

Clinical Characteristics Associated with the Presence of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* – *P. gingivalis*



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Introduction

The aim of the study was to evaluate the clinical characteristics associated with the presence of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* and *P. gingivalis* at both, the patient and site level. Clinical data included gender, age, smoking habits and probing depth.

Material and methods

The investigation was based on the databank of a commercial laboratory, which provides microbial analysis services (IAI, Zuchwill, Switzerland). Subgingival plaque samples were collected in patients with various forms of periodontal disease. Oligonucleotide probes were used to quantify *A. actinomycetemcomitans* and *P. gingivalis*. A total of 33'259 samples from 10'946 patients were included in the analysis. The database was stratified according to bacterial levels using 3 thresholds, e.g. below detection, < median, ≥ median, resulting in 9 combinations (A to I).

Results

Aa and *Pg* were detected respectively in 18.0% and 66.5% of the sites. The association *Aa-Pg* was observed in 12.7% of the sites (E,F,H,I).

Fig. 1 Prevalence of bacteria according to age

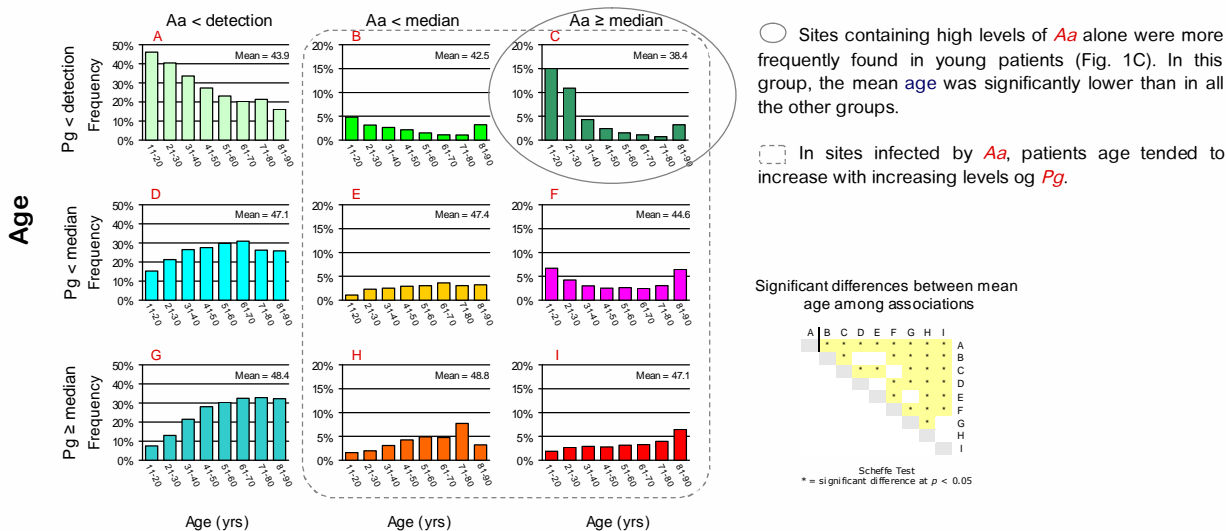
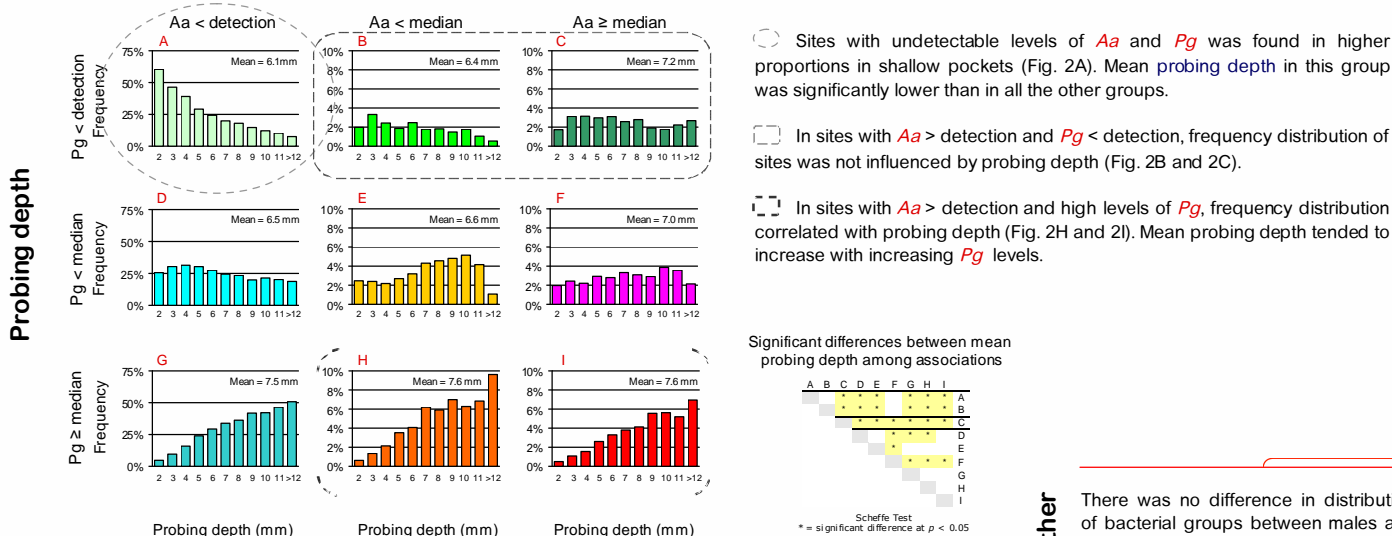


Fig. 2 Prevalence of bacteria according to probing depth



Other
There was no difference in distribution of bacterial groups between males and females nor between smokers and non-smokers.

Conclusion

This analysis shows in a population with various periodontal conditions that the association *Aa-Pg* was not frequently found and that sites with high levels of both species were uncommon. The results also suggest that characteristics of sites with high levels of *Aa* and *Pg* or high *Pg* alone are similar.