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1 **Surgical therapy for peri-implantitis management: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

2 *Abbreviated running title: Surgical peri-implantitis management*

3

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13

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17 out by D.F and K.A.K. Data collection was by K.A.K.

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19 Keyword: dental implants, osseointegration, meta-analysis, systematic review

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27 **Abstract**

28 Aim: Peri-implantitis is a common cause of late implant failure. Studies have investigated different
29 treatment strategies. The effectiveness of these modalities, however, remains unclear. This study
30 aimed to evaluate the success of surgical peri-implantitis treatment using clinical and radiographic
31 parameters.

32 Material and methods: A systematic review of published literature was employed. Key words were
33 selected to conduct an electronic search using four databases for literature on human clinical
34 studies. Meta-analyses were carried out for clinical probing, pocket depth and radiographic bone
35 level.

36 Results: A total of 16 papers met the inclusion criteria. Four treatment modalities to supplement
37 mechanical debridement were identified: 1) apically-repositioned flap, 2) chemical surface
38 decontamination, 3) implantoplasty and, 4) bone augmentation. Inconsistent results were evident
39 which were dependent on several treatment-independent factors. No clinical benefits were
40 identified for the additional use of surface decontamination, while limited evidence demonstrated
41 improvement of clinical and radiographic outcomes after implantoplasty. The effect of bone
42 augmentation appeared limited to 'filling' radiographic defects.

43 Conclusions: The outcomes of the currently available surgical interventions for peri-implantitis
44 remain unpredictable. There is no reliable evidence to suggest which methods are the most
45 effective. Further randomised-controlled studies are needed to identify the best treatment methods.

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53 **Clinical Relevance**

54 Scientific rationale for study: In the management of patients with peri-implantitis, the treatment
55 of established bony defects around fixtures remains a significant clinical challenge. Principal
56 findings: Whilst a range of surgical treatment modalities have been described, from simple
57 debridement to implantoplasty and attempted guided-tissue regeneration, the individual techniques
58 employed often appear based on operator-preference. Practical implications: This systematic review
59 sought to evaluate the existing evidence to compare the existing surgical treatment modalities,
60 determine their effectiveness and inform the management of these patients, however, the
61 outcomes remain unpredictable. Further studies are required to discover the optimal surgical
62 treatment approach for peri-implantitis.

63

64 **Introduction**

65 Implants provide a long-term, generally predictable treatment to restore function ¹, aesthetics ²,
66 self-esteem ³, and quality of life ⁴ following tooth-loss. The application and use of dental implants
67 has increased and now represents an indispensable therapeutic option for the replacement of
68 missing teeth.

69 Peri-implantitis is considered to be the main biological cause of 5-year implant failure ^{5,6}.

70 Review studies have estimated that peri-implantitis will affect 28%-56% of patients and 12%–43% of
71 individual implant sites ^{7,8}. This variation in prevalence may reflect differences in study design,
72 population size and risk profiles, and the clinical ‘definition’ of peri-implantitis ^{7,9}. There remains a
73 lack of evidence regarding treatment and prognosis of peri-implantitis ⁸.

74 The inflammatory destruction of peri-implant tissue is multi-factorial. However, biofilm and
75 bacterial infection are considered to be the major aetiological features in the development of peri-
76 implant disease ⁸. Smoking is also a strong predictor of implant failure ¹⁰, leading to an increase in
77 prevalence that is 4.7 times greater than is observed in non-smokers ¹¹. Implant failure is 6 times
78 greater in patients with a history of periodontitis than those who did not have a history of

79 periodontitis¹¹. Systemic risk factors such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, age, gender, and
80 genetics have been suggested as potential risk factors, although studies are limited^{12,13}. Local risk
81 factors, e.g. excess cement, was associated with signs of peri-implantitis in 100% of patient with a
82 history of periodontal disease and 65% of healthy controls¹⁴.

83 The diagnosis of peri-implantitis depends on the presence of inflammatory signs, bleeding
84 on probing (BOP) or suppuration on probing (SOP) and the degree of bone loss evident
85 radiographically¹⁵. However, it is important to distinguish this diagnosis of peri-implantitis from
86 bone resorption resulting from bone remodelling which occurs early after implant placement⁷.
87 Some authors do not consider peri-implantitis as a differential diagnosis unless the implants have
88 been in place for >12 months¹⁶⁻¹⁸.

