



# Antimicrobial adjuncts in the management of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions: a narrative review

Hatem Alassy<sup>1</sup>, John A. Pizarek<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioannis Kormas<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Pedercini<sup>1</sup>, Larry F. Wolff<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Periodontology, Department of Developmental and Surgical Sciences, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA; <sup>2</sup>Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy Dental Corps, Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

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*Correspondence to:* Dr. Hatem Alassy. Division of Periodontology, 7-368 Moos Tower, 515 Delaware St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. Email: [aalassy@umn.edu](mailto:aalassy@umn.edu).

**Background and Objective:** Periodontal and peri-implant diseases are of rising concern due to their increasing prevalence, potential complications and financial consequences. Etiologic factors primarily are putative microorganisms while therapy involves mechanical debridement of the dental plaque biofilm. This treatment is performed non-surgically or surgically. Due to the diversity of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions, practitioners seek adjuvants to improve therapeutic outcomes and limit the likelihood of residual or refractory disease. Antimicrobials may improve therapeutic success by altering the local pathogenic microflora and limiting the systemic spread of opportunistic infections. The use of antimicrobial adjuncts in dentistry is controversial, and there is a need to assess their validity in order to improve the success rates of periodontal and implant therapy whilst minimizing complications or adverse effects. This review aims to provide a summary of the current status of antimicrobial use for periodontal and peri-implant disease management.

**Methods:** A literature search was performed in the PubMed database for publications in English, from inception through November 2020, using different combinations of the terms periodontitis, gingivitis, peri-implant mucositis, peri-implantitis, antiseptics, antibiotics, antimicrobials, chlorhexidine, oral rinse, clinical practice guidelines, laser therapy, minocycline, therapeutic adjuncts. Furthermore, animal or in-vitro studies were supplemented by an additional search to find relevant supporting data. Data were presented in the form of a narrative review.

**Key Content and Findings:** Adjunctive therapy may include systemic antibiotics, local antimicrobials, supra and sub- gingival antimicrobial irrigants, antimicrobial oral rinses, antiplaque and anti-calculus agents, photodynamic and laser therapies. Periodontal and peri-implant conditions are detailed, and adjunct antimicrobial options are summarized and their benefits are weighed against their potential side-effects.

**Conclusions:** We proposed a standardized protocol for the adjunctive use of local and systemic antimicrobials in the management of periodontal or peri-implant diseases and conditions.

**Keywords:** Periodontitis; peri-implantitis; antibiotics; antimicrobial therapies; clinical guidelines

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**Table 1** Summary of the staging and grading of periodontitis according to the 2017 World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions as described by Tonetti *et al.* 2018, (9)

Periodontitis classification	Description of periodontitis	Diagnostic criteria
Stage 1	Initial	PD $\leq$ 4 mm; CAL =1–2 mm; RBL $\leq$ 15%
Stage 2	Moderate	PD $\leq$ 5 mm; CAL =3–4 mm; RBL =15–33%
Stage 3	Severe	PD $\geq$ 6 mm; CAL $\geq$ 5 mm; RBL >33%; VBL $\geq$ 3 mm; furcation class 2 or 3; moderate ridge defect
Stage 4	Advanced	Stage 3 criteria AND $\geq$ 5 teeth lost due to periodontitis AND need for complex rehabilitation
Grade A	Slow rate of Periodontitis progression	No CAL or RBL over 5 years; nonsmoker; normoglycemic
Grade B	Moderate rate of Periodontitis progression	CAL or RBL <2 mm over 5 years; tissue destruction is as expected given the level of biofilm deposits
Grade C	Rapid rate of Periodontitis progression	CAL or RBL $\geq$ 2 mm over 5 years; tissue destruction exceeds expectations given the level of biofilm deposits

Staging aims to classify the (I) severity of the patient's disease based on the measurable amount of the destroyed tissue (clinical attachment loss/radiographic bone loss/number of teeth lost due to periodontitis), (II) complexity of local factors to assess management and (III) extent (localized, generalized or molar-incisor pattern). Grading intends to estimate the rate of periodontitis progression and report on risk factors (smoking quantity, diabetes control) to aid in predicting responsiveness to standard therapy, and potential impact on systemic health. The goal is to guide the intensity of therapy and monitoring of the patient. PD, periodontal pocket depth; CAL, clinical attachment loss; RBL, radiographic bone loss; VBL, vertical bone loss.

## Introduction

### Periodontal diseases

Gingivitis is defined as “an inflammatory lesion resulting from interactions between the dental plaque biofilm and the host's immune-inflammatory response”. This inflammatory lesion of gingivitis remains contained within the gingiva and does not extend to the periodontal attachment (cementum, periodontal ligament and alveolar bone) (1). Such inflammation associated with gingivitis is reversible by reducing levels of dental plaque.

Periodontitis is a chronic multifactorial inflammatory disease (2). This chronic inflammation is a serious infection due to its prevalence and if left untreated, may lead to tooth loss and other possible infective systemic consequences (2). The progressive disease of periodontitis is associated with dysbiotic plaque biofilms and is characterized by destruction of the tooth-supporting apparatus. While common, this life-long disease can generally be controlled. Most patients with periodontitis manifest the adult chronic form of this disease, according to the 1999 Armitage classification (3). However, the World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-implant Diseases and Conditions (4–7) defined forms of periodontal diseases, such as periodontitis,

periodontitis as a manifestation of systemic diseases and necrotizing periodontal diseases. Other periodontal conditions include abscesses of the periodontium, endodontic-periodontal lesions, developmental or acquired deformities and conditions. Therefore, management differs depending on the specific type of periodontal disease. The 2017 World Workshop's new classification of periodontal diseases aims to clearly identify clinical entities and accurately link diagnosis with treatment (8). This is a major change from the previous classification system published in 1999 that recognized different forms of periodontitis (chronic, aggressive, manifestation of systemic diseases) (3,8). The terms “chronic” and “aggressive” are no longer used because the distinction between them cannot be currently justified as their etiology is the same (8). A patient with a periodontitis diagnosis needs to be assigned a stage and grade of periodontitis (2,4,8,9). Since this narrative review cites both studies prior to 2017 (using the previous periodontitis classification) and since 2017 (using the new classification of periodontitis), references of both systems are outlined. Summary of the staging and grading of periodontitis according to the 2017 World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions is briefly outlined in *Table 1*.

