

Microbial diversity of supra- and subgingival biofilms on freshly colonized titanium implant abutments in the human mouth

W. Heuer, M. Stiesch, W. R. Abraham

▶ To cite this version:

W. Heuer, M. Stiesch, W. R. Abraham. Microbial diversity of supra- and subgingival biofilms on freshly colonized titanium implant abutments in the human mouth. European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, 2010, 30 (2), pp.193-200. $10.1007/\rm{s}10096-010-1068-y$. hal-00630266

HAL Id: hal-00630266 https://hal.science/hal-00630266

Submitted on 8 Oct 2011

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

1 2 3	Microbial diversity of supra- and subgingival biofilms on freshly colonized titanium implant abutments in the human mouth
4	W. Heuer ¹ , M. Stiesch ¹ , W. R. Abraham ²
5	
6	¹ Department of Prosthetic Dentistry and Biomedical Materials Science, Hannover Medical School, Hannover,
7	Germany
8	² Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Chemical Microbiology, Braunschweig, Germany
9	
10	
11	Correspondence to:
12	Dr. Wolf-Rainer Abraham
13	Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research
14	Chemical Microbiology
15	Inhoffenstrasse 7
16	38124 Braunschweig, Germany
17	Tel.: +49-531-6181-4300/-4226
18	Fax: +49-531-6181-4699
19	E-mail: Wolf-Rainer.Abraham@helmholtz-hzi.de
20	

22 Abstract:

- 23 Background: Supra- and subgingival biofilm formation is considered to be mainly responsible for early implant
- 24 failure caused by inflammations of periimplant tissues. Nevertheless, little is known about the complex microbial

25 diversity and interindividual similarities around dental implants.

26 Objectives: An atraumatic assessment of the diversity of microbial communities around titanium implants by

- single strand conformation polymorphism (SSCP) analysis of the 16S rRNA gene amplicons and subsequent
 sequence analysis.
- 29 Methods: Samples of adherent supra- and subgingival peri-implant biofilms were collected from ten patients.
- 30 Additionally, samples of sulcusfluid were taken at titanium implant abutments and remaining teeth. The bacteria
- 31 in the samples were characterized by SSCP and sequence analysis.

32 **Results:** A high diversity of bacteria varying between patients and within one patient with location was found.

33 Bacteria characteristic for sulcusfluid and supra- and subgingival biofilm communities were identified.

34 Sulcusfluid of the abutments showed higher abundance of *Streptococcus* species than from residual teeth.

35 Prevotella and Rothia species frequently reported from the oral cavity were not detected at the abutments

36 suggesting a role as late colonizers.

37 Conclusion: Different niches in the human mouth are characterized by specific groups of bacteria. Implant
 38 abutments are a very valuable approach to study dental biofilm development *in vivo*.

- 39
- 40
- 41
- 42 Keywords:
- 43 Oral implants, single strand conformation polymorphism, microbial diversity, implant abutments, biofilm,
- 44 microbial communities

45 Introduction:

46 The clinical success of osseointegrated oral implants led to extended application. Today many 47 conventionally prosthetic treatments have been replaced by implant supported prosthetic supraconstructions. 48 From a clinical viewpoint this fact is supported by multitudinous studies which analyzed structural and 49 functional improvements of the implant surface. While the problem of primary osseointegration is solved in a 50 high quality manner, inflammation of peri-implant tissues by the presence of bacterial biofilms is considered 51 currently as one of the principle problems in oral implantation and, therefore, responsible for early implant 52 failure. This early implant failures are clinically characterized by inflammation of the peri-implantary mucosa 53 (Figure 1a) and a subsequent destruction of the peri-implantary bone (Figure 1b).

