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Georgia Southern Reports on Periodontal Disease and Venous Thromboembolism Risk

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Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health researchers assessed the impact of periodontal disease on venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk.

Using data from 8,092 participants of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study they examined periodontal disease in 1996-1998 and incident VTE through 2011. Periodontal disease was measured using self-reported tooth loss due to gum disease and dental exams. Cox-proportional hazards regression models were used to estimate hazard ratios for VTE and 95 percent confidence intervals adjusted for relevant confounders.

Results and Conclusions: Participants were on average 62.7 years old at baseline and 13.9 percent self-reported tooth loss from gum disease. Self-reported tooth loss due to gum disease was associated with 30 percent higher VTE risk (HR = 1.29 (0.96, 1.73). No statistically significant associations between clinical measures of periodontitis and VTE were observed. Further research is needed to elucidate if a relationship between periodontal disease and VTE exists.

“Periodontal Disease and Incident Venous Thromboembolism: The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study” was recently published in the Journal of Clinical Periodontology.

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