### ***Peri-implant diseases: peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis***

Teeth may be lost for different reasons, including but not limited to trauma, non-restorability, lack of supporting structure due to periodontitis, pulpal pathology and more. One replacement option is a surgically placed dental implant. With the increased use of dental implants for the replacement of missing teeth, there has been an increase in disease prevalence related to dental implants as well. Peri-implant mucositis is an inflammatory lesion of the soft tissues surrounding an endosseous implant without loss of supporting bone or continuing marginal bone loss (10). On the other hand, peri-implantitis is a pathological condition characterized by inflammation in the peri-implant connective tissue and progressive bone loss (11). Similar to periodontitis, peri-implantitis exhibits a chronic inflammatory response to the bacterial biofilm on the implant surface (12). Both peri-implant diseases are primarily caused by a disruption of the host-microbe homeostasis at the implant-mucosa interface.

### **Etiology of periodontal and peri-implant diseases**

Periodontal disease is caused by the breakdown of periodontal host-microbe homeostasis, which can precipitate dysbiosis in susceptible hosts (13). Dysbiotic microbial communities in the plaque biofilm consist of keystone pathogens and pathobionts. Their synergistic virulence, in conjunction with the host response, leads to destructive inflammation, through escalating dysbiosis and inflammatory bone loss, leading to tooth loss and potential systemic complications. The plaque biofilm consists of mature colonies of spirochetes, filamentous organisms among others (14). Additionally, gram-negative bacteria are frequently isolated from the periodontal pockets (15). Periodontitis pathogens include *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, *Eikenella corrodens*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Prevotella intermedia*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Tannerella forsythia* and recently studied *Desulfobulbus* spp., *Filifactor alocis* and *TM7 species*; however, dental plaque consists of more than 800 known bacterial species which have been identified and this number is expected to rise with the advances in technology (16).

No one specific bacteria has been identified in peri-implant diseases; however, peri-implantitis was associated with higher counts of 19 bacterial species, including *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Tannerella forsythia* (11). A recent systematic review and meta-analysis assessing the

microbiome in peri-implantitis lesions demonstrated a higher prevalence of *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* and *Prevotella intermedia* in peri-implantitis compared to healthy implants (17). Knowledge of putative microorganisms may shed light on the pathogenesis and treatment of periodontal and peri-implant diseases. Diagnosis of these diseases is performed by clinical and radiographic examination; however, biomarkers in saliva or within the sulcular fluids of teeth and implants may offer quantitative and qualitative parameters to assist in diagnosis, prognosis and to compare and recommend treatment modalities (18).

Changes in the levels of the population of the species in the oral microbiome and within the plaque biofilm may initiate the host reaction which leads to periodontal disease. This soft plaque hardens by the precipitation of mineral salts, starting only days after plaque formation. Calculus is mineralized plaque and is a predisposing factor for periodontal inflammation because it is always covered in a biofilm of potential pathogens (19,20). The attachment of calculus on teeth or implants is mainly by mechanical locking onto surface irregularities. Therefore, removing the plaque biofilm and calculus deposits is considered a primary objective in periodontal treatment.

### ***Periodontal and peri-implant disease management***

The treatment goal in periodontal and peri-implant disease is to reduce the bacterial load, shift the bacterial composition of the biofilm, and improve cleanability of the affected teeth or implants. Reduction in the volume of the plaque biofilm is mainly accomplished by mechanical instrumentation. In most periodontitis patients, mechanical debridement and anti-infective chemotherapy can readily control the disease without the need for surgery. When managed, periodontitis patients may retain their dentition for a lifetime (21). The gold standard for treatment of periodontal disease is a system of mechanical debridement, home care and regular supportive maintenance periodontal therapy. Mechanical debridement alone for the control of periodontal disease may fail to remove pathogenic organisms because of accessibility and location and therefore may fail to control the disease (22). Similarly, if the patient has systemic or behavioral factors altering the host's innate immune capacity for defense, then other solutions may be sought. Adjunct methods and materials may be utilized to aid the practitioner and the patient in their struggle against the putative microorganisms of periodontal disease.

Peri-implant mucositis is similar to gingivitis and is reversible once the plaque biofilm is managed (10). On the other hand, non-surgical therapy of peri-implantitis is often ineffective, and the treatment of choice is a surgical approach (23). Since mucositis is the precursor of peri-implantitis (24), it may be prudent to ensure the biofilm is controlled using adjunctive plaque control measures and antimicrobials. Although antimicrobial adjunct studies found low to moderate additive improvements in peri-implantitis therapy, the current information on the adjunctive use of locally or systemically administered antibiotics is insufficient to allow any firm specific recommendations for the use of these drugs (25,26).

### ***Risk factors and indicators for disease progression***

Factors which may affect host susceptibility to biofilm induced diseases may include smoking, poorly controlled diabetes, poor oral hygiene and lack of compliance with supportive therapy among others (10). Clinicians may suggest additive modalities to manage high risk patients. Adjunctive therapy with systemic antibiotics was found to improve the efficacy of non-surgical periodontal therapy, scaling and root planning (SRP), in the periodontal management of diabetic patients (27). Other clinical trials concluded that local antibiotic adjuncts offer added benefits even in well controlled diabetics (28).

### ***Antimicrobials in periodontal and peri-implant therapy***

Clinicians debate the utility of using antimicrobial adjuncts to mechanical treatment of periodontally diseased teeth or implants. Generally, the use of antimicrobials in periodontal or peri-implant therapy, and their types and dosages, has been empirical in nature. The lack of clear recommendations leads to controversy and each practitioner attempts to balance the cost-benefit as well as side-effects of these additive agents. Some periodontal organizations have worked to compile guidelines regarding the treatment of periodontitis.