54 The early processes of biofilm formation, like generation of an acquired pellicle by salivary 55 biopolymers or enzymes and adherence of initial microorganisms, is described as is the relationship between 56 biofilm formation and periodontitis or periimplantitis. For example, Streptococcus mitis, S. sanguinis and S. 57 oralis are known to create the pre-conditions for the accumulation of gram-negative anaerobic bacteria [1-5]. 58 Several studies were able to indicate, that during periimplant biofilm formation the microbial composition 59 shifted towards a higher proportion of such gram-negative anaerobic microbiota [6-10]. However, these 60 previously studies of microorganisms associated with diseases relied heavily upon cultivation or DNA 61 checkerboard hybridization methods. The applied techniques are associated with the main disadvantages of a 62 specific bacterial identification or time-consuming and fault-prone cultivation [11]. This led to the identification 63 of several species as putative periodontopathogens based on frequency of their isolation in lesion sites. Among 64 these are Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans, Porphyromonas gingivalis, Prevotella intermedia, 65 Bacteroides forsythus, Treponema denticola, Fusobacterium nucleatum, Parvimonas micra, Campylobacter 66 rectus, Eikenella corrodens and Selenomonas sputigena [12-15]. However, concentrating only on those bacteria 67 which can currently be cultivated and ignoring particularly those which cultivation fails to capture [16] will not 68 give a complete picture of infections leading to periodontitis or periimplantitis [17]. Because of these limitations, 69 it is also difficult to acquire a complete understanding of the dynamic changes of oral microbes as dental 70 biofilms turn from harmless ones into detrimental microbial communities. Answers to this challenge are culture-71 independent methods to monitor microbial communities over space and time.

Therefore, the objective of the present study was to assess the diversity of microbial communities, by culture-independent methods, of initial periimplant biofilms in supra- and subgingival areas, to compare them with those of the sulcus fluid and to identify microbial communities posing potential problems for infections. In addition, a sample of sulcusfluid was taken at one remaining tooth in the same jaw to evaluate cross-infections

76 between implants and teeth in the initial phase of biofilm formation.

77

78

79 Material and methods:

80 Subjects:

81 The present study was approved by the ethics committee of Hannover Medical School (No. 3791). The 82 examination was performed with the understanding and written consent of each patient.

Qualitative analysis was based on 10 healing abutments which were inserted for 14 days into 10 patients, 6 women and 4 men, aged between 60 and 83 years (mean 70 years \pm 6.7 years). Patients were selected to fulfil the following inclusion criteria: no systemic illness, no smoking, no pregnancy, no active periodontitis (probing pocket depth \leq 4 mm), no pharmacological treatment or antibiotic therapy during or up to four months before the study. At the day of abutment insertion all patients received dental hygiene instructions but no professional tooth cleaning was performed during the observation period.

All patients were partially edentulous and had at least one oral two-piece implant made of titanium
(Astra Tech, Mölndal, Sweden), which had been inserted three months before investigation. Two weeks after
abutment surgery, the previously existing abutments were removed and new sterile healing abutments (Astra
Tech, Mölndal, Sweden) for the analysis were inserted (Figure 2). Thereby no trimming of surrounding gingiva
was performed.

94

95

97 Two weeks after insertion of the new sterile healing abutments, samples of adherent biofilm and 98 crevicular fluid were taken. The periimplant saliva was removed by use of an air spray and cotton rolls. First, 99 samples of crevicular fluid were taken with sterile paper points at abutments and remaining teeth. Afterwards, 100 samples of adherent supragingival biofilm on the abutments were taken with sterile sponges. The samples of 101 adherent subgingival biofilm could be collected after abutment removal. All samples were stored in sample tubes 102 (Eppendorf AG) at -80 °C.

103

104 DNA analysis:

⁹⁶ Sampling:

105 DNA was extracted using the Fast-DNA-Spin-Kit for soil (Bio 101, CA, USA) following the 106 instructions of the manufacturer. The primers chosen for the amplification of bacterial 16S rRNA genes were 107 forward primer Com1 (5'CAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC3') and reverse primer Com2-Ph 108 (5'CCGTCAATTCCTTTGAGTTT3' with 5'-terminal phosphate group) as published by Schwieger and Tebbe 109 [18]. To obtain single-stranded DNA the phosphorylated strand of the PCR products was digested by lambda 110 exonuclease (New England Biolabs, Schwalbach, Germany) following the protocol of Schwieger and Tebbe, and 111 further purified using the Mini-elute-Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) as recommended by the manufacturer, and 112 the remaining single stranded DNA was dried under vacuum. The DNA was then resuspended in denaturating 113 SSCP loading buffer (47.5 % formamide, 5 mM sodium hydroxide, 0.12 % bromophenol blue and 0.12 % xylene 114 cyanol), incubated at 95°C for 2 min and immediately cooled on ice. After 5 min, samples were loaded onto the 115 gels and subjected to electrophoresis. The samples were electrophoresed in a MDE gel (9 ml 2x MDE (FMC 116 Bioproducts, Rockland, Maine), 3 ml 10x TBE buffer, 18 ml bidest. water, 10% APS 120 µl and 12 µl TEMED). 117 Gels (21 cm) were cast (spacers of 0.5 mm) and run with 1x TBE buffer. Gels were run at 400 V for 16 h at 118 20°C in a Macrophor electrophoresis unit (LKB Bromma, Sweden) and subsequently silver stained [19].

