

## Dental Plaque Linked to Aggressive Colon Tumors and Stomach Cancers



### Researchers Uncover Bacterial Connection to Rising Cancer Cases

USA: In recent studies, researchers have unearthed potential links between bacterial infections and the surge in aggressive colon and stomach cancers. This revelation comes amidst a growing concern over the escalating incidence of these cancers, particularly among younger demographics.

According to the findings, published in reputable scientific journals, bacteria residing in dental plaque and the throat may be contributing factors to the development and progression of certain types of tumors.

### Bacterial Culprits Revealed

Scientists at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle have identified *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, typically found in dental plaque, as a possible catalyst for the resistance observed in some colon tumors against conventional treatments. Dr. Susan Bullman, co-lead author of the study, highlights, “We’ve consistently seen that patients with colorectal tumors containing *Fusobacterium nucleatum* have poor survival and poorer prognosis compared with patients without the microbe.”

In parallel research, Chinese and Singaporean scientists have implicated *Streptococcus anginosus*, a bacterium commonly present in the throat, mouth, and vagina, in the development of stomach cancers. This bacteria, when coupled with a weakened immune system, can initiate an inflammatory response leading to acute damage to the stomach lining and subsequent tumor growth.

### Implications for Treatment and Prevention

The discoveries offer a potential avenue for enhancing cancer treatments by targeting the bacterial microbiome within the gut. By understanding how these bacteria influence tumor growth, researchers aim to develop more effective therapeutic strategies that could improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Bullman further suggests that therapeutics and screening methods targeting specific subtypes of these microbes could benefit individuals at a higher risk of aggressive colorectal cancer. Meanwhile, Professor Joseph Sung Jao-yiu underscores the significance of these findings in reshaping approaches to prevent and treat stomach cancer.

### **Rising Cancer Rates and Global Impact**

The rise in aggressive colon and stomach cancers, particularly among younger populations, has become a pressing public health concern. With colorectal cancer rates increasing by 50 percent among adults under 50 in the US since 1999 and stomach cancer claiming around 11,000 lives annually in the country alone, understanding the underlying causes is paramount.

While theories surrounding dietary habits and obesity rates have been posited, the revelation of bacterial involvement adds a new dimension to the ongoing discourse on cancer prevention and treatment.

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