



Oral Bacteria of Children with Turner Syndrome

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ABSTRACT

Aim: Turner syndrome (TS) is a genetic disorder caused by a numerical or structural aberration of the X chromosome, which is associated with a female phenotype. Concerning oral status, several studies have revealed that girls with TS have dental anomalies and periodontal problems. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of oral bacteria on caries prevalence and periodontal status in pediatric patients with TS.

Materials and Methods: Twenty TS patients and 17 healthy girls were examined for cariological and periodontal status. The levels of mutans streptococci (MS), lactobacilli (LB), yeast and 10 different periodontal bacteria were determined by using culture and microarray techniques in children's stimulated saliva samples.

Results: There was no difference in salivary flow rate and buffering capacity, decayed-missing-filled teeth, MS, LB, or yeast levels between the groups. Plaque index and gingival index levels were significantly higher in the Turner group and dft was significantly higher in the control group ($p < 0.05$). As a result, microarray analysis, *Prevotella intermedia*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Eikenella corrodens*, *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, *Actinomyces viscosus* were detected at high levels in the Turner group ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Besides dental and craniofacial anomalies, clinicians should be alert to the early diagnosis and treatment of periodontal problems in patients with TS.

Keywords: Turner syndrome, microarray analysis, oral bacteria

Introduction

Turner syndrome (TS) is one of the most common chromosomal disorders characterized by typical findings, such as pubertal problems and internal organ anomalies, accompanied by a total or partial loss of an X chromosome (1).

Dental anomalies and orthodontic disorders affecting the maxilla and mandible have been frequently mentioned in TS patients (1-3). Researchers have reported an increased incidence of gingivitis in patients with TS, as well as higher plaque index (PI) and gingival index (GI). Disorders of growth hormone and sex hormones in these patients are

thought to increase the susceptibility to gingivitis and periodontitis (3,4). In several other studies, the relationship between changes in sex hormones and gingival diseases has been extensively reported, and the variable effects of oral microbiota due to hormone changes have been reported (5,6).

Besides traditional microbiological studies such as medium, planting, culture and microscopy; molecular genetic studies have also determined the levels of specific species to understand the oral microbiota. Molecular studies in line with new technological possibilities have determined that complex bacterial communities are

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significant in tooth caries and gingival diseases associated with biofilm (7,8).

The aim of this study was to evaluate the oral and dental health of children with TS by determining the bacterial levels related to tooth decay and periodontal diseases.

Materials and Methods

Study Population

The study included 20 children with TS aged between 6-18 years and 17 girls aged between 4-18 who were not mentally or physically suffering, followed by the Department of the Pediatric Endocrinology, Department of Child Health and Diseases of the İstanbul Medical Faculty. Mothers and their children, who agreed to participate in the study, were referred to the clinics of the Pediatric Dentistry Department of İstanbul University Faculty of Dentistry. The aim of the study was explained to these children and parents verbally, and the parents signed an informed volunteer form. In the prepared patient information form, the child's age, general health status and medications used were questioned. For this study, ethics committee approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee of İstanbul University Medical Faculty (approval number: 2013/690).

Clinical Examination

In-mouth examinations of children were performed by the same physician in the reflector light of the dental unit in a sitting position using mirror and sond. The oral and dental health status was assessed according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization by using the decayed-missing-filled teeth (DMFT)-decayed-missing-filled surface (DMFS) / milk teeth: dft, dfs) index (9), PI (10) and GI (10) scores. The periodontal index calculation was removed from the study because alveolar bone loss and periodontal pocket formation were not observed in any of the children participating in the study.

Microbiological Sampling

Patients who underwent an oral examination were directed to the Oral Microbiology Laboratory of İstanbul University Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Basic Medical Sciences for microbiological examination. Saliva samples stimulated by means of sugar-free chewing were taken from all children in the patient and control groups. The patient's saliva-buffering capacities (S-BC) and salivary-flow rates (S-FR) were determined.

