

## Clinical Relevance for Periodontal (Gum) Health Measurements

- Gingivitis and periodontitis are inflammatory oral diseases triggered by an immune/inflammatory response to periodontal pathogens that stimulate leukocyte and protein changes.<sup>i,ii,iii</sup>
- This inflammatory response can lead to the destruction of the oral epithelial barrier resulting in blood (Hgb) contamination of saliva.<sup>iv</sup> The presence of blood (Hgb) is more common in patients with periodontal destruction.
- **Numerous studies have demonstrated that increased levels of leukocytes, blood (Hgb), and protein in saliva is correlated with an increased risk of periodontal disease.** This information can be used as a tool for risk assessment of periodontal health.
- Studies on elevated leukocyte levels in saliva have demonstrated a correlation with inflammatory conditions,<sup>v</sup> gingivitis<sup>vi,vii</sup> and chronic periodontitis.<sup>viii</sup>
- Also, multiple studies have shown that the presence of blood (Hgb) in saliva is associated with gingival inflammation<sup>ix,x</sup> and periodontal disease.<sup>iv,xi,xii</sup>
- Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that increased salivary protein levels are correlated with gingivitis and periodontitis.<sup>xiii,xiv,xv,xvi</sup>

## References

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