

## Chapter 4

# Oral Microbiota in Crevices Around Dental Implants: Profiling of Oral Biofilm

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**Abstract** Large numbers of bacteria ( $>10^6/\text{mm}^2$ ) generally inhabit the surface of the oral cavity, particularly at the interface between teeth and gingiva, as an oral biofilm (microbiota). The establishment of anaerobic bacterial culture and molecular biological techniques has enabled us to isolate and detect various bacterial species from oral biofilm. It has been estimated that more than 600 bacterial species

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inhabit the oral cavity. Nevertheless, the oral cavity is considered healthy when the oral microbiota is composed of indigenous bacteria. Numerous environmental changes in the oral cavity may lead to accumulation of dental caries-associated or periodontitis-associated bacteria, resulting in the initiation of dental caries or periodontitis, respectively. The environment in crevices around dental implants is considered similar to that in subgingival sulcus, such as neutral pH, anaerobiosis and rich nutrition (e.g., amino acids and peptides). The environment may be supportive of anaerobic growth of the bacteria in microbiota in crevices around implants, particularly at the interface between histocompatible artificial material and mucosal epithelium. The microbiota may trigger inflammation in the tissue around the implants. In this article, the current topics on the profiling of oral microbiota in crevices around implants are reviewed.

**Keywords** Bacteria • Dental implant • Oral microbiota • Profiling

## 4.1 Introduction

Large numbers of bacteria ( $>10^6/\text{mm}^2$ ) generally inhabit the surface of the oral cavity, particularly at the interface between teeth and gingiva, as an oral biofilm (microbiota). The establishment of anaerobic bacterial culture and molecular biological techniques has enabled us to isolate and detect various bacterial species from oral biofilm. Currently, it has been estimated that more than 600 bacterial species inhabit the oral cavity. Nevertheless, the oral cavity is considered healthy when the oral microbiota is composed of indigenous bacteria.

### 4.1.1 *Quantitative and Qualitative Analyses of Oral Biofilm*

For the past several decades, with the development of techniques for culturing obligate anaerobes, in particular, adoption of the well-maintained anaerobic glove box system permitted the efficient recovery of obligate anaerobes from oral cavities and lesions. Importantly, all plates, media, buffer solutions and experimental instruments are kept in an anaerobic glove box for at least 24 h before use. To ensure strictly anaerobic conditions in the glove box, reduction of methyl viologen ( $-446$  mV) is carefully monitored whenever experimental procedures are carried out. By adopting these exacting anaerobic techniques, the microbiota of oral biofilm has been shown to consist mainly of obligate anaerobes [1–5].

At present, the identification of obligate anaerobes is generally performed utilizing molecular biological techniques [6–12]. For instance, the bacterial 16S ribosomal RNA gene sequences are amplified by PCR, and partial sequences are then compared with those from the GenBank database using the BLAST search program through the National Center for Biotechnology Information website. Bacterial species are determined by percent sequence similarity ( $>97\%$ ).

### ***4.1.2 Oral Ecology: Environmental Factors Affecting Oral Biofilm***

Numerous environmental changes in the oral cavity may lead to an accumulation of dental caries-associated or periodontitis-associated bacteria, resulting in the initiation of dental caries or periodontitis, respectively. The environment in crevices around dental implants is considered similar to that in subgingival sulcus, such as neutral pH, anaerobiosis and rich nutrition (e.g., amino acids and peptides). The environment may be supportive of anaerobic growth in the crevices around implants, particularly at the interface between histocompatible artificial material and mucosal epithelium. The microbiota may trigger inflammation in the tissue around the implants.

In this article, the current topics related to profiling of oral microbiota in crevices around implants are reviewed.

## **4.2 Nutritional and Environmental Aspects of Dental Implants**

Nutrition for bacteria are supplied by the fluids around implants (PICF; peri-implant crevicular fluids) and teeth (GCF; gingival crevicular fluids), thus, fluid volume and contents, as well as pH, are considered to be critical to the health of dental implants.

### ***4.2.1 Fluid Volume***

Fluid volume with healthy implants was  $2.17 \pm 2.09 \mu\text{L}$  (range of Periotron 22.6–35.2 units) and that with healthy teeth was  $3.49 \pm 2.26 \mu\text{L}$  (36.3–56.6 units) ( $n = 7$ , mean age, 54.2 years) [13]. Similarly, Apse et al. [14] reported that fluid volumes were Periotron  $57.1 \pm 37.5$  units and  $54.8 \pm 28.9$  units, for healthy implants ( $n = 28$ ) and healthy teeth ( $n = 19$ ), respectively. There were no significant differences between healthy implants and healthy teeth, suggesting similar conditions between healthy implants and healthy teeth.

### ***4.2.2 Fluid Constituents***

In terms of profile of crevicular fluid constituents such as inflammatory markers in healthy PICF and GCF are reportedly similar, e.g.,  $\alpha 2$ -macroglobulin (17 and 16 ng/ $\mu\text{g}$  albumin),  $\alpha 1$ -antitrypsin (33 and 48), transferrin (34 and 47), lactoferrin (17 and 40)

and immunoglobulin G against *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (82 and 102), respectively [15]. These trends were also observed in inflamed status (peri-implantitis and periodontitis), e.g.,  $\alpha$ 2-macroglobulin (20 and 15 ng/ $\mu$ g albumin),  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin (42 and 46), transferrin (35 and 31), lactoferrin (14 and 24) and immunoglobulin G against *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (47 and 43), respectively [15].

