



Source: Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol. 2011 May. [Epub ahead of print]

Title: Periodontal disease and nitric oxide levels in low risk women with preterm labor.

Authors: Gianella L, Guilini S, et al.

Overview: The aim of this study was to evaluate the association between periodontal disease and preterm labor (PTL). The role of nitric oxide (NO) in this potential association was also examined. NO is a cellular signaling molecule involved in many physiological processes. Chronic expression of NO is associated with a variety of inflammatory and pathological processes.

Summary:

- 400 women with PTL, 420 women with normal pregnancy enrolled in study
- All study subjects never pregnant prior to the study
- Perio exam and detection of plasma, gingival and cervical levels of NO performed for all study subjects
- Perio status of the two groups compared. NO levels compared when perio disease detected, PTB rate determined for women with and without perio disease

Results and conclusions:

- Strong relationship between PD and PTL observed
- Significant differences in gingival and cervical NO levels between women with PTL and controls
- Presence of PD in women with PTL increases risk of premature delivery. NO may be a marker for this association

Key take-aways:

The association between periodontal disease and adverse pregnancy events is still under investigation. This study used a novel approach and demonstrated an association between the gum disease and preterm labor and delivery. Further studies will ultimately reveal the strength of this oral systemic connection.

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