



**Title** **Tobacco Smoking and Oral Health**  
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**Reference** SBU Report 157, 2002, ISBN91-87890-74-7, Available in Swedish at <http://www.sbu.se>

## Aim

This report reviews the scientific literature on smoking as a risk factor for periodontal disease, oral and pharyngeal cancer, and issues related to dental implant treatment.

## Conclusions and results

- Periodontal disease rates are higher in smokers than in non-smokers.
- Periodontal disease is more severe in smokers than in non-smokers.
- The risk for contracting periodontal disease is 3 to 5 times higher in smokers than in non-smokers.
- Periodontal disease is less common in former smokers than in current smokers. However, former smokers remain more susceptible to periodontal disease than do non-smokers.
- Smoking is related to oral and pharyngeal cancer. The risk increases with the number of cigarettes smoked and the duration of the habit. Alcohol use further increases the risk.
- Smoking cessation, in comparison to current smoking, will substantially decrease the risk for contracting oral and pharyngeal cancer.
- Smoking may impair the outcome of dental implant treatment, but the evidence is conflicting.

## Methods

A computer-aided, systematic search of MEDLINE and the Cochrane Library (1966 to November 2001) was conducted to identify the relevant literature, using a combination of keywords for smoking and outcomes of oral health. The references from all retrieved articles were also screened.

## Further research required

The evidence on smoking as a risk factor in dental implant treatment is limited and contradictory. Studies of high methodological quality are lacking.