119

120 Sequence analysis:

121 Single bands were excised from the gels and eluted in extraction-buffer (10 mM Tris-buffer, 5 mM KCl, 122 1.5 mM MgCl2 x 6 H2O, 0.1 % Triton X 100, pH 9.0) at 95°C for 15 min. Extracts were centrifuged (12000 x g, 123 1 min) and the DNA in the supernatant fluid was used for PCR with the primers described above. The PCR-124 product was cleaned (Mini-elute-Kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and sequenced with a sequencing kit 125 (DYEnamic ET Terminator cycle sequencing kit by Amersham Biosciences, Freiburg, Germany) and both 126 primers. The product was cleaned with the Dye Ex Spin Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and the sequence 127 analyzed on an ABI PRISMTM 337 DNA-Sequencer and 3100 Genetic Analyser. Comparisons of the sequences 128 were performed using the BLAST program and the databases of EMBL [20] and GenBank [21]. The 129 phylogenetic analysis was done using the MUSCLE version 3.6 software for sequence alignments [22]. Tree 130 topologies were reconstructed with neighbour-joining algorithm (complete deletion of gaps/missing data, 131 maximum composite likelihood model, bootstrap: 1000 replicates) (Figure 3) with the software MEGA 4 [23]. 132 All reference sequences used in the tree are from validated bacterial species: each has been cultured, 133 characterized, deposited with at least two recognized culture collections, and named under the procedure 134 described in the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature (ICNB), 1990 revision [24]. The sequences

135 of the oral rDNA bands obtained from patients 1 to 10 (31 sequences, indicated in Figure 3) have been deposited

136 in the GenBank database under accession numbers FN870024-FN870053 and FR666873.

137

138 Statistics:

Statistical analyses were done using the STATISTICA 6 software. For correlation analysis and discriminate analysis the presence/absence of a species was used. Discriminant analysis was performed applying the forward stepwise method setting the tolerance to minimum (10⁻¹⁰).

142

143 Results

144 All samples showed a large number of SSCP-bands and, hence, possess a high diversity of bacteria 145 varying between patients and within one patient with location (Figure 4). Sequence analyses of 101 SSCP-bands 146 led to the identification of 31 different bacterial taxa belonging to 5 different bacterial phyla (Firmicutes, 147 Actinobacteria, Proteobacteria (Beta-, Gamma- and Epsilon-), Bacteroidetes and Fusobacteria). Remarkable 148 were the diversity of Veillonella, Streptococcus, Parvimonas, Fusobaterium and Neisseria species detected. 149 Species have only been identified down to the species level if they matched exactly with the sequence of the type 150 strain (Figure 3). In the genus Veillonella gene sequences matching those of Veillonella parvula (Veillonella 151 parvula 54-5) and Veillonella atypica (Veillonella atypica 133-5) could be identified. A third sequence 152 (Veillonella sp. 112-3) was closer related to Veillonella dispar. As has been expected, many biofilm bacteria fell 153 into the genus Streptococcus. Here Streptococcus mitis 42-1 and Streptococcus intermedius 63-1 could be 154 identified together with two unknown Streptococcus species which were related to Streptococcus intermedius 155 and Streptococcus constellatus (Streptococcus sp. 41-2 and 113-3). No sequence belonging to Streptococcus 156 mutans was found. The genus Fusobacterium comprises strictly anaerobic bacteria and species of this genus are 157 well known from the human mouth. The species Fusobacterium naviforme 72-3 and Fusobacterium canifelinum 158 113-8 were identified from the corresponding SSCP amplicons together with a third Fusobacterium sequence 159 (Fusobacterium sp. 63-3) which was related to Fusobacterium naviforme. As for the former two species of the 160 genus Neisseria have been reported as common members of dental biofilms in humans and Neisseria mucosa 161 133-2 was found together with the unknown Neisseria species 71-2 related to Neisseria polysaccharea. 162 Parvimonas micra, widely distributed in human dental biofilms, was also detected in this study (Parvimonas 163 micra 52-1). From one patient however, two distinct Parvimonas sequences have been identified (Parvimonas 164 sp. 72-1 and 72-3) belonging to two undescribed Parvimonas species (Figure 3).