Culture

The saliva samples were 10-fold diluted and then samples of 0.1 mL were plated on Mitis Salivarius Bacitracin agar (MSB) (Acumedia Man Inc., Baltimore,

Maryland) for mutans streptococci (MS); on Rogosa Agar (Merck, KgaE, Darmstadt, Germany) for lactobacilli (LB) and on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (Merck) for yeast counts. MSB Agar and Rogosa Agar plates were incubated in air supplemented with 5-7% CO₂, while Sabouraud Dextrose Agar plates were incubated aerobically. The samples were incubated for 48 hours at 37 °C. The typical colonies were counted and calculated (cfu/mL). High detection level was; $\geq 10^5$ cfu/mL for MS, $\geq 10^4$ cfu/mL for LB and $\geq 10^2$ cfu/mL for yeasts; whose detection limits were 10³, 10² and 10 cfu/mL respectively (11).

Microarray

The remaining 0.5 mL saliva sample was separated for DNA extraction and stored at -20 °C. DNA extraction from the stored samples was performed according to the protocol of a ready kit (High Pure polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Template Preparation Kit, Roche, Mannheim, Germany). The obtained DNA samples were stored at -20 °C. For PCR amplification and hybridization, 10 periodontal bacteria were analyzed in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer using a specially engineered 16S rRNA microarray system (ParoCheck10®, Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Frickenhausen, Germany). The results were directly created using a scanner (CheckScanner™, Greiner Bio-One GmbH) and operated by the ParoReport software (ParoCheck® Kit, Gene Pix®, Axon Instruments Inc.). It produces a semi-quantitative labelling scheme. The results were classified according to signal levels: no detection, low, moderate, high and very high. The 10 species identified by the ParoCheck10® microarray detection system were as follows: The red complex: *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Tannerella forsythia* and *Treponema denticola*; the orange complex: *Campylobacter rectus*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Parvimonas micra* and *Prevotella intermedia*; the green complex: *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* and *Eikenella corrodens*; the blue complex: *Actinomyces viscosus* (12).

Statistical Analysis

The data were analyzed using the IBM SPSS statistics 22 (IBM SPSS, TURKEY) software. Shapiro-Wilk test was used for normality of data analysis. Student's t-test was performed for the analysis of groups according to age, S-FR and buffering capacity, DMFT and dft levels (p<0.05). Mann-Whitney U test was performed to compare results for both groups for the PI and GI value (p<0.05). Mann-Whitney U test was used to assess the presence and levels of bacterial species in samples according to periodontal bacterial associations (p<0.05). The bacterial relationship among the groups based on the detection of the target bacteria in each subject was

determined by Spearman's (rho) Correlation Coefficient, irrespective of their proportional recovery in samples.

Results

There was no significant difference in age distribution among the children in the groups. Considering the parameters related to salivary, the groups showed no significant difference for the S-FR ($p=0.45$) and S-BC ($p=0.37$) ($p>0.05$). PI ($p=0.01$) and GI ($p=0.03$) were significantly higher in the Turner group and dft was significantly higher in the control group ($p<0.05$) (Table I).

All the children in the Turner group were taking growth hormone. Some patients ($n=9$) were taking estrogen in addition to growth hormone. However, there was no significant relationship between the drugs used and PI/GI levels ($p>0.05$).

As a result of the culture examination, there was no significant difference between groups in terms of MS ($p=0.14$), LB ($p=1.00$) and yeast ($p=0.19$) levels ($p>0.05$) (Table II).

Figure 1 shows the prevalence and target levels in different complexes determined by the ParoCheck10® study:

- Red complex bacteria were seen at low rates in all groups.

- Orange complex bacteria *P. intermedia* was found to be significantly higher in the Turner group. *F. nucleatum* was frequently detected in both groups and was significantly higher in the Turner group.

- Green complex bacterium *E. corrodens* was found to be significantly higher in the Turner group, although it was frequently detected in both groups. *A. actinomycetemcomitans* was significantly higher in the Turner group.

