

## Initial Assessments: Another Unique Characteristic of The Dental Wellness Center

Robert P. McBride, D.D.S., M.A.G.D

One of the unique features of the Dental Wellness Center is that all new patients undergo an oral environment assessment that includes using high-tech instruments that can detect oral pre-cancer and cancer, pH testing for oral alkalinity-acidity, and several assessment technologies to determine the state of one's periodontal (gum) health and predisposition to tooth decay. One of these assessments is an assessment of the patient's oral biofilm taken from between the teeth and gums, cheeks and tongue and sent to a laboratory to assess the presence of eight of the most harmful types of bacteria that are found in the mouth, and their amounts. Some of these bacterial types have been found the brains of Alzheimer's patients<sup>1</sup>, swimming live in the clots taken from the hearts of heart attack sufferers<sup>2</sup> and in stroke clots<sup>3</sup>.

Researchers have recently discovered that the presence of specific oral bacteria may also indicate an increased risk for pancreatic cancer. Such testing may enable early and precise treatment of the disease — which, according to the American Cancer Society, is responsible for more than 40,000 deaths in the United States each year. Research conducted at the New York University Langone Medical Center and Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center shows the bacteria *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* are closely associated with pancreatic cancer. This research was presented at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting on April 19 in New Orleans. The researchers looked for links between bacteria known to cause oral disease and bacteria found in patients with pancreatic cancer. They found that individuals who had *P. gingivalis* in their oral microbiomes were at 59% greater risk of developing pancreatic cancer than those without the pathogen. Individuals whose oral microbiomes included *A. actinomycetemcomitans* were 50% more likely to develop pancreatic cancer than those without the bacteria. Both *P. gingivalis* and *A. actinomycetemcomitans*, the researchers note, are also closely tied to periodontal disease.

These two bacterial types lie within the eight that we routinely test for at The Center, and research reports like (such as) these validate the value and uniqueness of our holistic approach to the oral systemic connection.

### **1 Determining the presence of periodontopathic virulence factors in short-term postmortem Alzheimer's disease brain tissue.**

[J Alzheimers Dis.](#) 2013;36(4):665-77. doi: 10.3233/JAD-121918.

[Poole S<sup>1</sup>](#), [Singhrao SK](#), [Kesavalu L](#), [Curtis MA](#), [Crean S](#).

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23666172>

### **2 Bacterial signatures in thrombus aspirates of patients with myocardial infarction. PubMed**

[Pessi T<sup>1</sup>](#), [Karhunen V](#), [Karjalainen PP](#), [Ylitalo A](#), [Airaksinen JK](#), [Niemi M](#), [Pietila M](#), [Lounatmaa K](#), [Haapaniemi T](#), [Lehtimäki T](#), [Laaksonen R](#), [Karhunen PJ](#).

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23418311>

### **3 Periodontal Disease as a Risk Factor for Ischemic Stroke**

Armin J. Grau, MD; Heiko Becher, PhD; Christoph M. Ziegler, MD, DDS; Christoph Lichy, MD; Florian Buggle, MD; Claudia Kaiser; Rainer Lutz, MD; Stefan Bültmann, MD; Michael Preusch, Cand Med; Christof E. Dörfer, DDS

<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/content/35/2/496.full>