165 To detect interdependencies between bacteria species we correlated the occurrence of all species 166 identified. Significant correlations were found between Veillonella species 112-3 and Neisseria species 71-2, 167 Haemophilus parainfluenzae 112-5 and Campylobacter sp. 113-6, between Veillonella parvula 54-5 and 168 Oribacterium species 54-3 and Centipeda periodontii 54-1 and between Veillonella sp. 133-5 and 169 Campylobacter gracilis 54-7 and Selenomonas noxia 134-1. Streptococcus mitis 42-1 was significantly 170 associated with Lautropia mirabilis 74-1, while the occurrence of Streptococcus intermedius 63-1 correlated 171 with that of Campylobacter sp. 113-6. Fusobacterium canifelinum is closely related to Fusobacterium nucleatum 172 which is known to have many interactions with other bacteria in dental plaques, but we found only a significant 173 correlation between its occurrences with the two *Campylobacter* species.

174 We addressed the question whether the microbial communities are controlled by the individual host or 175 the environment controls the composition of the community. To achieve this goal we used the bacteria detected 176 in a sample to discern between the different types of samples. Discriminant analysis is used to find a 177 combination of features (here bacteria species) which characterize or separate classes of objects (here sampling 178 sites or patients). The resulting combination can be used to reduce the dimensionality. We applied discriminant 179 analyses to identify such correlations and could not find microbial communities specific for the individual 180 patients (data not shown). However, discriminant analyses identified occurrences of Lactobacillus delbrueckii 181 92-2, Parvimonas sp. 72-1, Haemophilus parainfluenzae 112-5 and Streptococcus mitis 42-1 as discriminative 182 between the subgingival bacteria and the other samples. The occurrences of Parvimonas micra 52-1 and 183 Neisseria mucosa 133-2 were characteristic for the supragingival microbial communities, while those of the 184 sulcusfluid from the abutments were characterized by the presence of Burkholderia sp. 113-1 (Figure 5a). In 185 figure 5b the contribution of every discriminative strain to the plot shown in figure 5a was plotted for the first 186 two coefficients factors. This presentation allows the fast identification of strains to a given sample set, e. g. 187 Parvimonas micra 52-1 and Neisseria mucosa 133-2 contributed most to supragingival biofilms while 188 Parvimonas sp. 72-1 was characteristic for subgingival biofilms. For the sulcusfluid from the residual teeth no 189 discriminative bacteria could be identified as expected from the central position of this group in figure 5a. 190 Comparing the sulcusfluid around the abutments and around the residual teeth only small differences in the 191 microbial diversity was seen. One remarkable difference, however, was the higher diversity and the much higher 192 frequency of Streptococcus sequences found in the sulcusfluid around the abutments compared to that from 193 residual teeth.

- 194
- 195 Discussion

196 The use of healing abutments to study the microbial diversity of initial biofilms on oral implant 197 abutments using an unspecific molecular biological detection method allows an in-vivo analysis of biofilms in 198 supra and subgingival areas along oxic-anoxic gradients. The anaerobic environment enables realistic formation 199 of the same biofilm as during development of mucositis or periimplantitis. The advantage to remove healing 200 abutments atraumatically for sampling adherent bacteria in subgingival areas without contaminating the sample 201 with supragingival microbiota was an important precondition for a realistic comparison of supra- and 202 subgingival biofilm compositions. In the present study a short term investigation of biofilm formation on healing 203 abutments was performed over a period of 14 days. The analysis was performed over this specific period to 204 display the realistic and typical microorganisms in the initial phase of biofilm formation. Furthermore previous 205 investigations approved microbiota around implants to remain unchanged for six months after a comparable 206 period [25]. In recent studies, a similar method directed to the typical periodontal pathogens Aggregatibacter 207 actinomycetemcomitans or Porphyromonas gingivalis in the periimplant crevicular fluid was used [26, 27]. 208 However, structural differences between healing abutments and implant retained prostheses have to be 209 considered while interpreting the results. Implant anchored prostheses like crowns or bridges exhibit an anatomic 210 form with typical plaque retentive sites. Furthermore, a gap between the definitive abutments and the dental 211 prostheses can boost the biofilm formation because of their modular configuration. However, an analysis of 212 initial adherent biofilms along oxic-anoxic gradients is not possible with implant retained dental prostheses 213 because sampling of adherent bacteria in subgingival areas without removal of the construction is leading to a 214 contamination with supragingival microbiota in the majority of cases.

