1. ABSTRACT

Body, bugs and lifestyle: Susceptibility to periodontal disease.

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Treatment planning in periodontics must be based on an understanding of aetiology and pathogenesis. In this context, there is general agreement that periodontopathic bacteria are the cause of progressive periodontal destruction, however it is also clear that some people are able to harbour the organisms without manifesting loss of periodontal support. In this context, it is the host response, modified by environmental factors, that determines the ultimate outcome. This presentation will cover recent data showing the transient nature of periodontal pathogens in the population as well as focussing on the immunoregulatory control of the host response to these pathogens. Finally, the impact of environmental factors such as smoking and the clinical implications of the research will be discussed.

2. CONTRIBUTOR’S PROFILE

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