haemolysans*. These bacteria were considered by the authors to be a core group, providing the basis for the subsequent colonization of facultative and obligate anaerobes. Moreover, subject-specific shifts in biofilm composition of the *Streptococci* species between the 4th and 8th hour of biofilm formation were observed.[66] In the study by Maruyama et al,[16] early colonizers correlated positively with each other and initiated colonization of the orange complex bacteria. On the other hand, negative correlations between early and late colonizers were also observed. A decrease in the *Streptococcus intermedius* level was followed by an increase in *Eubacterium nodatum* species at infected sites.

In another study, Thurnheer and Belibasakis[67] aimed to develop a "submucosal" in vitro biofilm model by integration of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* into its composition and, hence, shift patterns between these species. Authors proved that when *S. epidermidis* was co-inoculated with *S. aureus*, the former failed to grow in the biofilm partially explaining the more frequent detection of *S. aureus* in sites with PI.[67] What is more interesting is that this is not common for other BAIs.

Shift patterns depend on specific interrelationships between bacterial species. The formation of dental plaque is a dynamic process which may result in significant shifts during the very first hours after implant exposure to the oral cavity.[68] According to some studies, however, there is a compelling discrepancy in the quality and quantity of peri-implant microbiota between the tested populations. It was observed that even healthy peri-implant sulcus may be infrequently colonized by periodontopathogenic *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Prevotella intermedia*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*. These pathogens were identified in healthy peri-implant pockets without any symptoms of inflammation.[69,70] On that account, it seems that peri-implant infections are not a straightforward consequence of the presence of periodontopathogenic species per se. They are instead, highly related to the host's response to composition shifts of subject-specific oral microbiota. Consequently, potential periodontopathogenic species may not be invasive as long as their proportion is below the critical level. On the other hand, they can pose a potential risk for infection once the symbiotic balance between the host and the microbiota is lost. It may be possible that the interindividual variation in microflora of the digestive tract, including the oral cavity, can be attributed to differences in host factors that modulate colonization patterns.[58] This may partly explain a clinical observation in cases where inflammation severity does not correspond with oral hygiene measures. As an example, there are patients who suffer from PIIDs despite having a proper hygiene regimen and vice versa – there are cases with no clinical signs of infection despite poor oral hygiene or a history of "periodontitis" or smoking. PIID appears to result from an inappropriate inflammatory reaction to the normal microbiota exacerbated by the presence of some disease-associated bacterial species, host-related factors, geographical factors influencing disease progression and the characteristics of the foreign body material.[61,63] These interactions are elucidated in Figure 1.

Nonetheless, to better understand the complex interactions between host's response and microbial biofilm, more studies and new models are required.[23,68] In the work by Hajishengallis and Lamont,[71] the polymicrobial synergy and dysbiosis model of periodontal disease development was proposed. According to the current state of the art, PIIDs in oral implantology may also develop in this way. These, however, are additionally influenced by the presence of the material and physicochemical phenomena at implant–tissue interface. Figure 2 represents a proposed model of the mechanisms involved in peri-implant infections.

