

Drugs for depression linked with failure of dental implants

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McGill University
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Results of 916 dental implants done on 490 patients

	Number of patients	Number of implants	Successful implants	Implant failures	Implant failures as a percentage of total number of implants done
Patients not taking SSRIs	439	822	784	38	4.62 %
Patients taking SSRIs	51	94	84	10	10.64%

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A team from McGill University has discovered that people who take the most common antidepressants (such as Celexa, Paxil, Lexapro, Prozac, and Zoloft, the Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors or SSRIs) are twice as likely to have dental implants fail as those who are not taking SSRIs.

"Because antidepressants, which are widely used around the world, are reported to increase the risk of [bone fracture](#) and reduce [bone formation](#), we were curious to see how they might affect dental implants," says Prof. Faleh Tamimi, the lead author on the study and a professor in McGill's School of Dentistry. "Even so, we were surprised to discover

that the negative effect of SSRIs on dental implants was so strong, almost equal to that of smoking, a well-established hazard for oral health."

The researchers reached this conclusion by looking back over the records of dental implants done over a six-year period, between 2007 - 2013, in a clinic in Moncton, New Brunswick. Follow-ups took place with the patients between three and 67 months after the implant was done to see whether it had been successful.

"Unfortunately, because this study was based on data collected after the [implants](#) had been done rather than through interviews with incoming patients, it is impossible right now to determine the kind of SSRI dosage that could have this effect," says Tamimi. "But what this study tells us is both that further work needs to be done in the field and that whether they are planning to have [dental implants](#) or hip or knee prostheses, SSRI users should consult their physicians and plan carefully to ensure that the surgical treatment is successful."

More information: The complete study is available online: [jdr.sagepub.com/content/early/ ... 022034514549378.full](http://jdr.sagepub.com/content/early/.../022034514549378.full)

Provided by McGill University

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