215 In the present study several species of the genera Veillonella, Streptococcus, Parvimonas, Fusobaterium 216 and Neisseria were detected all of them well known from dental plaques. Not all of them fitted to the 16S rRNA 217 gene sequences reported from the type strains of accepted species. However, the identification of the Veillonella 218 species is complicated as it has been reported that as least some Veillonella species have a rather high intra-219 chromosomal heterogeneity between their four rRNA gene copies [28]. No Streptococcus mutans sequences 220 were found, however, the essential role of *Streptococcus mutans* in the caries process has been questioned [29] 221 as some strains of Streptococcus oralis exhibited levels of caries induction in rats that were close to those of 222 Streptococcus mutans [30]. Streptococci are the principal group of the early colonizing bacteria showing 223 interactions with a number of other bacteria. One example is a metabolic interaction with Veillonella species, 224 which coaggregate with Streptococci [31]. In this food chain Veillonella uses lactic acid produced by the 225 Streptococci as an end product of carbohydrate fermentation [32]. Streptococcus species were detected in 75%

and *Veillonella* species in 50% of the patients. Only in one patient no *Streptococcus* but *Veillonella parvula*could be found.

228 Species of the genus Fusobacterium are obligate anaerobes and implicated in the pathogenesis of 229 periodontal disease. However, this organism has also been frequently identified in high numbers in healthy 230 adults. Consequently it was found in six out ten patients. The diversity of Fusobacterium species between the 231 different patients and also between the different locations was high. Such diversity has also been observed at the 232 clonal level of F. nucleatum isolates [33]. Interestingly, in this study also a large dynamic between the clones 233 could be shown. Furthermore, it is known from F. nucleatum that is a typically middle colonizer of dental 234 surfaces showing many interactions with the surrounding bacteria cells [34]. Both observations can explain the 235 diversity observed in our study but not the absence of *Fusobacterium* strains in some patients. This finding 236 points to alternative routes to anaerobic communities and plaque formation not involving Fusobacterium.

237 Well known primary colonizers are species of the genus Neisseria and found in the majority of the 238 patients but in two out of ten patients they could not be detected. Again it is reasonably to assume that Neisseria 239 is not essential for the primary colonization of dental implants and can be substituted by other species. In 240 addition to Neisseria many of the bacteria identified in this study including the Burkholderia species were also 241 reported from the initial colonization of enamel [35], childhood caries [36] and in periodontal pockets [37]. 242 Interestingly, no Prevotella or Rothia species was detected which were reported to be rather abundant in a recent 243 study on the oral microbiota of 10 individuals with healthy oral tissues [38]. It is tempting to speculate that these 244 bacteria appear late in the oral biofilm formation and were, therefore, not observed in our two-weeks-study. Such 245 an information can only obtained with methods which are at least "semiquantitative" but are hard to deduce from 246 a metagenomic approach [39]. A further advantage of the culture-independent approach applied here is the 247 detection of novel species, e. g. Oribacterium sp. 54-3. According to the gene databases such strain has never 248 been detected before and judging from its remote relatedness to Oribacterium sinus it may well belong to a still 249 undescribed genus.

Having assessed the microbial diversity of young biofilms in the human mouth it is interesting to compare the findings with detrimental biofilms reported in the literature [40]. Socransky and coworkers assessed the microbial diversity of a large number of plaque samples and correlated it with the clinical assessment [15]. Multivariate analyses revealed five groups of bacteria increasingly related to periodontitis. We compared this finding with our results and found that none of the species in the group strikingly related to periodontal disease was detected in our study. This indicates no forms of gingivitis or periodontitis. Beside pathogens related to dental diseases other pathogens were found in a few samples, e. g. *Neisseria mucosa, Actinomyces israelii* or Haemophilus parainfluenzae. The detection of *Haemophilus parainfluenzae* fits to the suggestion that typical
 respiratory pathogens may colonize the teeth of hospitalized intensive care and nursing home patients [41].