PIM and PI

A several-week period of uninterrupted plaque maturation may lead to a shift in bacterial biofilm composition. When this is accompanied by the immune system disintegration of the host, peri-implant mucosa inflammation may be established. This is described as PIM, which is regarded as important transitional event in the progression to PI.[3,78] A shift from healthy peri-implant sulcus to a diseased peri-implant pocket is associated with the increased presence of cocci, motile bacilli and spirochetes. A change in biofilm distribution is commonly more prominent in subgingival rather than supragingival dental plaque.[79–81] Therefore, PIM may result in an increase in the proportion of periodontopathogenic bacteria, mostly from the orange complex: *F. nucleatum*, *P. intermedia* and *Eubacterium* species. A decrease in S*treptococci* spp. and *Actinomyces* spp. is also common.[82,83] Clinically, PIM may be identified by redness and swelling of the soft tissues. Bleeding on probing (BOP), however, is currently recognized as the most important feature above all other symptoms of infections. Pain is an unusual symptom. Yet, if present, it is generally associated with acute infection.[80,84] Histopathological examination reveals an inflammatory lesion in the connective tissue of the peri-implant mucosa
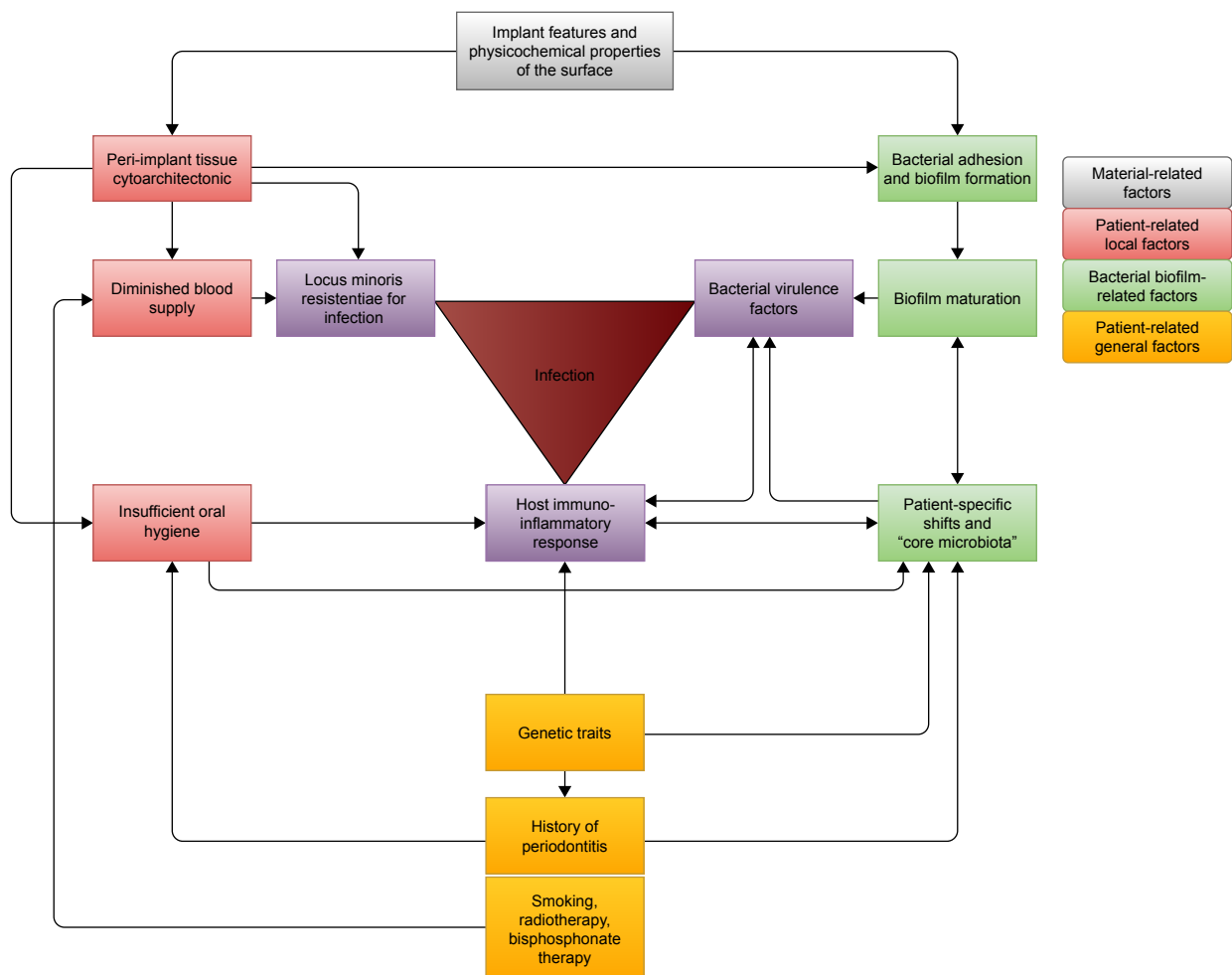
Figure 1 Peri-implant infection is a result of the co-occurrence of several, highly related factors.
Notes: Implant characteristics influence both: peri-implant tissue cytoarchitectonics which is highly susceptible to bacterial infiltration and constitutes locus minoris resistentiae [a place of less resistance] for bacterial infiltration. On the other hand, the implant surface poses a favorable niche for bacterial adhesion and biofilm maturation. Smoking decreases blood flow in peri-implant capillaries leading to a higher risk of infection. Insufficient hygiene measures and a history of "periodontitis" are important risk factors for the development of PIIDs. Genetic traits may be responsible for host immunoinflammatory response and subject-specific shifts in the oral biofilm. When the three major components exist simultaneously, an infection development at the implant–tissue interface has a high possibility.
Abbreviation: PIID, peri-implant infective disease.

dominated by plasma cells and lymphocytes.[85] There is no sign of bone loss on clinical and radiographic examination. Supramucosal plaque formation should be considered as the main initial event in the development of PI.[3] PIM, however, is reversible if proper oral hygiene accompanied by nonsurgical treatment of the infected screw is performed.[86]