- Blue complex bacterium *A. viscosus* was found to be significantly higher in the Turner group.

- Orange complex bacteria *C. rectus* was not detected in the Turner group. ($p<0.05$) (Figure 1)

Table III shows the results of the correlation analysis between bacteria:

	Control (n=17)	Turner (n=20)	p value
	Mean ± SEM	Mean ± SEM	
Age	12.47±3.64	13.65±3.30	0.291
S-FR	0.66±0.49	0.77±0.49	0.459
S-BC	5.00±0.57	5.16±0.50	0.370
PI ^b	0.46±0.60	0.96±0.70	0.019*
GI ^b	0.17±0.39	0.47±0.59	0.033*
DMFT	2.41±1.77	2.10±2.27	0.411
dft	2.24±2.02	0.30±0.73	0.000*

Student's t-test, b: Mann-Whitney U test * $p<0.05$. SEM: Standard error of the mean, S-FR: Salivary flow rates, S-BC: Saliva buffering capacities, PI: Plaque index, GI: Gingival index, DMFT: Decayed-missing-filled teeth

		Control	Turner	p value
		n (%)	n (%)	
MS	Low	1 (5.9%)	4 (20.0%)	0.149
	Medium	5 (29.4%)	8 (40.0%)	
	High	11 (64.7%)	8 (40.0%)	
LB	Low	5 (29.4%)	6 (30.0%)	1.000
	Medium	7 (41.2%)	8 (40.0%)	
	High	5 (29.4%)	6 (30.0%)	
Yeasts	Low	10 (58.8%)	17 (85.0%)	0.98
	Medium	6 (35.3%)	2 (10.0%)	
	High	1 (5.9%)	1 (5.0%)	

MS: Mutans streptococci, LB: Lactobacilli, Mann-Whitney U test * $p<0.05$

- In the Turner group, a positive correlation between *P. gingivalis* and *T. denticola* ($p=0.768$) was observed in red complex bacteria.

- In both groups, a positive correlation was found between *T. denticola* from red complex bacteria with *P. intermedia* (control $p=0.483$, Turner $p=0.584$), and *P. micra* (control $p=0.654$, Turner $p=0.684$) from orange complex bacteria.

- A positive correlation between *F. nucleatum* with *P. intermedia* ($p=0.547$) and *E. corrodens* ($p=0.638$) was observed in the control group.

- There was also a positive correlation between *P. intermedia* and *E. corrodens* ($p=0.643$) in the control group.

- *A. actinomycetemcomitan* was positively associated with *A. viscosus* ($p=0.606$) in the control group and *E. corrodens* ($p=0.652$) in the Turner group.

- A negative relationship between bacteria was observed but it was not statistically significant. ($p<0.05$) (Table III).

Table IV shows the relationship between the PI and GI values and bacteria:

- In the Turner group, all of the red complex bacteria and *P. intermedia* from orange complex bacteria were significantly correlated with the GI.

- *P. gingivalis* ($p=0.490$), *T. denticola* ($p=0.593$) and *P. intermedia* ($p=0.701$) were significantly correlated with PI in the Turner group ($p<0.05$) (Table IV).

Discussion

The first detailed study evaluating the mouth symptoms of patients with TS was performed by Flipsson et al. (13) in 1965. There are many unknowns in the craniofacial and dental findings as well as the diagnosis and treatment of this syndrome which has attracted many researchers to date.