259 The occurrences of some bacteria were found to be discriminative for some sites. Streptococcus mitis 260 and Lactobacillus delbrueckii contributed together with Parvimonas sp. 72-1 to the discrimination of subgingival 261 biofilm communities while Neisseria mucosa and Parvimonas micra where mainly contributing to the 262 discrimination of supragingival biofilms. This also confirms their role as primary colonizers. Our results 263 confirmed earlier findings [42] but extended the number of site specific bacteria considerably. We also showed 264 that *Prevotella* and *Rothia* species, abundant in the oral cavity of healthy individuals, are not members of the 265 young biofilm communities. Concerning the experimental set-up used our results show as well that healing 266 abutments can be used as a convenient model to study initial colonization of implants under natural conditions in 267 humans.

268

269 Acknowledgements

We are indebted to Jennifer Knaak for her excellent technical assistance. This work was supported by a grant from the German Federal Ministry for Science, Education and Research (Project No. 01 KI 07 96) and by the German Research Foundation (DFG-SFB Collaborative Research Center 599).

273

274 **References:**

- Slots J (1977) The predominant cultivable microflora of advanced periodontitis. Scand J Dent Res
 85:114-121.
- 277 2. Loe H, Theilade E, Jensen SB (1965) Experimental gingivitis in man. J Periodontol 36:177-187.
- 278 3. Quirynen M, Vogels R (2002) [Clinical relevance of surface characteristics on the formation of plaque
 279 on teeth and implants]. Ned Tijdschr Tandheelkd 109:422-429.
- 4. Hannig M (1997) Transmission electron microscopic study of in vivo pellicle formation on dental
 restorative materials. Eur J Oral Sci 105:422-433.
- 5. Slots J (1977) Microflora in the healthy gingival sulcus in man. Scand J Dent Res 85:247-254.
- Berglundh T, Lindhe J, Ericsson I, Liljenberg B (1992) Enhanced gingivitis in the deciduous and
 permanent dentition. An experimental study in the dog. J Clin Periodontol 19:135-142.
- 285 7. Berglundh T, Lindhe J, Marinello C, Ericsson I, Liljenberg B (1992) Soft tissue reaction to *de novo*286 plaque formation on implants and teeth. An experimental study in the dog. Clin Oral Implants Res 3:1-
- 287

8.

- Leonhardt A, Berglundh T, Ericsson I, Dahlen G (1992) Putative periodontal pathogens on titanium
 implants and teeth in experimental gingivitis and periodontitis in beagle dogs. Clin Oral Implants Res
 3:112-119.
- 291 9. Ericsson I, Berglundh T, Marinello C, Liljenberg B, Lindhe J (1992) Long-standing plaque and
 292 gingivitis at implants and teeth in the dog. Clin Oral Implants Res 3:99-103.
- Abrahamsson I, Berglundh T, Lindhe J (1998) Soft tissue response to plaque formation at different
 implant systems. A comparative study in the dog. Clin Oral Implants Res 9:73-79; Erratum 9:281.
- Lau L, Sanz M, Herrera D, Morillo JM, Martin C, Silva A (2004) Quantitative real-time polymerase
 chain reaction versus culture: a comparison between two methods for the detection and quantification of
 Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans, Porphyromonas gingivalis and *Tannerella forsythensis* in
 subgingival plaque samples. J Clin Periodontol 31:1061-1069.
- 299 12. Slots J, Rams TE (1991) New views on periodontal microbiota in special patient categories. J Clin
 300 Periodontol 18:411-420.
- 301 13. Socransky SS, Haffajee AD (1992) The bacterial etiology of destructive periodontal disease: current
 302 concepts. J Periodontol 63:322-331.
- Wolff L, Dahlen G, Aeppli D (1994) Bacteria as risk markers for periodontitis. J Periodontol 65:498510.
- 305 15. Socransky SS, Haffajee AD, Cugini MA, Smith C, Kent RL, Jr. (1998) Microbial complexes in
 306 subgingival plaque. J Clin Periodontol 25:134-144.
- Li Y, Ku CY, Xu J, Saxena D, Caufield PW (2005) Survey of oral microbial diversity using PCR-based
 denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis. J Dent Res 84:559-564.
- 309 17. Kroes I, Lepp PW, Relman DA (1999) Bacterial diversity within the human subgingival crevice. Proc
 310 Natl Acad Sci U S A 96:14547-14552.
- 311 18. Schwieger F, Tebbe CC (1998) A new approach to utilize PCR-single-strand-conformation
 312 polymorphism for 16S rRNA gene-based microbial community analysis. Appl Environ Microbiol
 313 64:4870-4876.
- Bassam BJ, Caetano-Anolles G, Gresshoff PM (1991) Fast and sensitive silver staining of DNA in
 polyacrylamide gels. Anal Biochem 196:80-83; Erratum 198:217.
- Cochrane GR, Galperin MY The 2010 Nucleic aids research database issue and online database
 collection: a community of data resources. Nucleic Acids Res 38:D1-4.