The European Federation of Periodontology recently approved specific therapeutic guidelines for the treatment of periodontitis stages I to III which included antimicrobial and antiseptic indications (29). This review highlights current approaches to antimicrobial periodontal and peri-implant therapy and aims to recommend certain antimicrobials based on evidence in the literature. The adjunctive use of local statins, probiotics, systemic sub antimicrobial dose

of doxycycline, systemic/local bisphosphonates, systemic/local non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids and local metformin gel were not recommended. Consideration was recommended to antiseptic mouthwashes, and particularly chlorhexidine, as adjuncts to mechanical instrumentation in specific cases. Adjunctive antiseptics were advised to be considered for some patients during supportive periodontal therapy, in order to control inflammation of the gingiva. Locally delivered antibiotics were recommended to be considered as adjuncts to the subgingival SRP in some situations. However, when it comes to systemic antibiotics, their routine was not recommended, due to their negative effects, except in specific diagnoses.

### **Methods**

A literature search was performed in the PubMed database, for articles published up to November 2020 using Medical Subject Heading search terms and free text terms and in different combinations. The search was conducted for each of the relevant topics addressed in this review.

The following terms and their variants were searched either individually or in combinations: periodontitis, gingivitis, peri-implant mucositis, peri-implantitis, antiseptics, antibiotics, antimicrobials, chlorhexidine, oral rinse, clinical practice guidelines, laser therapy, minocycline, therapeutic adjuncts. A manual search was performed to select recent articles for specific relevant topics. Data from the identified papers were analyzed and presented within the text or tables if indicated. The findings were presented in the form of a narrative review. Historically relevant publications were also included when deemed important. To be included in the review, studies had to be written in the English language, published in an international peer-reviewed journal, and be on humans. Furthermore, animal or *in-vitro* studies were supplemented by an additional search to find relevant supporting data. Citation tracking was completed using Endnote<sup>TM</sup>, version 9 (Clarivate Analytics, Boston, MA, USA) for all identified studies included in the refined library. No restriction nor filters were placed on the type, availability nor year of publication for the included reports. A meta-analysis was not performed due to the heterogeneity of the included studies.

### **Adjuncts to non-surgical therapy in the management of periodontitis**

Proposed adjuncts to mechanical treatment include

local antimicrobials, systemic antimicrobials, lasers, oral rinses, sub-gingival and supra-gingival irrigations. Severe periodontal infections may be combatted using systemic antibiotics which inhibit or kill putative microorganisms. The microbial etiology of periodontal disease provides the rationale for the use of antimicrobials. Justification for adjunctive antibiotic use is to eliminate bacteria located in deep inaccessible pockets.

### *Systemic antibiotics*

The position paper published by the American Academy of Periodontology in 2004 recommended indications for systemic antibiotic prescription for periodontal patients who do not respond to conventional therapy, patients with severe periodontal infections threatening oral and systemic health and medically compromised and susceptible patients (30). Antibiotics should only be prescribed after biofilm has been mechanically disrupted, not as the sole approach to treatment (31). Antibiotic administration changes the bacterial community in the periodontal sulcus thus modifying bacterial pathogenicity. Bacteria in subgingival biofilm are significantly more resistant to antibiotics if the biofilm is not mechanically disrupted (32). Nevertheless, it was demonstrated in a study that a combination of repeated systemic antibiotics may arrest the progression of chronic moderate-advanced progressive adult periodontitis as a sole therapy (33). Systemic antibiotics have the potential to produce adverse reactions that must be considered in balance with their expected benefits. There are warnings against the unrestricted use of antibiotics in treating periodontal diseases because of the emerging global public health issue of bacterial resistance (34).

Antibiotics with SRP offer greater pocket depth reduction and clinical attachment level gain especially in pockets greater than 6-mm deep and in severe forms of periodontitis (34). Adjunctive antibiotics are not usually prescribed for chronic mild-moderate periodontitis because the side effects outweigh the minor clinical benefits compared to SRP alone (34). An exception to the rule; however, is if the patient has recurrent, refractory or rapidly progressing periodontitis, is immunodeficient or is an uncontrolled diabetic (27,30,35). A study on type 1 diabetics having moderate to severe periodontitis concluded that the use of systemic doxycycline as an adjunct, provided more significant results than mechanical therapy alone (36). It is suggested that the cases with multiple deep pockets should first be treated by thorough SRP and adjunctive

systemic antibiotics (37,38). Timing of systemic antibiotic administration (based on empirical knowledge) is to start the regimen one day before initial mechanical debridement, so the blood clot in the pocket will have antibiotic molecules at an effective concentration, then treat the contralateral side one to two days later (39).

A recent systematic review and meta-analysis concluded that the adjunctive use of systemic antibiotics in periodontal therapy resulted in significant benefits in clinical outcomes but with frequent adverse complications (40). Metronidazole alone or azithromycin alone yielded significant improvements in pocket depth reduction, clinical attachment level gain, bleeding on probing, pocket closure and frequency of residual pockets, however, the most favorable outcomes were found with the combination of amoxicillin with metronidazole (40). Since the putative microorganisms in the periodontal pocket respond differently to different classes of antibiotics, then one should consider the advantage of drug combinations (21,41). The combination of Amoxicillin (250 mg q8h) with Metronidazole (250 mg q8h) for 8 days is a common practice for young and middle-aged patients with severe forms of periodontitis (42). On the other hand, older patients as well as patients with penicillin allergies are prescribed Ciprofloxacin (500 mg q12h) with Metronidazole (500 mg q12h) for 8 days (42). These combinations of systemic antibiotics are effective against the major periodontopathic bacteria (42). Alternative prescription protocols for the Amoxicillin + Metronidazole combination were presented in the literature (43-48). Amoxicillin prescription ranged from 250 to 500 mg q8h and Metronidazole ranged from 250 to 500 mg q8h, while durations ranged from 7 to 14 days.

