

RESPIRATORY BACTERIA IN ORAL BIOFILM AND SALIVA

Oral bacterial biofilm contains an estimated 700 species including oral as well as respiratory pathogens. Poor oral hygiene and periodontal disease provide an inflammatory condition and biofilm environment conducive to the proliferation of respiratory pathogens. The risk of nosocomial pneumonia may be increased in hospitalized patients as the biofilm provides a reservoir for pathogenic species.

Clinical Implications: Oral hygiene for hospitalized, intubated patients should be considered not only for oral health, but also to prevent aspiration of bacteria into the lungs.

-Hygienetown.com, October 2010