Persistent inflammation may spread further, reach deeper parts of the peri-implant area and result in the development of PI. The process is described as inflammatory, affecting tissues around an osseointegrated implant in function, resulting in loss of supporting bone.[3] In PI, a subject-specific shift in subgingival biofilm may be present as well. These are usually associated with an increase in the level of pathogenic bacteria from the orange and red complexes. *P. gingivalis* and *Tannerella forsythia* are the most common and abundant red

complex species, whereas *Prevotella nigrescens*, *Prevotella oris* and *F. nucleatum* are frequently isolated periodontal pathogens from the orange complex.[26,69] Bacterial species associated with PI may, however, significantly differ from those involved in periodontal disease. Species isolated from infected peri-implant pockets, yet infrequently abundant in infected periodontal sites, were *Synergistetes* spp. HOT-360, *Pseudoramibacter alactolyticus*, *Eubacterium* spp., *Veillonella* spp., *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Candida* spp., *Filifactor alocis*, *Dialister invisus* and *Mitsuokella* spp. HOT 131, *Peptococcus* spp. HOT-168, *Clostridiales* [F-1][G-1] spp. HOT-093, *Catonella morbid*, *Chloroflexi* spp. and *Tenericutes* spp.[21,87,88] *Porphyromonas* spp. HOT-395, *P. nigrescens* and *P. oris* were proposed as part of the "core microbiome" in PI by Maruyama et al.[16] Therefore, the microflora of infected
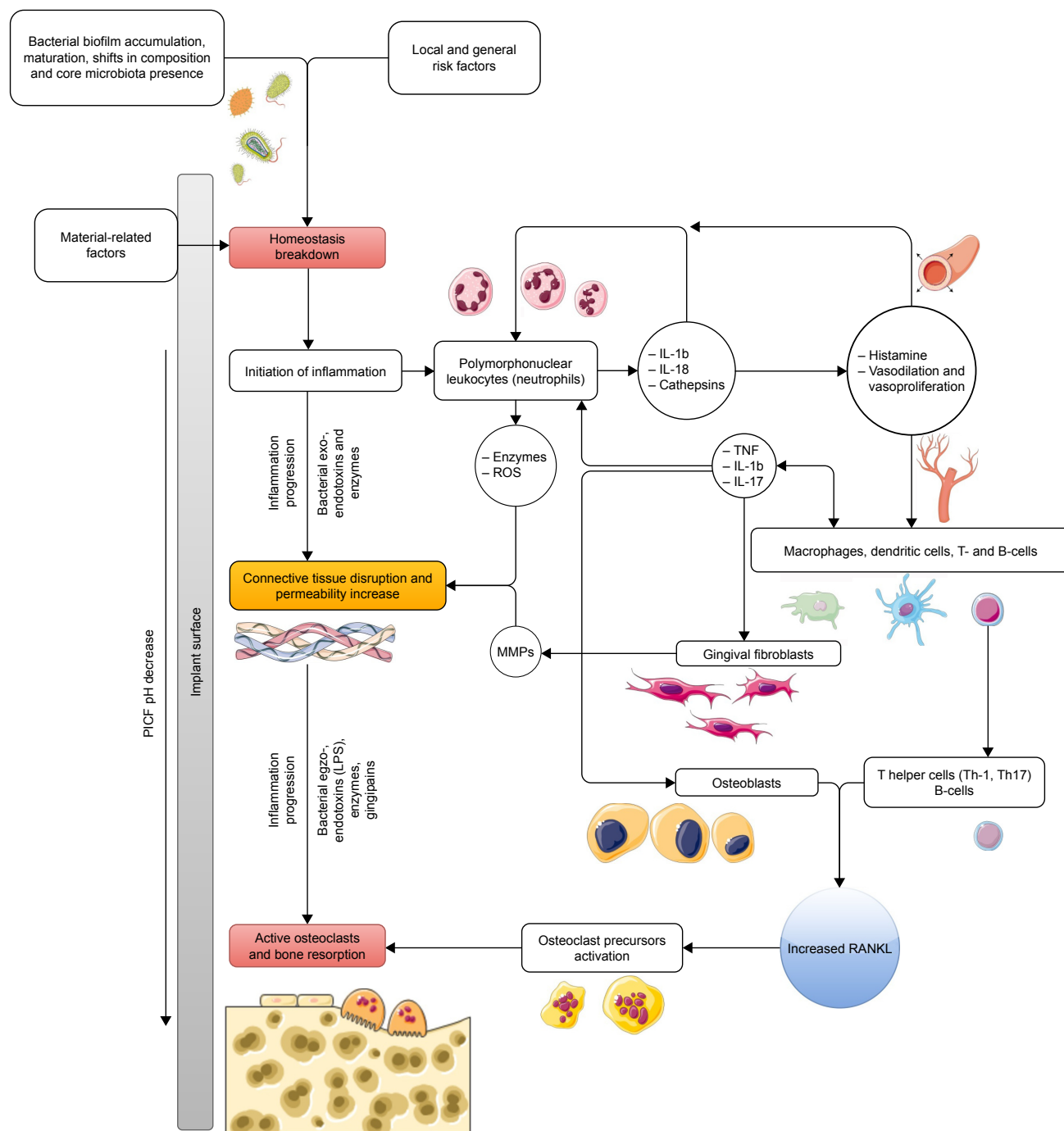
Figure 2 The modified PSD model of peri-implant disease is based on the work by Hajishengallis and Lamont[71] and Hajishengallis.[72]

