

**INFLUENCE OF HORMONE SUPPLEMENTATION THERAPY ON THE
INCIDENCE OF DENTURE STOMATITIS AND ON THE CHEMILUMINESCENT
ACTIVITY OF POLYMORPHONUCLEAR GRANULOCYTES IN BLOOD OF
MENOPAUSAL-AGED WOMEN**

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Introduction: Menopause is a health and social problem that affects a large number of women. Inadequate quantity of steroid hormones also impacts quality of the mucous membrane of the oral cavity. During menopausal age, many women wear removable prosthetic restorations in order to replace missing teeth. Such restorations may facilitate the development of inflammations in the surface of the oral cavity, referred to as denture stomatitis.

Objective: The aim of the study was to evaluate the influence of hormone supplementation therapy on the incidence of candida-associated denture stomatitis and on the metabolic activity of polymorphonuclear granulocytes in peripheral blood of female patients.

Material and methods: The study was conducted on a group of women in menopausal age, users of hormone replacement therapy and of removable prosthetic restorations. Female patients were subjected to clinical study that included interviews and physical examinations. Laboratory microbiological examinations were completed on the basis of direct swabs collected from the mucous membrane of the oral cavity and from the surface of dentures. The metabolic activity of polymorphonuclear granulocytes in peripheral blood of female patients was evaluated by means of the chemiluminescence test (CL).

Results: As a result of the study, candida associated denture stomatitis was observed. Its incidence was characterized by a strong growth of fungi and a lower chemiluminescent activity of neutrophils in blood of female patients undergoing hormone supplementation therapy.

Conclusions: Patients using hormone supplementation therapy and removable prosthetic restorations constitute a high-risk group in terms of candida infections and inflammations of the mucous membrane of the oral cavity, thus they must remain under constant dental control.