Although the DMFT index in patients with TS was significantly lower than in control groups (3,14,15), López et al. (16) found a higher index of caries in the deciduous teeth. Kusiak et al. (14) has reported that these patients may have a higher concentration of S-BC and antibacterial factors such as immunoglobulin A, lactoferrin, lysozyme and a lower DMFT index may be due to salivary properties (3),

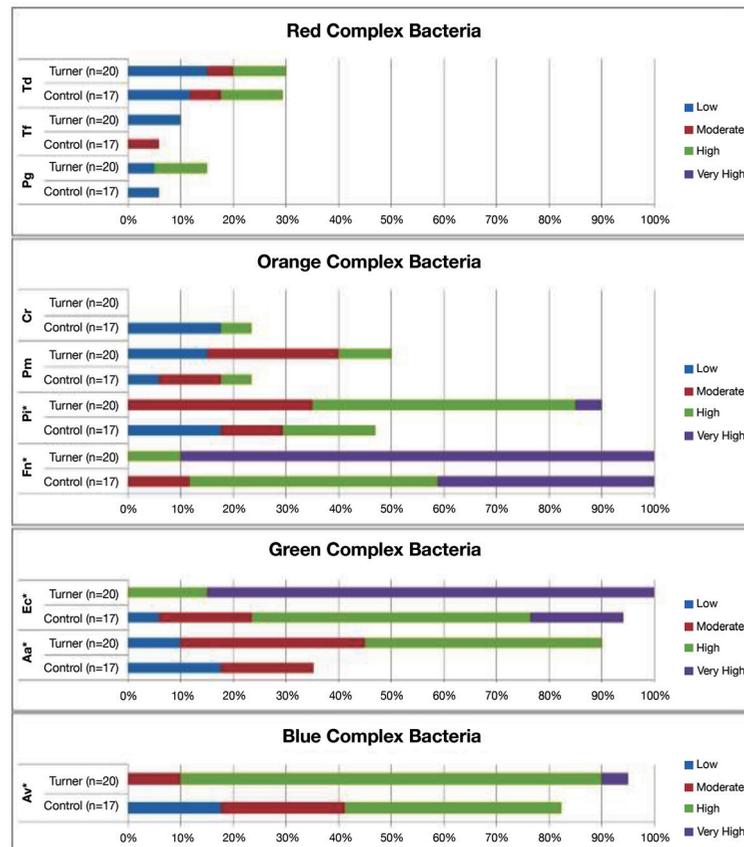


Figure 1. Presence and levels of bacterial species in samples according to periodontal bacterial associations Mann-Whitney U test * $p<0.05$

Td: *Treponema denticola*, Tf: *Tannerella forsythia*, Pg: *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, Cr: *Campylobacter rectus*, Pm: *Parvimonas micra*, Pi: *Prevotella intermedia*, Fn: *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, Ec: *Eikenella corrodens*, Aa: *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* Av: *Actinomyces viscosus*

Table III. Relations between the bacteria in the sample

		MS	LB	Yeats	Pg	Tf	Td	Fn	Pi	Pm	Cr	Aa	Ec	Av
MS	Control	1.000*	0.093	0.384	-0.304	-0.304	-0.277	-0.241	0.000	-0.453	0.150	-0.491*	-0.162	-0.425
	Turner	1.000	0.722*	0.468*	-0.460*	-0.124	-0.475*	-0.373	-0.120	-0.541*		0.193	0.104	0.520*
LB	Control		1.000	0.288	0.000	-0.326	-0.331	0.430	0.102	0.000	-0.211	0.000	0.563*	0.386
	Turner		1.000	0.541*	-0.351	-0.215	-0.194	0.000	0.178	-0.260		0.271	0.000	0.425
Yeats	Control			1.000	0.264	-0.206	-0.003	-0.151	-0.043	0.065	-0.209	-0.141	-0.078	-0.408
	Turner			1.000	-0.175	-0.140	-0.269	0.140	-0.144	-0.131		0.232	0.176	0.104
Pg	Control				1.000	-0.063	0.381	0.281	0.389	0.343	-0.138	0.421	0.056	0.268
	Turner				1.000	-0.349	0.768*	0.140	0.318	0.610*		0.242	0.176	-0.177
Tf	Control					1.000	0.476	-0.140	0.250	0.446	0.413	0.421	0.056	-0.027
	Turner					1.000	0.214	0.111	0.253	0.016		0.093	0.140	0.083
Td	Control						1.000	0.034	0.483*	0.654*	-0.021	0.382	0.141	-0.003
	Turner						1.000	0.214	0.584*	0.684*		0.220	0.270	-0.092
Fn	Control							1.000	0.547*	0.113	-0.091	0.238	0.638*	0.477
	Turner							1.000	0.016	0.312		-0.093	-0.140	-0.083
Pi	Control								1.000	0.263	-0.072	0.293	0.643*	0.081
	Turner								1.000	0.215		-0.046	-0.093	-0.008
Pm	Control									1.000	0.000	0.206	0.122	0.011
	Turner									1.000		0.125	0.223	-0.219
Cr	Control										1.000	0.351	-0.202	0.246
	Turner													
Aa	Control											1.000	0.349	0.606*
	Turner											1.000	0.652*	0.320
Ec	Control												1.000	0.421
	Turner												1.000	0.278
Av	Control													1.000
	Turner													1.000