Notes: Interactions between bacterial- and host-related factors lead to homeostasis breakdown, similar to the PSD model.[73] In this case, however, material-related factors (roughness, wettability and chemical composition) also play a substantial role. Bacterial products in the peri-implant sulcus act as a chemotactic stimulus for PMN migration through connective tissues. This early stage of inflammation is associated with microvascular changes (vasodilation) – in the peri-implant epithelium and pro-inflammatory cytokine release (IL-1b, IL-8a and cathepsins). Vasodilation and vasoproliferation increase the PMN infiltrate, cytokine release and recruitment of other immune cell types (macrophages, dendritic cells, T- and B-cells). Soft tissues around rough implant surfaces are characterized by greater microvessel density and a higher number of T- and B-cell infiltrate when compared to tissues around smooth implant surfaces.[74] Peri-implant mucosa may also present less Langerhans cells and more interstitial cells.[75] Release of TNF, IL-17 and IL exacerbates the inflammatory response by stimulation of PMNs to produce enzymes, ROS and fibroblasts to release MMPs. In the presence of bacterial exotoxins and enzymes, connective tissue disruption occurs, leading to increased tissue permeability and fibroblast degeneration. The proliferation of epithelium into collagen-depleted areas results in pocket deepening, infection progression and a pH decrease in PICF.[76] TNF, IL-1b and IL-17 also regulate the development of T helper cells which lead to the expression of the osteoblast RANKL and initiate the maturation of osteoclast precursors. This process is also facilitated by PMNs if they are within sufficient proximity to the bone. Gram-negative bacterial virulence factors (especially LPS and gingipains) exacerbate the inflammatory process and bone resorption. Decreased pH of the PICF or mechanical injury of the implant surface may initiate TiO_2 layer dissolution and corrosion process.[76] The ions/metallic particles of titanium may be phagocytosed by macrophages. This results in an additional release of pro-inflammatory cytokines (mainly IL-8b) when macrophages are coexposed to LPS.[77]

Abbreviations: LPS, lipopolysaccharides; MMP, metalloproteinase; PICF, peri-implant crevicular fluid; PMN, polymorphonuclear leukocyte; PSD, polymicrobial synergy and dysbiosis; RANKL, receptor activator of the nuclear factor kappa B ligand; ROS, reactive oxygen species.

peri-implant sites is found to be much more diverse than in periodontitis.[83,89,90] *Staphylococcus* spp. are characteristic for BAIs as these species have a high affinity to titanium surfaces.[59] Established inflammation decreases the pH value of the peri-implant environment. Microbial-mediated corrosion is responsible for the thinning of the TiO_2 protective layer of an implant body.[76] Titanium wear products induce cytotoxicity and hence escalate the inflammation process by cytokine production and bone osteolysis.[77]