- 318 21. Benson DA, Karsch-Mizrachi I, Lipman DJ, Ostell J, Wheeler DL (2008) GenBank. Nucleic Acids Res
 319 36:D25-30.
- 320 22. Edgar RC (2004) MUSCLE: multiple sequence alignment with high accuracy and high throughput.
 321 Nucleic Acids Res 32:1792-1797.
- 322 23. Kumar S, Nei M, Dudley J, Tamura K (2008) MEGA: a biologist-centric software for evolutionary
 323 analysis of DNA and protein sequences. Brief Bioinform 9:299-306.
- 324 24. Sneath PHA (1992) International code of nomenclature of bacteria: bacteriological code, 1990 revision.
 325 ASM Press
- 326 25. De Boever AL, De Boever JA (2006) Early colonization of non-submerged dental implants in patients
 327 with a history of advanced aggressive periodontitis. Clin Oral Implants Res 17:8-17.
- 328 26. Elter C, Heuer W, Demling A, Hannig M, Heidenblut T, Bach FW, Stiesch-Scholz M (2008) Supraand subgingival biofilm formation on implant abutments with different surface characteristics. Int J
 330 Oral Maxillofac Implants 23:327-334.
- 331 27. Heuer W, Elter C, Demling A, Neumann A, Suerbaum S, Hannig M, Heidenblut T, Bach FW, Stiesch332 Scholz M (2007) Analysis of early biofilm formation on oral implants in man. J Oral Rehabil 34:377333 382.
- 334 28. Marchandin H, Teyssier C, Simeon De Buochberg M, Jean-Pierre H, Carriere C, Jumas-Bilak E (2003)
 335 Intra-chromosomal heterogeneity between the four 16S rRNA gene copies in the genus *Veillonella*:
 336 implications for phylogeny and taxonomy. Microbiology 149:1493-1501.
- 337 29. Beighton D (2005) The complex oral microflora of high-risk individuals and groups and its role in the
- 338 caries process. Community Dent Oral Epidemiol 33:248-255.
- 339 30. Willcox MD, Drucker DB, Green RM (1987) Relative cariogenicity and in-vivo plaque-forming ability
 340 of the bacterium *Streptococcus oralis* in gnotobiotic WAG/RIJ rats. Arch Oral Biol 32:455-457.
- 341 31. Hughes CV, Andersen RN, Kolenbrander PE (1992) Characterization of *Veillonella atypica* PK1910
 342 adhesin-mediated coaggregation with oral *Streptococcus* spp. Infect Immun 60:1178-1186.
- 343 32. Mikx FH, van der Hoeven JS (1975) Symbiosis of *Streptococcus mutans* and *Veillonella alcalescens* in
 344 mixed continuous cultures. Arch Oral Biol 20:407-410.
- 345 33. Suchett-Kaye G, Decoret D, Barsotti O (1998) Clonal analysis by ribotyping of *Fusobacterium*346 *nucleatum* isolates obtained from healthy young adults with optimal plaque control. J Periodontal Res
 347 33:179-186.