89 The consensus report of the *11th European Workshop on Periodontology* highlights steps to
90 reduce the risk of incidence of peri-implantitis¹⁹. The indications for appropriate management
91 strategies that appear in clinical studies have resulted in development of the 'cumulative
92 interceptive supportive therapy'^{15,20,21}. The management of peri-implantitis is based on similar
93 techniques to those of periodontitis¹¹ which entail the elimination of inflammation and prevention
94 of further bone loss; including non-surgical (conventional) and surgical treatment²². Conventional
95 non-surgical treatment can be classified into mechanical, chemical and light-mediated therapies.
96 Reviews and meta-analyses have concluded that there is no reliable non-surgical treatment which
97 results in elimination of the disease²³⁻²⁵.

98 Surgical treatment allows better access to the implant surface and the surrounding bony
99 defect²⁶ and is used in conjunction with patient-directed care, and non-surgical therapy to reduce
100 bacterial colonization and local inflammation²¹. Mechanical debridement of the implant surface can
101 be achieved using curettes, ultrasonic scalers, or air-abrasion, in the presence or absence of systemic
102 antibiotics. A 3-month follow-up study has shown that mechanical debridement alone, following
103 surgical access, is effective in reducing clinical/microbial parameters²⁷. Whilst adjunctive surface
104 decontamination with antimicrobials such as chlorhexidine (CHX) reduced microbial counts, this had

105 no significant effect on clinical or radiographic parameters^{28,29}. Leonhardt et al. (2003) reported
106 that significant reduction in BOP and PPD (periodontal probing depth) following surgical
107 debridement and decontamination with H₂O₂³⁰. Although many clinicians employ topical antibiotics
108 e.g. tetracycline and minocycline, their clinical effect remains unclear³¹.

109 Lasers have been shown to have no additional clinical benefit as a potential surface-
110 decontamination agents during surgical therapy when compared with mechanical debridement^{32,33}.
111 Photo-dynamic therapy (PDT) was shown to significantly decrease BOP and PPD between test and
112 control subjects in a randomised control trials (RCT), although the bacterial counts showed no
113 difference between the two groups³⁴.

114 Adjunctive resective surgery using osteoplasty, with or without apically re-positioned flap
115 (ARF) procedures, has been reported to improve clinical sign of peri-implantitis, where PPD ≥ 6 mm
116 were eliminated in 77% of subjects³⁵. However, the use of ARF in the aesthetic zone is limited¹¹.
117 Implantoplasty is directed to reduce surface-roughness of the implant surface to decrease bacterial
118 and biofilm accumulation³⁶. However, concerns have been raised regarding the reduction of implant
119 strength³⁷, deposits of titanium particles in the soft- and hard-tissues³⁸ and increased marginal
120 tissue recession and exposure of the implant surface³¹. Re-osseointegration using bone
121 augmentation (autogenous bone^{39,40} and/or synthetic bone graft materials^{41,42} may provide a
122 significant improvement in clinical and radiographic parameters compared to the baseline. Bone
123 graft (autogenous or synthetic), however, cannot be integrated on to a metal surface⁴³.
124 Furthermore, it has been shown that the use of membrane/s with autogenous or synthetic materials
125 has no additional benefit^{40,44}.

126 The aim of this systematic review was to critically evaluate the current literature on the
127 surgical treatment of peri-implantitis and assess the effectiveness of treatment modalities (and
128 adjunctive therapies) on peri-implant and periodontal radiographic outcomes. The objective was to
129 identify the most predictable and reliable treatment modalities by a quantitative comparison of
130 outcomes using meta-analysis.

131 **Materials and methods**

132 **Search Strategy**

133 In order to achieve the aims of this study, an electronic literature search was conducted using Ovid
134 MEDLINE, EMBASE and EBM Review – Cochrane Central Register of Control Trials and Cochrane
135 Database of Systematic Reviews. The following keywords were combined: 'Tooth Implantation' OR
136 'Dental Implants' OR 'Tooth implants' OR 'Oral Implants' OR 'Endosseous implants' OR
137 'Osseointegrated implants' AND 'Periimplantitis' OR 'Peri-implantitis' OR 'Peri-implant disease' OR
138 'Peri-implant defect' OR 'Peri-implant infection' OR 'Peri-implant inflammation' OR 'Peri-implant
139 bone loss' AND 'Management' OR 'Treatment' OR 'Therapy' AND 'Surgery' OR 'Surgical' OR 'Surgical
140 approach' OR 'Open flap' OR 'Access flap' OR 'Resective' OR 'Regenerative' OR 'Bone regeneration'
141 OR 'Bone augmentation' (Table 1).