Spearman's (rho) Correlation Coefficient *p<0.05 *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level. MS: Mutans streptococci, LB: Lactobacilli, Pg: *Porphyromonas gingivalis* Tf: *Tannerella forsythia* Td: *Treponema denticola*, Fn: *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, Pi: *Prevotella intermedia*, Pm: *Parvimonas micra*, Cr: *Campylobacter rectus*, Aa: *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, Ec: *Eikenella corrodens*, Av: *Actinomyces viscosus*

although the S-FR is slower. In this study, the dft value was significantly higher in the control group (p<0.05), although there was no significant difference between the TS and the DMFT values determined in the control group. When the parameters related to saliva were examined, there was no significant difference between groups in terms of S-FR and S-BC (p<0.05).

In patients with TS, Ogiuchi et al. (4) found that the rate of incidence of gingivitis increased, and Szilágyi et al. (3) found that PI and GI were significantly high. Väisänen et al. (17) reported that the GI and calcular index values of these patients were lower and their periodontal health was better. In this study, PI and GI Turner groups were found

to be significantly higher, but no relationship was found between growth hormone and/or estrogen use and PI and GI indexes (p<0.05). It is thought that gingival problems in TS patients are not due to imbalances in growth hormone and estrogen levels but are a consequence of oral ecosystem damage due to a lack of oral hygiene (4), even if changes in sex hormones increase gingivitis and periodontitis susceptibility (6).

In this study, the intra-oral findings of children with TS who were seldom examined in terms of child dentistry were examined and the effect of oral microbiology and hormones on dental and periodontal tissues were evaluated. In this study, no significant difference was found between groups

in terms of caries-causing microorganisms MS, LB and yeast levels ($p<0.05$) (Table II).

In this study, the presence and levels of periodontal bacteria in the groups were determined using the semi-quantitative microarray system ParoCheck10®, which allows for the rapid and reliable detection of 10 different periodontal pathogens (9).

Periodontal diseases are bacterial infections related to the complex microbiosis of tooth biofilm, mainly composed of anaerobic gram-negative species. Although

A. actinomycetemcomitans and *P. gingivalis* are the most common periodontal pathogens (18), Socransky et al. (19) have identified five consecutive microbial complexes in the subgingival biofilm of individuals with or without periodontal disease, demonstrating that periodontal diseases are due to the co-operation of periodontal microorganisms rather than individual pathogens. In particular, red complex bacteria formed by *P. gingivalis*, *T. denticola* and *T. forsythia* have been reported to show a strong association with periodontal disease and each other.

Griffen et al. (20) found that *P. gingivalis* and *T. denticola* were related to the disease, and that different species such as Spirochetes and Filifactor alocis should be investigated in relation to periodontitis. da Silva-Boghossian et al. (21) reported that red complex bacteria and *A. actinomycetemcomitans* were highly associated with periodontal disease. Topcuoglu and Kulekci (12) examined different types of periodontitis patients with ParoCheck10® and found that red complex bacteria were common, and that these pathogens were associated with periodontitis.