Bacterial shifts in peri-implant microbiota are not a common phenomenon. Until now, few comprehensive studies comparing the microbiota of healthy and infected peri-implant sites were conducted.[69] The study by Perrson and Renvert (2014) on 213 subjects with a total of 976 implants in use showed no statistically significant differences in the microbiota on healthy and diseased implants.[69] On the other hand, Cortelli et al[87] described higher bacterial frequency in PI and PIM in comparison to healthy peri-implant sites. However, a progressive increase in the frequency was not observed for all tested species. The authors concluded that implants may exhibit specific bacterial microbiota that is not totally similar to the bacteria of diseased teeth.[87] In addition, the composition of the bacterial pattern was not related to the patient's dental status or smoking habits. A contribution of other noncultivable pathogens could be involved in the disease process. *A. actinomycetemcomitans*, *P. gingivalis*, *P. intermedia*, *T. forsythia* and *Treponema denticola* may be present at both healthy and diseased peri-implant sites and, therefore, are not strictly related to peri-implant disease sites.[91] By contrast, Al-Radha et al[92] demonstrated that periodontal pathogens including *P. gingivalis*, *T. forsythia*, *A. actinomycetemcomitans*, *P. intermedia* and *Fusobacterium* spp. were found at about 40% of infected peri-implant sites. In the study by Persson and Renvert,[69] infected peri-implant sites harbored amounts of *T. forsythia*, *P. gingivalis*, *Tannerella socransky*, *S. aureus*, *Staphylococcus anaerobius*, *S. intermedius* and *Streptococcus mitis* approximately four times higher than that found on healthy implants.[67] These species constituted 30% of peri-implant microbiota at infected sites and 14.1% at healthy sites.[69] *P. gingivalis*, *T. denticola* and *T. forsythia* exist as a consortium that exhibits synergistic virulence resulting in immunoinflammatory bone resorption.[93] In the recent study by Tsigarida et al,[78] it was proven that bacterial shifts in core microbiome are different in smokers and nonsmokers. Authors showed that smoking may shape peri-implant microbiome in states of clinical health, depleting commensals and enriching for pathogenic species. These observations are in contrary to the aforementioned observations of Cortelli et al.[87]

Moreover, Apatzidou et al[94] recently proved that diseased peri-implant sites and healthy periodontal tissues in the same individuals with the history of periodontitis represent distinct microbiological ecosystems.

A significant discrepancy between results confirms, however, that PIIDs are an intra-individual, polymicrobial infection where certain core microbiota may pose a significant role. In addition, subject-related shifts may depend on the interactions between bacteria as well as the interaction with the host immune response. In the absence of a meta-analysis, variability in microbiologic outcomes and the limited number of available studies make the current evidence for straightforward microbiological analysis of peri-implant sites currently unachievable.[63]

Clinical and radiological symptoms of PIIDs

A healthy dental implant can be described as nonmobile, with no radiographic evidence of peri-implant translucency and absence of pain and pathology. A maximum of 1 mm of bone loss in 1 year following implant loading and 0.02–0.15 mm annually thereafter is acceptable. There is a functional survival rate of 90% for 5 years, and 85% for 10 years, and an esthetically acceptable outcome is also expected.[34,95] An implant that has not fulfilled the predefined success criteria but is stable is regarded as "failing." An implant that has lost its integrity with the bony tissue requires removal.[84,96,97]

Implant failure may be a result of both mechanical and/or biological complications, where peri-implant infections represent the latter.[98,99] Modern dentistry regards implant treatment as a continuous process, where regular checkup visits are an absolute requirement for therapeutic success. Consequently, potential infection control should be performed conscientiously. To evaluate the condition of the peri-implant area, clinical examination of marginal tissues should be performed in the first place.[100] In periodontal disease, the first sign of inflammation is gingival redness and swelling. However, a subjective assessment of peri-implant soft tissue condition may be insufficient, as it exhibits some distinct features. For example, a soft tissue collar around the dental implant abutment is commonly nonkeratinized mucosa. This is usually redder than keratinized gingiva present around the natural teeth.[101,102] Moreover, the color and characteristics of the transmucosal implant abutment may exert an effect on the surrounding tissues.[84] Thus, an assessment of the peri-implant mucosa should be performed by gentle manual examination of peri-implant sulcus with a blunt, calibrated

periodontal probe.[103] Angulation of the probe at ~60° of the long axis of the tooth/implant and running it along the gingival margin enables an objective soft tissue assessment. The pressure force of the probe should not exceed 0.25 N as peri-implant probing depth measurements are more sensitive to force variation than periodontal pocket probing.[3,104] This examination enables the detection of two main parameters of the peri-implant condition: BOP and peri-implant pocket depth (PPD).[105] BOP is an essential, early sign of underlying inflammation, which is considered a major indicator of peri-implant infection. It is a result of micro-ulcerations in the epithelium that lines the peri-implant pocket and may be present even without visible signs of infection.[4] Lack of BOP correlates with healthy pockets in 98.8% of cases. By contrast, its presence is diagnosed in 67%–90% of cases of PIM, and more than 97% of cases of PI.[25,103,106] Increased pocket depth (PD) and clinical attachment loss (CAL) are pathognomonic for periodontal diseases (Table 1).[3,84] These parameters are, however, a matter of debate as far as dental implants are concerned. It has been shown that PD of a healthy implant may vary as well. Its values are related to the type of the implant system used, depth and angulation of the intraosseous screw in the jawbone, type of implant–abutment connection, abutment emergence profile, biotype of the peri-implant soft tissues as well as the implant's surface roughness. A disparity of soft tissue composition, organization and attachment of the gingiva make the conditions for PD measurements around teeth and implants not fully comparable.[84,105] In esthetic zone, an implant is inserted deeper into the bone to avoid its potential exposure by gingival recession. When it occurs, a part of gray implant is visible while smiling. Deeper submerging prevents this scenario from happening.[107] Pus discharge from the peri-implant socket is a definitive symptom of an ongoing infection.[103] Suppuration may be attributed to either severe PIM or PI. Hence, a proper diagnostic protocol must be supplemented by a radiographic examination. Diversified criteria for radiological symptoms of PI were proposed by different authors. In general, it is argued that the following symptoms may indicate PI: progressive marginal bone loss of >0.2 mm annually, or >3 threads of intraosseous screw, or >2–3 mm from implant–abutment connection covered by bone are exposed into the oral cavity due to bone resorption (Table 1).[103,108] The differential diagnosis of PIM and PI must always be supplemented with radiographic examination.[109] It should be emphasized that bone loss facilitated by infection must be separated from mechanical overload of the implant.[98] Persistent, infiltrating inflammation may result in progressive resorption of the circumferential bone and produce implant mobility.

