A Survey of the Periodontal Status and Oral Hygiene Conditions in Korean

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Sang-Mook Choi教授 略歴
1938：韓国に生まれる
1961：ソウル国立大学歯学部卒業
1964：ソウル国立大学 M.S.D.取得
1969：ソウル国立大学 Ph.D.取得
1974～1978：ソウル国立大学助教授
1978：Michigan大学歯学部交換教授
1978～1983：ソウル国立大学准教授
1978：Baylor歯科大学(アメリカ)交換教授
1980～：ソウル国立大学歯周治療学教室主任
1983～：ソウル国立大学教授
1985～：韓国歯周病学会会長
A Survey of the Periodontal Status and Oral Hygiene Conditions in Korean

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It was 60 years ago that the dentistry was first introduced to Korea and it has been only 20 years since lecture in periodontology was given at universities and systematic application was made in the clinics. Also, the Academy of Periodontology was organized at about the same time. In other words, periodontology is considered as one of the newest studies brought into the Korean academic society. As I understand it, the situation in Japan was not much different from that of Korea. However, despite of the shortness of the history of periodontology, the two nations both have achieved surprisingly rapid strides in their progress. The reason lies in the fact that the periodontal disease has been recognized to have more weight compared to other dental diseases.

The conventional concept of treatment in dentistry has placed its concern in reconstructive therapy, in which the focus was placed on the replacement of the extracted teeth. As the dentistry progressed, the concept has been replaced with a new idea that the natural tooth must be preserved until the end of its life. Therefore, the importance of periodontology need not to be repeatedly emphasized today when dentistry has advanced to the state in which it is devoting itself to the health of the whole stomatognatic system and further to the health of the whole human entity.

But also, it is an undesirable fact the both dentists and patients lack in understanding the effectiveness and positiveness of the periodontal treatment. Such lack of recognition can be blamed on inadequate public education, but also on the dentists' inattentive attitude and on inconsistency of dental curriculum.

Although the professional enthusiasm of the periodontists have been displaced in every clinical aspect of periodontal therapy in Korea, we lack independent research in the areas like etiology, specificity, and progression of the disease. We have only referred to and induced western theories and rationale in method of research and treatment of periodontal disease. Thus we were unable to have deeper concern towards the specific periodontal characteristics of the Oriental people.

Since periodontal disease is characterized by the immune reaction such as the host response or by the biological variety of the oral microflora, we must now give much attention toward the fact that the disease occurring among the Orientals like Koreans and Japanese can assume specific characteristics pertaining only to us. For example, it can readily be assumed that the species of plaque bacteria and the type of the serum antibody of the Orientals would be different from those of the Westerners.

Accordingly, in case of Orientals like Koreans and Japanese, whose diet and life style are very similar, there is a great possibility in finding out a new method of research and treatment which agree with our specific characteristics. Therefore, it seems to be logical that the periodontal academy of both nations make a joint effort to select and work on research projects and compare the results, so that we can make practical applications for clinical therapy, thus further advances in the health of our people.