Acute periodontal lesions such as a periodontal abscess may spread causing systemic manifestations. If immediate or adequate drainage is not achieved or a systemic involvement is evident, therapy with systemic antimicrobials may be advised for 3 days (7,30,49,50). Another acute disease is necrotizing periodontitis which is an infectious condition occurring in individuals with a compromised host immune response (7). Mechanical debridement must be initiated immediately, and adjunctive oral rinses are indicated. If unsatisfactory response is evident or systemic effects are manifested then the use of systemic antibiotics may be considered (49). Another disease which may present in acute form is the endo-periodontal lesion which is a pathological communication between the endodontic and periodontal tissues of a tooth. Both root canal and periodontal tissues





**Figure 1** Minocycline local delivery into a periodontal pocket. (A) Arestin<sup>®</sup> cartridge containing minocycline microspheres. (B) Arestin application into a periodontal pocket.

would require treatment, yet histologically, all periodontal abscess lesions are similar (7,49). Following mechanical instrumentation of both root canal and periodontal tissues, the need for systemic antibiotics must be assessed in a similar manner as the acute periodontal abscess; based on the presence of systemic manifestations (51).

#### **Local delivery agents**

Clinicians may prefer the use of antimicrobials locally delivered into persistent or recurrent localized deep periodontal pockets for an average additional 0.4 mm in pocket depth reduction and 0.3 mm in clinical attachment level gain (34). These antimicrobials may be in the form of a biodegradable sustained release solid inserted and left in the pocket or in the form of a liquid irrigation. Some clinicians prefer the use of local antimicrobials in the following situations: (I)  $\geq 5$  mm deep pockets, (II) where esthetics is a concern, especially the maxillary anterior region, rather than performing periodontal pocket reduction surgery, (III) where periodontal surgery did not achieve full disease resolution, refractory or recurrent periodontitis and (IV) medically compromised patients who would not be candidates for periodontal surgery.

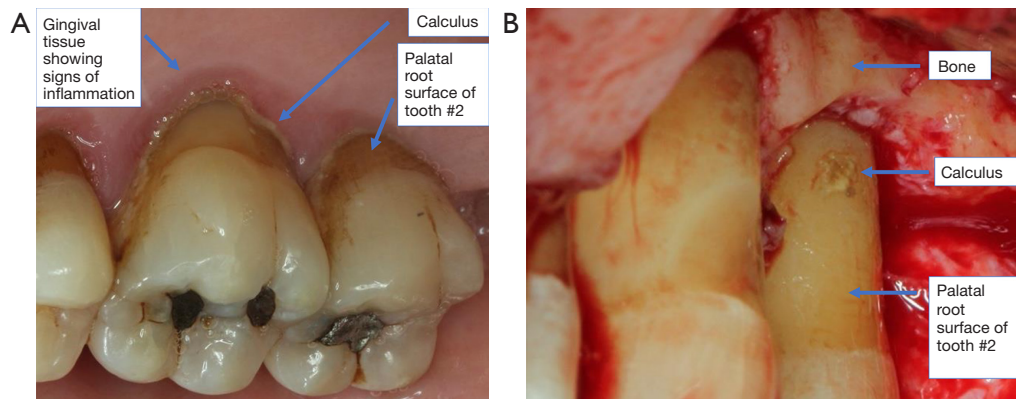
#### **Local antibiotics**

Adverse side effects of systemic antibiotics may be avoided by using locally delivered antibiotics. The ability to deliver antibiotics locally into a diseased periodontal pocket offers direct benefit in the management of challenging cases. The effective concentration of local antibiotics was shown to be at least 100 times greater in the pocket than the systemic delivery of antibiotics (52,53). Local antibiotics along with SRP may be beneficial in recurrent or deeper

periodontal pockets (54). The main local antibiotics studied are doxycycline and minocycline. Doxycycline showed a minimal additional benefit in some patients (55), while other studies did not find an additional benefit (56,57). Meanwhile, adjunctive use of minocycline delivered into the diseased deep pockets was shown to improve therapeutic outcomes when compared to SRP alone (53,58-60). Minocycline local delivery into a periodontal pocket is shown in *Figure 1*.

#### **Local delivery of antiseptics**

The adjunctive use of local antimicrobials such as subgingival biodegradable chlorhexidine chips was shown to offer improved pocket reduction compared to SRP alone in deep pockets (61,62). These chlorhexidine chips, (Periochip<sup>®</sup>), are inserted into the pocket and left in place to degrade with time. On the other hand, subgingival irrigation (lavage) of the pockets during SRP and supportive therapy appointments may be beneficial (21,63). One antimicrobial irrigation agent is povidone-iodine. This agent has been studied as an adjunct to SRP because of povidone-iodine's broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity, low potential for developing resistance or adverse reactions, wide availability, ease of use and low cost (21,64). The addition of subgingival 10% povidone-iodine irrigation to conventional mechanical therapy was found to reduce total counts of periodontal pathogens with statistically significant reduction in deep pockets compared to SRP alone (65). The povidone-iodine antimicrobial may be used upon completion of SRP for a contact time of 5 minutes or used in dilution with the ultrasonic scaler coolant (21). Another topical antimicrobial is diluted sodium hypochlorite, the common household bleach. This agent possesses excellent antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties



**Figure 2** Calculus presence and gaining surgical access for subgingival calculus removal. (A) Palatal view of the maxillary right molars with visual evidence of calculus deposits along the gingival margins. Signs of inflammation are evident; erythematous, edematous soft tissue. Following SRP and re-evaluation, residual deep pockets remained, and a surgical approach was indicated. (B) Following gingival flap reflection, calculus deposits were visualized on the palatal root of the maxillary second molar close to the bone level, which were missed during SRP. Subgingival antimicrobials may not have been effective in this case in lieu of surgery because the calculus would have remained a nidus housing pathogens in close proximity to the periodontal tissues including alveolar bone. SRP, scaling and root planning.

and has been used in dentistry for decades. A suggested concentration of sodium hypochlorite for periodontal pocket irrigation is  $\leq 0.5\%$  and was found to have no contraindications in the diluted form (66).