Human markers of PIID

A shift from healthy peri-implant sulcus into the infected peri-implant pocket is induced by bacterial pathogenic activity. The inflammatory response of the host's tissues is mediated by bacterial virulence factors responsible for pro-inflammatory cytokine release, as well as enzyme and toxin production. These soluble mediators of immune reactions present in the peri-implant crevicular fluid (PICF) are produced as a result of the physiological interaction of gingival epithelium and local leukocytes with dental plaque and oral microorganisms, regardless of the type of implant–abutment connection.[110–113] A proteomic approach to periodontal and peri-implant diseases has recently been viewed as a helpful tool in proper diagnostic and therapeutic protocol of these infectious diseases.[114–116] The contents of PICF may reflect the status of a peri-implant sulcus, either healthy or diseased (Table 2).

Recently, a few human protein biomarkers restricted to periodontal health have been described (Table 2): clusterins (related to the removal of cellular debris and apoptosis), angiotensinogen, thymidine phosphorylase (maintains the integrity of the blood vessels),[117,118] calprotectin (wound healing and cell proliferation), adrenomedullin (antimicrobial through trace metal

Table 1 Clinical and radiological parameters of healthy and infected peri-implant tissues

Peri-implant tissue	Clinical parameters	References	Radiological parameters	References
Healthy pocket	BOP (−) PD 3–5 mm	3, 82	Up to 0.15 mm annually after loading	99, 104
PIM	BOP (+) PD >5 mm (±) Suppuration (±)		Up to 0.15 mm annually after loading	
PI	BOP (+) Increased PD (+) Suppuration (+) Mobility (±)		0.2 mm annually after loading, >2 mm in general or >3 implant threads exposed	

Abbreviations: BOP, bleeding on probing; PD, pocket depth; PI, periimplantitis; PIM, peri-implant mucositis.

Table 2 Human biomarkers of healthy and infected peri-implant tissues

Peri-implant tissue	Markers	References
Healthy pocket	Clusterin, angiotensinogen	112, 113
	β-defensin family, cathelicidin (LL-37), calprotectin, adrenomedullin	114
	Thymidine phosphorylase	115
PIM – mild inflammation	**Proinflammatory cytokines:**	
	↑ IL-1β, TNF-α, MIP-1α, IL-8, IL-6, ICTP, MMP-1, cathepsins	108, 110, 116
	Proteins associated with connective tissue destruction:	
	↑ keratins, titin, actin- and microtubule-associated proteins, l-plastin, histone H4, H1.2	110, 116
	Apolipoprotein	120
	Others: ↑ tPA, PAI-2	130
PI – severe inflammation	**Pro-inflammatory cytokines:**	
	↑ IL-1β, TNF-α, MIP-1α, IL-8, IL-6, Ig-G1, PGE-2, MMP-8	121, 124
	Proteins associated with bone tissue destruction:	
	↑ cathepsin G, osteopontin, osteonectin, osteocalcin calprotectin, ALP, ICTP	110, 113
	↑ RANKL, ↓ OPG	106, 112
	Others:	
	↓ tPA, PAI-2	130
	↑ Neutrophil-derived defensin-1, carbonic anhydrase-1, elongation factor 1-gamma	113

Notes: ↑ represents increase; ↓ represents decrease.
Abbreviations: ALP, alkaline phosphatase; OPG, osteoprotegerin; PAI-2, plasminogen activator inhibitor 2; PI, periimplantitis; PIM, peri-implant mucositis; RANKL, receptor activator of the nuclear factor kappa B ligand; tPA, tissue plasminogen activator.

