Cochrane Reviews
Disease and Conditions
Arranged by title

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Full-mouth disinfection for the treatment of adult chronic periodontitis
Updated review – 2008

Implications for practice: Appears effective
Full-mouth disinfection or full-mouth scaling is thought to prevent re-infection of already treated sites that might occur during conventional quadrant scaling in patients with periodontitis. This review reports slightly more favourable outcomes following full-mouth disinfection compared to quadrant scaling and root planing in patients with chronic periodontitis. Since the differences were modest, in practice, the decision to select one approach over another needs to include patient preferences and convenience of the treatment schedule.
http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD004622/frame.html

Interventions for preventing oral mucositis for patients with cancer receiving treatment
Updated review – 2007

Implications for practice: Several therapies appear effective
Oral mucositis (mouth ulcers) is a side effect of cancer treatment. Over 30 treatments for oral mucositis in 89 trials were examined in this review. Several therapies appear to either prevent or reduce the severity of mouth ulcers caused by chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer. For patients with head and neck cancer these are amifostine and hydrolytic enzymes. For patients undergoing chemotherapy with 5-FU, ice chips may be effective. Chinese medicine was found to be effective on patients with head and neck cancer and other solid cancers.
http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD000978/frame.html

Interventions for the treatment of oral and oropharyngeal cancers: surgical treatment
Updated review – 2007

Implications for practice: Appears effective based on weak evidence
Opinion varies about the best approach to the treatment of oral and oropharyngeal cancers. This review tried to establish which treatments involving a surgical procedure alone or in combination with any other treatment type are the most effective for oral and oropharyngeal cancers and provide the best outcomes in terms of survival and quality of life of the patient. The review found weak evidence that concomitant radio/chemotherapy (with surgery) is more effective than radiotherapy (with surgery) and may benefit outcomes in patients with more advanced oral and oropharyngeal cancers.
http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD006205/frame.html
Occlusal interventions for periodontitis in adults
New review – 2008

Implications for practice: Unknown effectiveness due to limited evidence
Occlusal overload occurs when excessive force damages the supporting structure of a tooth. Interventions to reduce the effect of occlusal overload on periodontally compromised teeth are sometimes used, but the evidence to support their effectiveness is limited. Based on one randomised controlled trial with inconclusive results, the authors of this review conclude that there is no evidence for or against the use of occlusal interventions in clinical practice.
http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD004968/frame.html

Routine scale and polish for periodontal health in adults
Updated review – 2008

Implications for practice: Effectiveness unknown
There is debate over the clinical and cost effectiveness of routine scaling and polishing and the optimal frequency at which it should be provided. Although nine studies were included in this review, they all have a high risk of bias. There were some statistically significant differences in favour of scaling and polishing provided at more frequent intervals, but trials were of insufficient quality to draw conclusions for practice.
http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD004625/frame.html