

# **2519 Association between Dental Anxiety and periodontal attachment loss**

S.K.S. NG, Tuen Mun Hospital, Hong Kong SAR, China, and [W.K. LEUNG](#), The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

Dental anxiety is an important oral health issue. *Objective:* To investigate the relationship between dental anxiety and periodontal status of people living in Hong Kong. *Methods:* 1000 Hong Kong residents who were aged 25 to 64 years and who were predominantly Chinese were asked to complete the Chinese Dental Anxiety Inventory short form (SDAxI). Their full-mouth clinical attachment level (CAL) was also assessed. *Results:* Ninety (9.0%; mean CAL, 0.8), 525 (52.5%; mean CAL, 1.6), 233 (23.3%; mean CAL, 2.2), 101 (10.1%; mean CAL, 3.4), and 51 (5.1%; mean CAL, 4.6) participants had healthy, low, moderate, high, and severe attachment loss, respectively. Mean SDAxI scores of each CAL subgroup were 13.5, 14.9, 14.9, 16.4, and 15.9, respectively. Logistic regression analysis revealed that dental anxiety was significantly associated with periodontal attachment loss (odds ratio, 1.20; 95% C.I., 1.10-1.50;  $p < 0.05$ ). *Conclusion:* The maladaptive trait disposition of dental anxiety may be a significant risk indicator of periodontal attachment loss among the Hong Kong Chinese population. (Supported by RGC grant HKU 7331/00M)

[Seq #206 - Periodontal Diagnosis](#)

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[Back to the Periodontal Research - Diagnosis / Epidemiology Program](#)

[Back to the IADR General Session & Exhibition \(June 28 – July 1, 2006\)](#)