ion binding), human β-defensins (immune cell chemotaxis), cathelicidin (LL-37)[119] and thymidine phosphorylase.[120]

The early stage of inflammation is characterized by an increase in human pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines. After the transition from a healthy to a diseased pocket, IL-1β, TNF-α, MIP-1α, IL-8 and MMPs may be detected in the PICF.[115,121] Although a significant relationship between the concentration of those cytokines and the severity of the inflammatory response has been described, this is not a common phenomenon.[113,122,123]

It means that the presence of pro-inflammatory cytokines may help to detect infection but provides insufficient evidence to distinguish between PIM and PI.[124] Over time, the inflammatory phase increases and facilitates connective tissue disruption. Several human biomarkers related to connective tissue breakdown detected in PICF have been described (Table 2): C-telopeptide pyridinoline cross-links (ICTP), as well as cytoskeletal-associated proteins (keratins, titin and actin- and microtubule-associated proteins) whose numerical increase in PICF indicates the higher turnover of epithelium, which may correspond with ongoing inflammation.[115,121] In addition, proteoglycans and fibronectin fragments may be detectable as the counterparts of damaged soft tissues.[121] An increased level of apolipoprotein B-100 reflects the presence of micro-ulcerations in sulcular epithelium and indicates the early stage of inflammation.[125] Therefore, the presence of specific proteins associated with soft tissue destruction detected in PICF may indicate inflammation restricted to peri-implant mucosa.

Persistent inflammation eventually leads to bone resorption, and hence to increased mobility of the infected implant. Of all pro-inflammatory cytokines, MMP-8 is regarded as the main collagenase involved in severe PI.[126–128] Some studies also indicated that the level of IL-6 and PGE-2 was increasing along with PPD. PGE-2 is a known mediator for bone resorption by the mechanisms of vasodilation, increase in vascular permeability and activation of osteoclasts.[126,129] The promising markers for bone resorption are also OPG, receptor activator of the nuclear factor kappa B (RANK) and receptor activator of the nuclear factor kappa B ligand (RANKL).[111,130] Pro-inflammatory mediators induce osteoclastogenesis by promotion of RANK expression and OPG suppression. RANKL, also known as the osteoclast differentiation factor, binds directly to RANK. This complex activates pre-osteoclasts and osteoclasts to both differentiation of progenitory cells and mature activity. As an increase in the RANK level in PICF is undoubtedly connected with increased bone turnover and may indicate active inflammation, the significance of OPG-level fluctuations is still controversial.[131–133] It is also worth remembering that elevated OPG and RANKL are strictly connected with bone turnover after osteotomy preparation in the early postoperative period.[134]

Other biomarkers associated with increased bone turnover, which may indicate bone resorption, are osteocalcin, osteopontin, bone collagen fragments, alkaline phosphatase (ALP), cathepsin and pyridinoline cross-linked carboxyterminal telopeptide of type I collagen (ICTP).[115] Baliban et al[118] described a few additional proteins which were restricted

to chronic periodontitis, and hence could also be helpful in diagnosing PI: neutrophil-derived defensin-1, carbonic anhydrase-1 and elongation factor 1-gamma. Recently, Hall et al[135] argued that the plasminogen system and inflammation could be used to distinguish mucositis from PI. The upregulation of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) – plasminogen activator inhibitor 2 (PAI-2) – was observed in PIM. The downregulation of the plasminogen system accompanied by an increased level of pro-inflammatory cytokines was, however, a strong predictor for PI.[135] Other studies also confirm the potential applicability of proteomic approach in defining the status of peri-implant tissues.[118,120,123,124]

Bacterial markers of peri-implant disease

A transition from healthy peri-implant sulcus into the PIM and PI may find its reflection in specific bacterial proteins (Table 3).

Several markers of commensal microbiota associated with gingival health have been described: chaperonin, iron uptake A2 protein and phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase.[118,120] Markers for chronic periodontitis, which may also play a substantial role in PI, are ribulose biphosphate carboxylase, succinyl-CoA:3-ketoacid-coenzyme A transferase and DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit beta.[118] The maturation of the biofilm and an increase in the number of pathogenic bacteria enable the detection of cell wall proteins associated with certain species. *F. nucleatum* is mostly responsible for aggregation with human lymphocytes, invasion of epithelial cells and coaggregation with other putative species. It may contribute to peri-implant disease

development by invading oral mucosa and inducing local inflammation and increased expression of cytokines. FadA adhesin is considered to be involved in tissue cell attachment and invasion. Therefore, this protein constitutes the main virulence factor of orally related *fusobacteria*.[136–138] Another distinctive surface protein with broad-spectrum extracellular matrix binding abilities is AdpB found in *Prevotella* spp.[139] *P. intermedia*, *P. nigrescens*, *T. forsythia* and *P. gingivalis* demonstrate the ability of immunoglobulin (IgA, IgG, IgM) degradation. This process involves lysine-specific cysteine proteases, which is also described as gingipains. These have been recently evaluated in *P. gingivalis* RgpA, RgpB, P59 and P27 strains and were classified as the main virulence factors of *Porphyromonas* spp.[140–143]