- 348 34. Periasamy S, Kolenbrander PE (2010) Central role of early colonizer *Veillonella* sp. in establishing
 multispecies biofilm communities with initial, middle and late colonizers of enamel. J Bacteriol ahead
 of print, doi:10.1128/JB.01631-09.
- 35. Diaz PI, Chalmers NI, Rickard AH, Kong C, Milburn CL, Palmer RJ, Jr., Kolenbrander PE (2006)
 352 Molecular characterization of subject-specific oral microflora during initial colonization of enamel.
 353 Appl Environ Microbiol 72:2837-2848.
- 36. Becker MR, Paster BJ, Leys EJ, Moeschberger ML, Kenyon SG, Galvin JL, Boches SK, Dewhirst FE,
 Griffen AL (2002) Molecular analysis of bacterial species associated with childhood caries. J Clin
 Microbiol 40:1001-1009.
- 357 37. Paster BJ, Boches SK, Galvin JL, Ericson RE, Lau CN, Levanos VA, Sahasrabudhe A, Dewhirst FE
 358 (2001) Bacterial diversity in human subgingival plaque. J Bacteriol 183:3770-3783.
- 359 38. Bik EM, Long CD, Armitage GC, Loomer P, Emerson J, Mongodin EF, Nelson KE, Gill, SR, Fraser360 Logget CM, Relman DA (2010) Bacterial diversity in the oral cavity of 10 healthy individuals. ISME J
 361 2010:1-13.
- 362 39. Zaura E, Keijser BJ, Huse SM, Crielaard W (2009) Defining the healthy "core microbiome" of oral
 363 microbial communities. BMC Microbiol 9:259.
- Zijnge V, Harmsen HJ, Kleinfelder JW, van der Rest ME, Degener JE, Welling GW (2003) Denaturing
 gradient gel electrophoresis analysis to study bacterial community structure in pockets of periodontitis
 patients. Oral Microbiol Immunol 18:59-65.
- 367 41. Scannapieco FA (1999) Role of oral bacteria in respiratory infection. J Periodontol 70:793-802.
- Paster BJ, Olsen I, Aas JA, Dewhirst FE (2006) The breadth of bacterial diversity in the human
 periodontal pocket and other oral sites. Periodontol 2000 42:80-87.

370 Figure legends:

371

Figure 1: Clinical signs of periimplantitis with an inflammation of the peri-implantary mucosa (arrows) (a) and a
subsequent destruction of the peri-implantary bone with the typical signs of radiographic bone loss around the
dental implant (arrows) (b).

- 375
- **Figure 2**: New sterile Healing abutment (regio 12) *in situ*.
- 377

Figure 3: Unrooted phylogentic tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequences obtained by sequencing SSCP bands and the nearest type strain using neighbour joining. Bootstraps values are shown at the branching points; only values above 50% are shown. Only sequences with more than 350 unambiguously determined base pairs were included. Numbers in bold stand for sequences of SSCP bands deposited at GenBank. Scale bar represents 5 nucleotide substitutions per 100 bases.

383

Figure 4: SSCP samples from 5 patients; sp = supragingival, sb = subgingival, ab = sulcusfluid from abutment,

385 rt = sulcusfluid from residual teeth. Numbered bands are 1 = Neisseria mucosa, 2 = Veillonella parvula, 3 =

386 Burkholderia sp. 113-1, 4 = Marinobacter santoriniensis, 5 = Parvimonas micra, 6 = Corynebacterium sp. 51-2,

387 7 = Leptotrichia sp. 51-3, 8 = Klingella sp. 112-2, 9 = Campylobacter gracilis, 10 = Centipeda periodontii, 11 =

388 Oribacterium sp. 54-3, 12 = Fusobacterium nucleatum, 13 = Fusobacterium sp. 63-3, 14 = Parvimonas sp. 72-1,

389 15 = Parvimonas sp. 72-2, 16 = Fusobacterium naviforme, 17 = Lautropia mirabilis, 18 = Neisseria sp. 71-2, 19

390 = Streptococcus mitis, 20 = Lactobacillus delbrueckii, 21 = Streptococcus intermedius, 22 = Capnocytophaga

391 sputigena.

392

Figure 5: Discriminant analysis between the four sampling sites and the presence/absence of their bacteria. Only roots 1 and 2 are shown. **5a** (left): Plot of the four different sample types; circle: supragingival biofilms (solid ellipse), square: subgingival biofilms (dashed ellipse), rhomb: sulcusfluids of the abutments (mixed dashed ellipse), triangle: sulcusfluids of the residual teeth (solid ellipse). **5b** (right): factor loadings of the bacteria discriminating the four groups.

Figures:

400 Figure 1 a/b:





- 409 Figure 2:







- 418 Figure 4:







