

## **Periodontitis on Down Syndrome**

### **Abstract**

Down syndrome is a genetic anomaly, with phenotypic characteristics and it is caused by the existence of three chromosomes in pair 21. The carriers have some important physical and systemic changes as cardiac and intestinal malformation, respiratory, vision and hearing deficiencies, and some mental retardation. They exhibit mouth features as macroglossia, fissured tongue, agenesis, defects in the teeth enamel, crossbite, maxillary atresia, protruding jaw. Due to the relaxation of the facial muscles, the jaw is looser, the mouth more open and tongue projected slightly outward. The Down syndrome patients have a lower incidence of cavities, but a high incidence of periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is one of the pathologies that affect all carriers of Down Syndrome. Therefore, it is necessary that dentist has knowledge about characteristics of this pathology, mainly related to the presence and development of periodontal disease. This paper consists of a literature review that aims to highlight aspects of Down Syndrome related to periodontal disease, and the importance of early periodontal diagnosis and its treatment. The authors performed a scientific search in Medline and Bireme for selection of articles published in the literature. Based on the findings, it is important to emphasize the knowledge of the limitations suffered by these patients, providing better quality care, and assist their social integration.

**Key-words:** Down syndrome. Periodontitis. Trisomy.