The use of subgingival antimicrobial irrigation is not routinely recommended according to the 2005 American Academy of Periodontology's position paper due to insufficient evidence of an additive effect when used with mechanical therapy (67). However, it was noted that improved therapeutic results have been documented which show promise. Other subgingival irrigants utilized during non-surgical therapy include tetracycline, hydrogen peroxide and tetrapotassium peroxydiphosphate. A systematic review from 2005 evaluating the impact of local adjuncts to SRP in periodontal disease therapy concluded that hydrogen peroxide irrigant was the most promising antimicrobial in terms of pocket depth reduction (68) and that tetracycline and minocycline had the greatest positive results among locally administered antibiotics.

Supragingival irrigation on the other hand includes the use of a device that offers a pulsating stream of water. This oral irrigator may assist patients with inadequate manual cleaning skills or dexterity. Medicaments such as essential oils or chlorhexidine may be added to this water jet for the added benefit of introducing antimicrobials into hard-to-reach sites (69). The teeth staining effect of chlorhexidine is diminished due to this dilution with water. The benefit of using antimicrobials in the water jet device has been

confirmed in gingivitis but remains unclear as an adjunct in treating periodontitis (67).

### Adjuncts to surgical therapy in the management of periodontitis

The surgical treatment of periodontitis aims to provide greater accessibility to mechanical debridement of root surfaces, elimination of fibrous periodontal tissue to improve pocket reduction, provide a harmonious osseous architecture for the gingiva to follow, allow greater accessibility of oral hygiene by the patient and maintenance performed by the dental practitioner. Calculus presence and gaining surgical access for subgingival calculus removal is shown in *Figure 2*. The use of a systemic antimicrobial during periodontal surgery has been evaluated for preventing post-operative infection by targeting of specific pathogenic bacterial profiles seen in refractory or aggressive periodontitis (70). Since the use of a systemic antimicrobial adjunct is to aid in disease resolution, its efficacy is measured by additional improvement in attachment level gain and reduction of pocket depths. Clinical trials have evaluated the potential benefit of using a systemic antibiotic in conjunction with periodontal surgery, but no significant differences were seen when compared to a placebo (71).

Many clinicians prescribe systemic antibiotics to reduce the risk of regenerative therapy failure due to bacterial infection. The use of an antibiotic for regenerative

periodontal procedures is done so empirically, because of undesired effects in case of a membrane exposure during guided tissue/bone regeneration. However, a large-scale trial reported a generally low rate of post-operative infections (2.09%) after 1,053 periodontal surgical procedures whether or not peri-operative antibiotics were used (72). This retrospective study observed that the use of a regenerative membrane did not significantly increase infection rates compared to non-use of a membrane, 3.00% *vs.* 1.88%, respectively. Additionally, in an earlier retrospective study, the average rate of post-operative infections after periodontal surgeries was 1–2% with or without prophylactic antibiotic use (73). When specifically testing for the improvements of clinical parameters in regeneration with or without the use of amoxicillin, the greatest improvements were attributed to enamel matrix protein, not to the use of antibiotics (74). Enamel matrix protein is delivered in a sterile aqueous carrier of propylene glycol alginate (PGA) which may have beneficial antimicrobial effects by disturbing bacterial cell metabolism due to PGA's low pH (75). Although there is conflicting evidence of any potential benefit for the use of an antimicrobial in conjunction with periodontal regeneration, the empirical use of an antimicrobial in previous clinical trials, supports their use with the aim of controlling the periodontal microflora and reducing the risk of a membrane exposure with subsequent infection, during the early post-surgical healing phase. As a result, until more clinical trials evaluating the use of an antimicrobial during periodontal surgery have been performed, no recommendation against the use of an antimicrobial can be made.

### **Adjuncts to therapy in the management of peri-implant diseases and conditions**

In treating peri-implant mucositis, the efficacy of non-surgical therapy and at-home irrigation of these inflamed sites was reported to be advantageous (76,77). Chlorhexidine at 0.06% concentration using a powered subgingival irrigator, as well as an essential-oil mouth rinse may be beneficial for at-home antimicrobial agent use. Alternatively, locally delivered chlorhexidine chips had positive clinical results as well (76,78).

Controlling peri-implantitis includes elimination of the biofilm from the implant surfaces. However, the prosthesis and the implant's rough and irregular surface may complicate efficient mechanical debridement. Non-surgical therapy initially performed is usually inadequate

for treating peri-implantitis; therefore, surgery is indicated (23,77). Local antimicrobials may complement the initial non-surgical therapy. Reduction in pocket depths and bleeding on probing were reported with the adjunctive use of locally delivered minocycline microspheres or doxycycline, especially with repeated applications (76,77,79). Other locally delivered antimicrobials used in conjunction with mechanical decontamination include chlorhexidine gel or irrigation and hydrogen peroxide application (25,26,76,80–82). In fact, a recent multi-centered, randomized, clinical trial concluded that repeated bi-weekly delivery of chlorhexidine chips and supragingival plaque removal for 24 weeks significantly improved pocket depths and relative attachment gains in subjects with peri-implantitis (83).

Surgical techniques may include open flap debridement with mechanical and chemical decontamination of the exposed implant surface. Regenerative procedures to fill the bony defects caused by peri-implantitis may be successful as well (84,85). Peri-operative systemic antimicrobials, such as amoxicillin, metronidazole or amoxicillin plus clavulanic acid (Augmentin<sup>®</sup>), were prescribed in the majority of studies treating peri-implantitis yet; there is a lack of controlled studies evaluating their efficacy (77,85). One recent randomized controlled clinical trial concluded that systemic amoxicillin as an adjunct to mechanical debridement had a significant positive impact on the treatment of modified implant surfaces; yet did not affect the long-term outcome (86,87). Systemic antibiotics must be used with caution and their benefit balanced against their side effects. Intraoperative surface disinfection was reported to include citric acid, chlorhexidine, tetracycline hydrochloride and ethylenediamine tetra-acetate (EDTA) (76,77,85). No one chemical decontaminant was found to be superior; however, 3% hydrogen peroxide, applied on the implant surface for 2 minutes, was reported to be the most widely used (77,88).