142

143 **Study Selection Criteria**

144 The criteria for inclusion of specific studies in this review were human studies published in the
145 English language. Studies were selected for randomized controlled trials or prospective cohort
146 studies only with ≥ 10 patients and ≥ 6 months follow-up (the longest follow up period was chosen in
147 longitudinal studies which were published more than once). Experimental animal or studies *in vitro*
148 were excluded.

149

150 **Primary and secondary outcomes**

151 The primary outcome for this review study was the reduction of BOP in implants treated surgically
152 for peri-implantitis. The secondary outcomes were the assessment of PPD and RBL (radiographic
153 bone loss).

154

155 **Qualitative assessment methods (Risk of bias)**

156 The modified 'Critical Appraisal Skills Program' (CASP) checklists was used to assess the quality of the
157 studies ⁴⁵. The risks of bias were categorized into; low risk (all the criteria were met), moderate risk
158 (1-2 criteria were missed) or high risk (>2 criteria were missed).

159

160 **Statistical Analysis**

161 Meta-analyses were conducted separately for the parameters PPD and RBL using computer software
162 (Stata[®] V13). All data used in meta-analysis were those measurements made at the end of the
163 observation period for both control and intervention arms. Forest plots were produced to represent
164 the standardized mean difference (SMD) between control and test groups. Pooled estimates and
165 associated 95% confidence interval (CI) from meta-analysis for each type of intervention were
166 indicated by 'diamond' symbols in Fig. 5; the center of the diamond (with respect to the x-axis)
167 indicates the pooled point estimate and the edges indicate the pooled 95% CI. I-squared values and a
168 chi-squared test were used to assess the heterogeneity of the studies.⁴⁶ Where heterogeneity was not
169 problematic fixed-effects meta-analysis was employed and random-effects meta-analysis was
170 otherwise employed. Although some evidence of an outlier was observed for RBL for some studies
171 ^{49,50}, results for this study were included in Forest plots because it was not used to form any 'pooled'
172 estimates (it was the only study in the 'implantoplasty' group).

173

174 **Results**

175 **Literature on peri-implant disease**

176 Initial results highlighted the increase in published research on peri-implant disease over the last 15
177 years (Fig. 1a). There were significantly more publications on peri-implantitis and its surgical
178 treatment compared to the numbers of publications regarding peri-implant mucositis and non-
179 surgical treatment (Fig. 1b).

180

181 **Manuscript selection**

182 The literature search identified 320 studies, and 25 were selected for full-text evaluation following
183 title and abstract screening. A further 9 papers were excluded following careful review (Fig. 2), and
184 the remaining 16 studies included and reviewed for detailed qualitative and quantitative assessment
185 (see Supplementary Information for a summary of the included studies). Selection was based on the
186 'Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis' flow chart PRISMA ⁴⁸. Of the 16
187 studies included, 9 were RCTs, 4 were comparative prospective studies, and 3 were single group
188 prospective studies. The CASP checklist revealed that 53% of the included studies have a high risk of
189 bias, 35% have a moderate risk, and the remaining studies (12%) have a low risk of bias. The follow-
190 up periods of the studies that were included in the review ranged from 6 to 60 months. However,
191 the participants were observed for 12 months in most of the studies.

192

193

194

195 **Surgical interventions**

196 The main type of surgical intervention was bone augmentation following mechanical debridement,
197 which was examined in 44% of the studies (Fig. 3a). The effect of mechanical debridement combined
198 with surface decontamination was examined in 38% of the studies. Relatively few studies (12%)
199 considered the effects of mechanical debridement only; 6% of the studies examined mechanical
200 debridement with implantoplasty. Xenograft materials were used for 64% of the bone augmentation
201 cases, whilst autogenous bone was used for 20% of the augmentation studies. CHX was the most
202 common surface decontamination method (57%) and was used in all of the cases (which included
203 debridement plus surface decontamination; Fig. 3b).

