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Is there a role for herbal medicine in the treatment and management of periodontal disease?

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Abstract

Periodontal disease is an inflammatory condition of the tissues of the periodontium that affects up to 90% of the world's population. Emerging antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance in oral biofilms has sparked off an increased interest in the potential of medicinal plants to treat periodontal pathologies. The last decade has seen a surge in numbers of *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies on herbs traditionally used for their anti-bacterial properties in ethno-pharmacological applications. This review paper assesses the current status and role of medicinal plants in the treatment and management of periodontal disease.

1. Introduction

Periodontal disease is widely recognised as a public health issue (Petersen, 2012). It is a leading cause of tooth loss (FDI World Dental Federation Report, 2014) and thus can seriously compromise quality of life (Batchelor, 2014; Sravani *et al.*, 2015). Periodontal disease has high prevalence. The milder form (gingivitis) affects up to 90% of the world's population (Philstrom *et al.*, 2005), whereas the severe form of the disease (chronic periodontitis) affects up to 20% of the world's population (FDI World Dental Federation Report, 2014). From the information of

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