Antimicrobials are commonly used during the initial procedure of implant placement. A 2-minute pre-operative rinse with 0.1% chlorhexidine can reduce the bacterial load by approximately 10-fold compared to sterile water (89). This is important for intra-operative autogenous bone collection and grafting during implant placement to ensure there are as few pathogens as possible in those grafted sites. The use of systemic antibiotics is recommended for immediate implant placement in an infected site (90). However, even under ordinary circumstances of implant placement, evidence suggests that prophylactic use of antibiotics reduces early failures (91–94). Different protocols have included pre-



operative and/or post-operative use of systemic antibiotics. Reports indicated that for surgical implant placement, many practitioners used amoxicillin (1, 2 or 3 grams) (0–1 hour) pre-operatively only, while other clinicians added a 7-day post-operative course (94). A recent meta-analysis of surveys reported that other practitioners prescribe amoxicillin with clavulanic acid, penicillin V, azithromycin, clindamycin or metronidazole (95). The current evidence-based Cochrane review published in 2013 recommended a prophylactic regimen of amoxicillin 2 grams orally 1 hour prior to implant placement (93). It is noteworthy this review specified that giving antibiotics to 25 patients receiving implants will prevent one person from experiencing early implant loss.

On the other hand, augmentation procedures are sometimes performed in conjunction with, or prior to, implant placement. Procedures such as guided bone regeneration (GBR) and maxillary sinus elevation are usually accompanied by a regimen of antibiotics. Systemic antibiotic prophylaxis was found to be generally given in GBR (96). The probability of infection for most periodontal surgeries was found to be less than 6% with or without the use of antibiotics; yet, practitioners are likely to prescribe antibiotics with bone grafting procedures (97). A consensus report regarding direct sinus elevation surgery recommended prophylactic amoxicillin with clavulanic acid pre- and post-operatively to reduce the chance of graft infection (98). Patients allergic to penicillin would be prescribed clarithromycin with metronidazole. The antibiotics are to be started 24 hours before surgery and continued for 7 days. The report recommended another course of amoxicillin plus clavulanic acid or levofloxacin in the case of post-operative complications. Sinus infection management has been somewhat described in the literature (99,100). A recent review recommended doxycycline in case of penicillin allergy, at a dose of 100 mg twice daily for 7 days, starting 24 hours before the direct sinus elevation procedure (101).

### **At-home use of antimicrobials**

In addition to the previously discussed oral irrigation jet devices along with the addition of medicaments, there are other approaches patients may follow to supplement their brushing and flossing. Antimicrobials may be used as oral rinses (mouthwashes) or dentifrice (toothpaste), anti-plaque agents. Other compounds may reduce the rate of calculus development; that are anti-calculus agents. These anti-calculus agents prevent the recurrence of periodontal disease

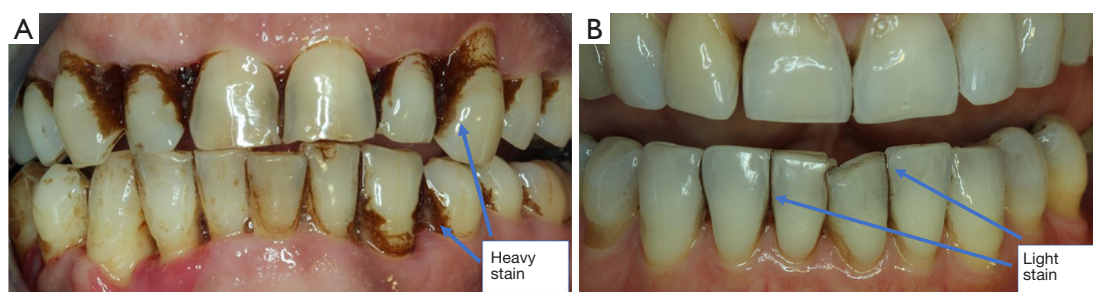
after therapy because they demonstrated more effectiveness at preventing initial formation of biofilms (102). Mouthwashes have little penetration into the subgingival environment. Indications of mouth rinses include fresh breath, prevention of oral problems such as caries, gingivitis and tooth sensitivity (103). Potential side-effects of these at-home antimicrobials include staining, discomfort, numbness, oral desquamation, teeth erosion and altered taste.

A recent report described the daily at-home use of a teeth whitening foam/gel containing 0.1% cetylpyridinium chloride, 1.4% hydrogen peroxide, sodium bicarbonate, and antioxidant compounds on gingivitis (104). Subjects with gingivitis and mild-to-moderate periodontitis brushing daily with this foaming gel had a significant reduction in gingivitis compared to control subjects brushing with over-the-counter tooth paste. Brushing daily with this novel post foaming gel also resulted in greater reductions in periodontopathogens and inflammatory cytokines within the gingival crevicular fluid. Finally, clinicians should balance the advantages and disadvantages of recommending specific home-use products especially since these products are not meant to replace professional periodontal therapy.

### ***Anti-plaque agents***

Chlorhexidine is an anti-plaque agent which has the advantages of substantivity and safety and has been extensively studied (105–109). Substantivity is the ability of chlorhexidine to adhere to teeth and oral mucosa extending its anti-plaque effects (66). Chlorhexidine can disturb bacterial cell membranes and is bactericidal in high concentrations (102). It is a broad-spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial which acts against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria as well as yeast organisms. Chlorhexidine mouthwash as an adjunct to scaling and root planing can lead to slightly increased pocket depth reduction when compared to mechanical therapy alone, according to a recent meta-analysis (110). Additionally, the use of chlorhexidine mouth wash along with plaque control methods demonstrated a significant improvement in plaque and bleeding scores (111). At 0.2%, chlorhexidine oral rinse twice a day prevents plaque and gingivitis for 21 days without brushing, however, it is typically used in a 0.12% concentration which is also as clinically effective as 0.2%. Its use may be short term, intermittent or long term.