204

205 **Study outcomes**

206 The parameters used in clinical measurement of peri-implantitis were BOP, PPD, and RBL. The
207 majority of studies used both clinical and radiographic outcomes (69%), and the remaining studies

208 employed clinical parameters only (31%). Three studies^{28, 29, 49} measured change in outcome
209 measurements with time (3, 6, and 12 months follow-up) and they showed that the mean BOP was
210 significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$) after 3 and 6 months followed by a gradual increase from 6 to 12
211 months (Fig. 4a). The mean PPD was also decreased significantly ($P < 0.05$) at 3-month follow-up
212 then remained relatively constant during the remaining periods (Fig. 4b). By contrast, RBL had not
213 increased significantly ($P > 0.05$) after 3 months.

214

215 **Meta-analysis**

216 The meta-analysis was conducted using 8 RCTs^{28, 29, 32, 34, 50-53} and 2 controlled prospective cohort
217 studies^{40, 44} as they reported mean reductions (and standard deviations) for PPD and RBL. The forest
218 plots for PPD and RBL are represented by the four methods for surgical peri-implantitis treatment
219 identified: 1) surface decontamination, 2) implantoplasty, 3) bone augmentation, and 4) additional
220 use of membranes in bone regeneration. Few studies have published data relating to BOP, and so no
221 meta-analysis could be conducted for this parameter.

222 Meta-analysis demonstrated that implants treated with surface decontamination had SMD of -0.21
223 (95% CI: -1.70 to 1.27) for PPD reduction. Only one study^{50, 51} reported the effect of implantoplasty
224 on PPD reduction which shows a significant SMD of -3.33 (95% CI: -4.37 mm to -2.28 mm). Bone
225 augmentation with grafting materials and the additional use of membrane resulted in SMD of 0.15
226 mm (95% CI: -0.55 to 0.84 mm) and 0.30 mm (95% CI: -0.31 to 0.91 mm) respectively (Fig. 5a). In
227 terms of RBL changes, the use of surface decontamination methods resulted in SMD of 0.54 mm
228 (95% CI: -0.20 to 1.28 mm). Whereas implant treated with implantoplasty, had SMD of -3.38 (95% CI:
229 -4.43 to -2.33 mm). The SMD for RBL changes after the use of bone augmentation was -1.50 (95% CI:
230 -0.80 to -0.31 mm). However, the additional use of membrane has SMD of -0.16 (95% CI: -0.56 to
231 0.24 mm) (Fig. 5b). Whilst implantoplasty and bone augmentation resulted in significant
232 improvement in RBL, the use of surface decontamination or additional membrane application failed
233 to significantly affect observed treatment outcomes.

234 Heterogeneity was found to be small or moderate for the additional membrane subgroup
235 (i.e.: RBL, I-squared = 0.0%, P = 0.64; PPD, I-squared = 52.1%, P = 0.152) and so random-effects meta-
236 analysis should provide a reasonable pooled estimates in this case. Heterogeneity was found to be
237 high for the surface decontamination subgroup (i.e.: RBL, I-squared = 88.6%, P < 0.001; PPD, I-
238 squared = 97.1%, P < 0.001). A sensitivity analysis for RBL and for the additional membrane subgroup
239 could not be carried out for due to the small number of studies in this case. A sensitivity analysis
240 could be carried out for PPD for this subgroup, where removal of the study with the smallest sample
241 size of seventeen subjects in total (namely, Schwartz et al., 2013) did not affect pooled results very
242 greatly (i.e., SMD = -0.253 and 95% CI = -2.001 to 1.494), whereas removal of the only “outlying”
243 study that indicated a positive mean difference (namely, de Waal et al., 2015) did affect pooled
244 results (i.e., SMD = -0.866 and 95% CI = -1.663 to -0.069). This result indicates a significant reduction
245 in PPD for surface decontamination subgroup in this circumstance, although caution should still be
246 exercised due to the small number of studies and heterogeneity. Again, funnel plots are likely to
247 yield limited information only due to the small number of the studies included in the analysis.