### 4.2.3 Environmental Condition: Fluid pH

Fluid pH of healthy PICF was 6.82 (range 6.30–7.70) and that of healthy GCF was 6.90 (range 6.50–8.50). On the other hand, the ranges of fluid pH for peri-implantitis and periodontitis were 5.63–8.50 and 7.20–7.70, respectively [16].

## 4.3 Microbiota Around Implants

### 4.3.1 Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Microbiota in PICF

Bacterial counts in healthy PICF ( $n = 10$ ) were  $(0.8 \pm 2.0) \times 10^6$  [17], while those in healthy GCF ( $n = 7$ ) were  $(7.6 \pm 8.6) \times 10^8$  [7]. In inflamed status,  $(7.5 \pm 9.8) \times 10^7$  bacteria were recovered from plate crevices ( $n = 3$ ) for orthodontic treatment [7], while  $(5.8 \pm 2.8) \times 10^6$  and  $(1.6 \pm 1.5) \times 10^7$  bacteria were found in periodontal pockets ( $n = 7$  and  $n = 5$  from [4] and [8], respectively).

The proportion of obligate anaerobes among the microbiota of healthy PICF was 21 % [17], and that of healthy GCF was 31 % [7]. With regard to bacterial composition, *Actinomyces* (17 %), *Campylobacter* (12 %), *Fusobacterium* (10 %), *Selenomonas* (10 %), *Streptococcus* (8.2 %), *Lepotrichia* (7.6 %), *Prevotella* (7.1 %), *Neisseria* (6.5 %), *Veillonella* (6 %), *Dialister* (3.3 %) and *Haemophilus* (2.7 %) were predominant in healthy plate crevices, while *Actinomyces* (37 %), *Streptococcus* (20 %), *Veillonella* (7.5 %), *Olsenella* (6.2 %), *Prevotella* (4.8 %), *Fusobacterium* (2.7 %), *Parvimonas* (2.7 %), *Selenomonas* (2.1 %), *Neisseria* (2.1 %), *Capnocytophaga* (2.1 %), *Gemella* (2.1 %), *Rothia* (2.1 %) and *Haemophilus* (1.4 %) were predominant in healthy GCF [7]. Under the viewpoint that major anaerobes were *Campylobacter*, *Fusobacterium*, *Selenomonas*, *Prevotella*, *Veillonella* and *Dialister*, and major facultative anaerobes were *Actinomyces*, *Streptococcus*, *Neisseria* and *Haemophilus*, a similarity were suggested between healthy plate crevices and healthy GCF.

This suggests that the microbiota around implants is similar to that of gingival sulcus with regard to bacterial density and proportion of anaerobes in microbiota. Therefore, similarly to the maintenance of the teeth with periodontal pockets, treatments with dental implants require strict self-oral care and regular professional plaque control in order to prevent infection.

### 4.3.2 *Metagenome (Pyrosequencing) Analysis of Microbiota in PICF*

In contrast, inflammatory and immune responses of peri-implant mucosa to microbiota around implants have not been reported in detail. Thus, it is possible that particular microbiota may be formed around dental implants. Indeed, recent pyrosequencing analyses have shown that microbiota in healthy PICF was distinct from that in healthy GCF, and that the currently accepted theory on the transmission from the tooth to the implant surface requires reexamination [18, 19]. More specifically, utilizing the pyrosequencing technique, Kumar et al. [18] reported that *Prevotella*, *Treponema*, *Leptotrichia*, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Butyrivibrio* and *Lactococcus* were significantly present in healthy PICF, while non-mutans streptococci, *Fusobacterium*, *Actinomyces*, *Granulicatella*, *Dialister*, *Veillonella*, *Neisseria*, *Corynebacterium*, *Synergistes* and *Arthrobacter* were significantly present in healthy GCF. In addition, Dabdoub et al. [19] reported that *Actinomyces gerencseriae*, *Actinomyces bovis*, *Veillonella dispar*, *Haemophilus influenza*, *Streptococcus minor*, *Mycoplasma faucium*, *Streptococcus macedonicus*, *Streptococcus pseudoporcinus*, Unclassified Bacillales, *Actinomyces radidentis*, *Streptococcus infantis*, *Actinomyces meyeri*, *Streptococcus ursoris* and *Veillonella* spp. were significantly present in healthy PICF, while *Caulobacter* spp., *Peptostreptococcus anaerobius*, Unclassified Rs-045, *Desulfobulbus* spp. and *Bulleidia* spp. were significantly present in healthy GCF.

With the improvement of materials and techniques of dental implants, the environment around dental implants will possibly change markedly, and thus a comprehensive analysis of microbiota, as well as the development of novel markers in the environment, is required in order to elucidate the etiological role in peri-implant diseases.

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