Virulence factors of *T. denticola* identified so far were Msp, cfpA and dentilysin. Msp mediates adhesion to other bacteria and host components and, as a porin, acts as a permeable pore, and it contributes to antibiotic resistance. Dentilysin exerts cytotoxic effects on host epithelial cells and induces the local deregulation of cytokines, which may cause long-lasting infections.[144–146] It also binds to gingipains and hence plays an essential role in synergistic polymicrobial biofilm formation with *P. gingivalis*.[147] CfpA is also required for establishing a mixed biofilm with *P. gingivalis*.[145] Virulence factors found in *T. forsythia* and described so far are karilysin, prtH and bspA. PrtH is a cysteine protease which causes the detachment of adherent cultured cells and is an expression of the pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-8. Karilysin is a metalloprotease that cleaves and inactivates several components of complement system. BspA induces alveolar bone loss, promotes invasion of the epithelial cells and induces the production of IL-8 cytokines.[148–150]

Conclusion

Both natural teeth and dental implant surfaces harbor a bacterial biofilm in the oral cavity. A pattern of early colonization and maturation of the dental plaque is facilitated by multiple factors. Material-related factors are accompanied by peri-implant tissue morphology and structure which facilitate susceptibility to infections. An incredibly diversified composition of subject-related oral microbiomes makes it difficult to fully understand the relationships between the bacteria living in the dental plaque biofilm. Therefore, in the view of the presented data, PIIDs do not seem to be infectious diseases in the classical sense because they result from a complex interaction in which the host's susceptibility plays a major role. Although microbial diversity and richness varies, recent studies have indicated that there might be a common core of microbiota with a characteristic structure in health and

Table 3 Bacterial biomarkers of healthy and infected peri-implant tissues

Peri-implant tissue	Markers	References
Healthy pocket	↑ Chaperonin, iron uptake A2 protein, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase	113
PIM	AdpB (*Prevotella* spp.) FadA (*Fusobacterium* spp.)	131, 133, 134
PI	Ribulose biphosphate carboxylase, succinyl-CoA:3-ketoacid-coenzyme A transferase, DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit beta	113
	RgpA, RgpB, P59, P27 (*P. gingivalis*)	115, 135–137
	Dentilisin, MsP (*Treponema* sp.)	138, 140, 144
	Karylisin, prtH, bspA (*Tannerella* spp.)	142–144

Note: ↑ represents increase.
Abbreviations: *P. gingivalis*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*; PI, periimplantitis; PIM, peri-implant mucositis.

disease. A transition from healthy peri-implant sulcus into an inflamed peri-implant pocket is related to subject-specific bacterial shifts in dental plaque. These may also be related to the patient's general status, environmental and geographical factors, diet and smoking. PIM and PI are nonspecific, polymicrobial and heterogeneous diseases of an endogenous nature. They are also more difficult to diagnose and treat than periodontal diseases. The vast majority of clinical studies dealing with dental implant infections are being monitored by means of parameters used in the periodontal examination of natural teeth, which seem to be insufficient in the case of PIIDs. The diversity of peri-implant tissues and the, as yet, not fully understood phenomena at the bacteria–surface–tissue interface imply the need for new, reliable, more sensitive and reproducible diagnostic protocols that combine clinical, radiological, microbiological and molecular studies. It seems that monitoring the specific biomarkers in the PICF could be a helpful tool in the early detection of the disease (eg, increase in apolipoprotein-100, IL-8), monitoring the ongoing infection (eg, increased level of pro-inflammatory cytokines) or its progression (eg, increased level of cytokines followed by the markers of bone resorption and specific "red complex" markers) as well as the resolution phase (eg, decrease in pro-inflammatory cytokines and ICTP, increase in neutrophil defensins). Beyond any doubt, the unification and standardization of diagnostic protocols is still required to reduce the incidence rate of BAIs which are still the second most common cause of implant loss. The enhancement of diagnostic protocols, a better understanding of the epidemiology of PIIDs, risk management and personalized patient care are still needed.[78]

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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