248

249 Discussion

250 This systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted to explore the literature relating to the
251 surgical management of peri-implantitis. It was evident that the patient selection criteria for entry
252 into the studies (and the definition of ‘peri-implantitis’) varied considerably between the included
253 studies. For example, one study defined peri-implantitis by implants with RBL indicating >50% of
254 bone loss⁴⁰, whereas other studies defined peri-implantitis as affecting implants that exhibited PPD
255 >6mm with radiographically visible bony defects^{32, 54, 55}.

256 Radiographic interpretation of results was found to be inconsistent. Defect configuration
257 needs to be taken into account, and this is particularly evident where bone regeneration is to be
258 attempted using guided bone regeneration⁵⁵. Rocuzzo et al. (2016) went on to show that the
259 circumferential defects showed better bone regeneration compared with the other types of defect.

260 However, another four-year study which included combined surgical therapy, surface
261 decontamination, and implantoplasty revealed that the outcomes were not directly affected by the
262 defect configuration ³².

263 Plaque control is pivotally important in peri-implant disease and response to treatment ¹⁵.
264 Adequate oral hygiene maintaining plaque scores at lower levels ($PI \leq 1$) was important for reducing
265 the incidence of BOP ⁵⁶. The severity of peri-implantitis at the commencement of treatment (as
266 measured by the PPD and RBL) may clearly influence treatment outcomes ^{35, 57}. Other important
267 plaque-retentive factors, e.g. surface roughness are an important consideration when conducting
268 comparative studies ^{49, 53, 54}. A history of both smoking and periodontitis has been shown to have an
269 adverse effect on the treatment of peri-implantitis ^{44, 52, 58}. Due to the small numbers of patients,
270 variation in tobacco usage, and incomplete assessment of the severity of the previous periodontal
271 disease in the papers included within this study, this correlation could not be linked to the outcomes
272 of surgical peri-implantitis treatment.

273 The definition of a successful treatment also varied between studies. In marked contrast,
274 some studies ⁴⁹ simply considered the survival of the affected implants following treatment to
275 represent success. Other studies ^{28, 29, 53, 57} have considered no further bone loss and presence of PPD
276 ≤ 5 mm, with no BOP, to be a successful treatment. Inter- and intra-examiner bias may also lead to
277 variable in outcome measures, for example, force of probing ⁵⁹. Furthermore, PPD alone is
278 considered as an invalid marker for the progression of the disease as the reduction in PPD post-
279 treatment may simply reflect gingival recession and/or the surgical technique e.g. apically-
280 repositioned flap procedures ^{52, 60}. Although radiographic assessment is the only truly non-invasive
281 method for measuring marginal bone levels ⁵² it can only indicate 'defect-fill' but not the actual re-
282 osseointegration ⁴⁴ and represents the mesial and distal bone levels only ⁶¹. More recently, cone-
283 beam CT has been used to detect the levels of buccal and lingual bones, although concerns have
284 been raised regarding both radiation exposure and their validity due to a radiolucent halo that may
285 occur around the implant ⁵¹.

286 The rationale behind the use of adjunctive systemic antibiotics in the management of peri-
287 implantitis was considered in three studies ^{40, 49, 58}. There is a lack of evidence to support the
288 prescription of antibiotics in peri-implantitis treatment, which appears operator-dependent. An RCT
289 investigating the effectiveness on systemic antibiotics failed to demonstrate any effect on local
290 microbiological parameters within the defect ⁵³.

291 The most popular surface decontaminant was CHX, which has been tested extensively and
292 approved to have a broad-spectrum anti-bacterial activity ⁶². Variation occurred in the CHX
293 concentrations used in two studies (0.12% CHX Vs placebo²⁹ or 2% CHX Vs 0.12% ²⁸). Although both
294 studies reported reduced microbial loads when compared to control groups, this did not translate
295 into demonstrable clinical effects on peri-implantitis. Although other chemical antimicrobial
296 treatments were employed e.g. H₂O₂, H₃PO₄, and EDTA, no studies compared their effects to other
297 adjunctive treatments (or placebo-treated control groups). A 4-year review revealed that curette
298 and saline mechanical debridement showed better results than those treated with Er:YAG laser ³²,
299 although one study indicates that the Er:YAG laser gave better outcomes at 2-year follow-up ⁶³.
300 Meta-analysis failed to detect any significant difference in the use of surface decontamination (via
301 CHX or Laser) on PPD and RBL. Previous studies have indicated that treatment results are
302 independent of decontamination method and that other risk factors such as oral hygiene, defect
303 configuration are better predictors of treatment success ^{33, 55}.

