

Title: “*Best practice in periodontal therapy; views of Dental Hygienists*”

Authors: Anna Liss¹, Kerstin Nilsson², Jan L Wennström¹, Kajsa H Abrahamsson¹

¹ Department of periodontology, Institute of Odontology, The Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg.

² Institute of Health and Care sciences, The Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg.

Background: The establishment of periodontal infection control is essential in the prevention and treatment of periodontal disease. According to the Swedish Quality Registry for Caries and Periodontal disease, SKaPa, dental hygienists (DHs) perform almost 95% of all registered interventions directed towards the establishment of periodontal infection control. The Swedish national guide-lines for adult dental care, by the National Board of Health and Welfare, highlights recommendations for treatment and the importance of evidence-based practice. The present qualitative interview study is part of a larger project with focus on the effectiveness of non-surgical periodontal therapy performed by DHs in general dental praxis.

Aim: The aim was to analyze views of DHs on evidence based- best clinical practice in the non-surgical treatment of patients with periodontitis, and on patient-related, professional and organizational factors with potential impact on the therapy offered.

Material & Method: Study participants were selected among 50 DHs that had been involved in a preceding clinical field study. Individual, open-ended, interviews were performed with 18 DHs. The interviews were tape-recorded, transcribed verbatim and further analyzed with qualitative content analysis.

The study was approved by the Research Ethical Committee at the University of Gothenburg (Dnr: 1083-17)

Results: Analysis is ongoing.

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