In this study, red complex bacteria associated with periodontal disease were seen at low rates in all groups. We think that this result is related to the presence of only gingivitis in the children in this study. In this study, *P. intermedia* and *F. nucleatum* from orange complex bacteria, *A. corrodens* and *A. actinomycetemcomitans* from green complex bacteria and *A. viscosus*, which is more related to periodontal health, were significantly higher in the Turner group ($p<0.05$). Previous studies have shown that some of the disease-related species are also present in samples from healthy individuals and these bacteria, which normally become part of the oral microflora, increase pathogenicity with the degradation of the oral ecosystem (20,22). These results support complex bacterial associations with high gingivitis levels in the Turner group.

In this study, while the red complex bacteria was positively correlated between the each other in the Turner group, a positive correlation was found between the red and orange complex bacteria in both groups. There was also a positive correlation between green complex bacteria in the Turner group. These results support the relationships of bacterial complexes as described by Socransky et al. (19).

In the presented study, all of the red complex bacteria and *P. intermedia* from the orange complex bacteria were significantly associated with the GI ($p<0.05$). There was a significant correlation between the PI and periodontal pathogens such as *P. gingivalis*, *T. denticola*, *P. intermedia* in the Turner group ($p<0.05$). As a result, it should be kept in mind that anaerobic and gram (-) populations increase in

Table IV. Relation to plaque index and gingival index of bacterial entities

		PI	GI
MS	Control	-0.113	0.086
	Turner	-0.380	-0.509*
LB	Control	-0.392	-0.400
	Turner	0.022	-0.151
Yeats	Control	-0.169	-0.224
	Turner	0.060	-0.272
Pg	Control	0.160	-0.137
	Turner	0.490*	0.551*
Tf	Control	0.426	0.549*
	Turner	0.377	0.464*
Td	Control	0.299	0.061
	Turner	0.593*	0.657*
Fn	Control	-0.429	-0.444
	Turner	0.363	0.359
Pi	Control	-0.075	-0.022
	Turner	0.701*	0.659*
Pm	Control	-0.012	0.075
	Turner	0.341	0.338
Cr	Control	0.587	0.721
	Turner	-	-
Aa	Control	0.381	0.196
	Turner	-0.107	-0.160
Ec	Control	-0.278	-0.384
	Turner	-0.207	-0.277
Av	Control	0.218	-0.085
	Turner	-0.384	-0.230

PI: Plaque index GI: Gingival index, MS: Mutans streptococci, LB: Lactobacilli, Pg: *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, Tf: *Tannerella forsythia*, Td: *Treponema denticola*, Fn: *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, Pi: *Prevotella intermedia*, Pm: *Parvimonas micra*, Cr: *Campylobacter rectus*, Aa: *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, Ec: *Eikenella corrodens*, Av: *Actinomyces viscosus*, Spearman's (rho) Correlation Coefficient * $p<0.05$

matured dental plaque biofilm and this ecology poses a risk for gingivitis and periodontitis (23).

Study Limitations

The research findings of this study were limited by the small number of subjects due to the fact that the children with TS were gathered from just one institution. Therefore, larger studies including more subjects from other institutions may be planned.

Conclusion

A higher incidence of *P. intermedia* and *F. nucleatum*, *A. corrodens*, *A. actinomycetemcomitans* and *A. viscosus* as well as higher PI and GI scores suggest an increased susceptibility to periodontal diseases in patients with TS.

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Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: For this study, ethics committee approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee of İstanbul University Medical Faculty (approval number: 2013/690).

Informed Consent: Informed consent was obtained from the parents or guardians of all eligible children.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Concept: O.A., G.K., G.Ü., N.T., Design: G.Ü., N.T., Data Collection or Processing: Ş.P., G.Ü., Y.G., Analysis or Interpretation: N.T., G.K., Literature Search: G.Ü., O.A., Y.G., Writing: G.Ü., N.T.

Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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