Teeth staining is one disadvantage which restricts the long-term use of chlorhexidine. Other side effects include tongue and mucosal surface staining, alterations



**Figure 3** Chlorhexidine oral rinsing causes teeth staining over extended periods. (A) Heavy brown teeth staining due to using 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash for extended periods, greater than 2 months in this case. (B) Light brown staining is slight after a 2-week use of 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash.

of taste, desquamation of the mucosa, enlargement of the parotid and also increased calculus deposition supragingivally (112). Using 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate for extended periods may lead to brown teeth staining which may be removed by professional polishing. However, long-term use may be recommended in debilitated patients or individuals unable to practice adequate oral hygiene measures. Brown teeth staining after the use of chlorhexidine mouthwash is shown in *Figure 3*. Chlorhexidine mouth rinse is typically used for several weeks after periodontal surgery. It is noteworthy that chlorhexidine contact with surgical sites for short periods of time prior to wound closure can have toxic effects on gingival fibroblasts and may negatively affect wound healing (113). Therefore, chlorhexidine is often initiated 24 hours after surgery.

Subgingival lavage using sodium hypochlorite has been previously discussed. Additionally, twice weekly oral rinsing with 0.25% sodium hypochlorite produced a significant reduction in bleeding on probing, even in deep unscaled pockets (114). Essential oils are used as oral rinses due to their antiseptic effect and their effectiveness in reducing plaque and gingivitis (115-117). One essential oil oral rinse brand found on the market (Listerine®) includes as ingredients: eucalyptol, menthol, methyl salicylate and thymol. Other mouth rinses contain ingredients which have shown effectiveness against plaque microorganisms and include amine fluoride, stannous fluoride, histatin, triclosan and mastic delivered in chewing gum form (118-121). Triclosan is a well-documented antibacterial used in toothpaste. However, due to recent safety concerns, triclosan was banned from all human hygiene biocidal products by the European Union and also banned from soap products by the United States Food and Drug Administration (122). Toothpaste containing triclosan is no

longer commercially available according to the American Dental Association.

#### *Anti-calculus agents*

As calculus harbors pathogens in close proximity to gingival tissues, it is prudent to minimize the rate of calculus formation. Dentifrices containing calcium phosphate mineralization inhibitors (anti-calculus agents) have been shown to be highly effective in reducing the formation of dental calculus (123). Mucinase causes enzymatic dissolution of the organic matter in calculus, while pyrophosphate inhibits calculus crystal growth (124). Additionally, the clinical application of an amino acid buffered hypochlorite solution, Perisolv®, has recently shown promising *in-vitro* studies for the surface treatment of both periodontally involved teeth and diseased implants (125,126). This gel contains 0.95% sodium hypochlorite with amino acids such as glutamic acid, leucine, lysine. The subgingival application of this gel intends to disrupt bacterial biofilms and dissolve degenerated tissues with minimal negative effects on healthy tissues. Polypyrophosphate anion in dentifrice also demonstrated a positive effect in controlling calculus formation (127).

#### **Laser therapy in periodontal and peri-implant diseases**

##### *Adjunctive laser therapy in periodontitis*

Laser therapy was evaluated by an expert panel convened by the American Dental Association in 2015 (128,129). These experts agreed that in moderate to severe chronic periodontitis, the adjunctive use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) using diode lasers may offer a moderate additive

benefit to SRP. This additional benefit was an average of 0.53 mm of further clinical attachment level gain. Antimicrobial PDT is light of an appropriate wavelength used in the presence of a specific photosensitizer to selectively eradicate target bacterial cells (130). Carbon dioxide laser has not shown statistical significance as to its additive effect with SRP and data were sparse and poor in quality (131).

Other laser types may be used in lieu of SRP. However, there was insufficient evidence that laser therapy was superior to SRP. Nd:YAG and Er:YAG lasers for treatment of chronic periodontitis may be equivalent to SRP with respect to reduction in probing depth and subgingival bacterial populations but not in attachment gain (132). Conversely, a recent review in laser therapy found the majority of the studies to be underpowered and exhibited significant heterogeneity in design; therefore, concrete conclusions could not be made (131). Finally, a recent guideline report by the European Federation of Periodontists did not recommend the use of lasers as an adjunct in conjunction to mechanical therapy as laser therapy did not prove to be a greater benefit compared to non-surgical therapy alone (29).

#### *Adjunctive laser therapy in peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis*

Treatment of peri-implant mucositis usually consists of mechanical debridement with or without antimicrobials. In surgical therapy of peri-implantitis, studies typically find that conventional mechanical instrumentation yields similar results as erbium and carbon dioxide lasers (76). However, non-surgical therapy of peri-implantitis such as laser treatment, may be initially attempted prior to surgery in reducing gingival inflammation and to evaluate the healing response (23,77). Er:YAG laser therapy offers a bactericidal effect (77). A systematic review concluded that Er:YAG laser treatment resulted in greater reduction in bleeding on probing compared to mechanical debridement with adjunctive irrigation using chlorhexidine (133). There is currently limited evidence that PDT with diode lasers may represent a possible alternative to adjunctive local antibiotics in patients with incipient peri-implantitis (134).

A recent report found a similar benefit to PDT when compared with local minocycline application in the non-surgical treatment phase of peri-implantitis (135,136). Further research addressing laser therapy in periodontitis and peri-implantitis treatment should be pursued in future clinical trials.

#### **Antimicrobial adjunct selection by condition**

Clinicians seek clear recommendations for antimicrobial adjuncts in the treatment of each condition. Unfortunately, adjunctive antimicrobial therapeutic use remains a controversial issue due to the scarcity of large well-designed clinical trials on this topic. Guidelines for the use of antimicrobial adjuncts to non-surgical and surgical management of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions are shown in *Table 2*. Some of these suggestions are evidence-based while others are empirical proposals but documented in the literature.

#### **Conclusions**

Periodontal and peri-implant diseases are mainly managed by manual instrumentation to reduce the bacterial load and improve at-home cleanability by the patient. Therapeutic adjuncts may be considered in patients with risk factors such as uncontrolled diabetes, heavy smokers, rapidly progressing attachment loss, multiple deep pockets and immunocompromised individuals. Adjuncts to mechanical therapy include antimicrobials which assist in reducing the bacterial insult and spread. Locally applied antimicrobials include at-home oral rinses and irrigations, or professionally administered intrasulcular antimicrobials or subgingival irrigants. Other adjuncts to mechanical debridement of periodontally diseased teeth or implants include lasers such as PDT. Specific surgical procedures may also benefit from antimicrobial use to prevent post-surgical infection. Evidence based recommendations are present for some situations; however, the literature is sparse in regenerative procedure recommendations. Future trials should address the value of systemic or local antimicrobial use with

**Table 2** Guidelines for the use of antimicrobial adjuncts in the non-surgical and surgical management of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions

Condition	Antimicrobial <sup>a</sup>	Evidence level (low, moderate, high)	References
Gingivitis	Essential oils, CHX	Moderate	(69,102,105-107,116,117)
Periodontitis stage 1 & 2, grade A & B. (initial to moderate periodontitis) (for increased risk patients <sup>b</sup> )	Essential oils, CHX, PI, NaOCl	Moderate	(63,102,108,110,116,117)
Periodontitis stage 3–4, grade B (severe periodontitis) (for increased risk patients <sup>b</sup> )	Amox-Met, Cipro-Met, Doxy, SDD, AZ	High	(30,31,33,34,36,37,40,42,46-48,108,128,129)
	CHX, PI, NaOCl. Locally delivered: minocycline, CHX-chip, DHG, PDT	High	(29,42,128,129)
Periodontitis stage 3–4, grade C (advanced, rapidly progressing periodontitis)	Amox-Met, Cipro-Met, CHX, NaOCl, PI	High	(30,34,39,40,42-45)
Necrotizing periodontitis	MET, Amox-Met, AMXC, CHX, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Moderate	(49)
Periodontal abscess & endo-periodontal lesions	Amox, AZ, AMXC, MET (in specific situations, such as in case of systemic manifestations, and for a 3-day duration)	High	(7,30,49-51)
Periodontal surgery (pre-operatively)	CHX for 1 min	Moderate	(89)
Periodontal non-regenerative surgery (post-operatively)	CHX for 1 min TID for 2–4 weeks after surgery	Moderate	(109)
Regenerative procedures (prophylaxis) (GBR, GTR)	Amox, CHX	Low	(89,96,109)
Sinus elevation procedures (prophylaxis)	AMXC 875/125 g PO q12h for 7 days starting 24 h before surgery	Low	(98,101)
	Or clarithromycin 250 mg PO BID + Metro 500 mg PO TID for 7 days starting 24 h before surgery		
	Or Doxy 100 mg BID for 7 days starting 24 h before surgery		
Sinus elevation post-operative infection	AMXC 1 g PO TID + metronidazole 500 mg TID for 7–10 days	Moderate	(98-101)
	Or Doxy 100 mg BID for 14 days		
	Or levofloxacin 500 mg PO daily for 5–10 days		
Implant placement (pre-operatively)	CHX for 1 min before surgery. Amox 2 g PO 1 h before surgery, or 600 mg clindamycin 1 h before surgery	Low	(89,93,95)
Implant placement (post-operatively)	CHX for 1 min TID for 2 weeks after surgery	Low	–
Peri-implant mucositis	Locally delivered: CHX chip. At-home: essential-oils rinse, 0.06% CHX using a powered subgingival irrigator	Low	(76-78)

Table 2 (continued)



Table 2 (continued)

Condition	Antimicrobial <sup>a</sup>	Evidence level (low, moderate, high)	References
Peri-implantitis (non-surgical therapy)	Locally delivered: minocycline, doxycycline, CHX gel, CHX chip, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , PDT	Low	(25,26,76,77)
Peri-implantitis (resective or regenerative surgical therapy)	Locally delivered: CHX gel, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , citric acid, EDTA	Moderate	(76,77,85)
Peri-implantitis (regenerative surgical therapy)	Systemic antibiotics: Amox	Low	(26,82)

Antimicrobials proposed in this table are to be used on a case-by-case basis and clinicians must weigh their benefits against their risks. The treatment goal in periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions is to reduce the bacterial load and improve cleanability of the affected sites. The systemic antimicrobials are listed in order of highest to lowest recommendation. If patients are allergic to a specific antibiotic, then the following option listed may be used. Combinations of systemic and local antimicrobials may be used at the clinician's discretion. Evidence level definitions; Low: there is a low level of certainty of benefits and agreement in published literature, Moderate: there is a moderate level of certainty of benefits and agreement in published literature, High: there is a high level of certainty of benefits and agreement in published literature. <sup>a</sup>, abbreviations and dosages: essential oils: thymol, eucalyptol, menthol, and methyl salicylate (example: Listerine<sup>®</sup>). CHX: 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash; rinse for 1 minute BID for 2 weeks. PI: 10% povidone-iodine; subgingival irrigation for 5 minutes. NaOCl: freshly diluted (0.1–0.25%) sodium hypochlorite mouthwash for 30 seconds; twice weekly. Amox-Met: systemic amoxicillin 500 mg q8h and metronidazole 250 mg q8h for 7 days. (alternative dosages may be recommended). Cipro-Met: systemic ciprofloxacin and metronidazole at 500 mg each q8h for 8 days. (alternative dosages may be recommended). Doxy: doxycycline (100 mg/day for 15 days). SDD: systemic sub-antimicrobial dose doxycycline (20 mg BID for 3–9 months). AZ: Azithromycin 500 mg qd for 3 days. Minocycline: minocycline microspheres (Arestin<sup>®</sup>). CHX-chip: chlorhexidine chip. DHG: doxycycline hyclate gel (example: Atridox<sup>®</sup>). PDT: photodynamic therapy with diode laser. AMXC: amoxicillin plus clavulanic acid. Example: Augmentin<sup>®</sup> 500/125 mg q8h for 8 days. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 1.5% hydrogen peroxide mouthwash. Amox: amoxicillin 500 mg q8h for 7 days. MET: metronidazole 250 mg q8h. GBR, guided bone regeneration; GTR, guided tissue regeneration; EDTA, ethylenediamine tetra-acetate. <sup>b</sup>, increased risk patients include those individuals who have rapidly progressing attachment loss, invasive subgingival pathogens, multiple deep pockets, recurrent deep pockets, refractory disease, are immunocompromised, uncontrolled diabetics or heavy smokers.

periodontal regenerative procedures.

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