304 Implantoplasty reduces the macro-surface texture (threads) of the implants. The authors
305 feel that the procedure is effective, partly as it is associated with complete elimination of the
306 primary aetiological factor in peri-implantitis- namely the biofilm. Barbour et al. (2007) reports that
307 it may increase the micro-surface roughness leading to biofilm retention. Furthermore, it may alter
308 implant strength ^{37, 64} and increase the temperature of the implants surface ⁶⁵, leading to adverse
309 effects on bone cellularity ⁶⁶. The significant improvement of clinical and radiographic parameters
310 following implantoplasty was only based on one study ^{50, 51} and further research regarding this
311 method is needed.

312 Bone augmentation is limited due to the biological principle of bone regeneration which
313 needs a blood supply to provide nutrition, inflammatory cells to induce bone formation
314 (osseointegration), and collagen matrix for osseointegration⁴³. The significant effect of bone
315 augmentation on RBL relates to the bone grafts material occluding the defect; no effect on clinical
316 outcome (PPD) is evident⁵². Autogenous bone particles ± membranes in multi-walled defects
317 resulted in significant improvement in PPD and RBL at 36 months⁴⁰. In contrast, Aghazadeh et al.
318 (2012) demonstrated that bovine-derived xenograft (BDX) was more effective than autogenous
319 particulate bone⁵⁸. Khoury and Buchmann (2001) and Roos-Jansåker et al. (2014) were unable to
320 demonstrate any additional benefits in comparison to defects treated with graft material alone^{40,44}.

321 There are several limitations of this current study due to the inclusion of English language
322 papers only, as well as considerable variability between the different studies included in this review
323 relating to the inclusion/ exclusion criteria. Furthermore, there were only a small number of studies
324 included for each type of surgical intervention, with most studies consisting of relatively small
325 sample sizes and high risk of selection bias in patient inclusion. The high degree of heterogeneity
326 between studies prevents quantitative comparison between the groups⁴⁷. Therefore, neither the
327 differences between the groups nor the overall results were calculated. Furthermore, the meta-
328 analyses should be interpreted cautiously because of the small number of the included studies in
329 each group and the high degree of heterogeneity between them.

330 This current review concludes that a need exists for a long-term, double blind RCT with large
331 sample size and split-mouth technique are required to eliminate patient-related bias. In addition, all
332 potential confounders should be taken into account. Finally, it would be helpful if the definition,
333 diagnosis and the outcomes of the disease were standardised, to be able to conduct more precise
334 reviews, meta-analyses and the evidence-based surgical treatment of these patients.

335

336

337

338 **Conclusion**

339 This systematic review shows that a surgical approach to mechanical debridement alone may result
340 in improved clinical outcomes, with no evidence to show the benefits of apically-repositioned flap
341 procedures. No additional clinical benefits were found from the use of surface decontaminants
342 (chemicals or lasers) or additional systemic antibiotics. A single study demonstrated a significant
343 improvement following implantoplasty. Bone augmentation improved radiographic bone levels; the
344 use of additional membrane/s, however, did not result in any additional benefit. The high degree of
345 heterogeneity and the small number of controlled studies make it difficult to identify which
346 procedure is superior to any other.

347

348 **Funding**

349 None

350

351 **Conflict of Interest**

352 The authors confirm that there are no conflicts of interest to declare.

353

354 **Ethical approval**

355 None required

356

357

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512

513 **Table 1** Keywords used for the electronic search

| Dental Implantology | Peri-implant disease | Procedure | Technique |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Tooth Implantation | Periimplantitis | Management | Surgery |
| Dental Implants | Peri-implantitis | Treatment | Surgical |
| Tooth implants | Peri-implant disease | Therapy | Surgical approach |
| Oral Implants | Peri-implant defect | | Open flap |
| Endosseous implants | Peri-implant infection | | Access flap |
| Osseointegrated implants | Peri-implant inflammation | | Resective |
| | Peri-implant bone loss | | Regenerative |
| | | | Bone regeneration |
| | | | Bone augmentation |

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516 **Figure legends:**

517 **Figure 1** Publishing rate of papers on (a) peri-implant disease and (b) peri-implantitis treatment in
518 the period 2001-2015.

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520 **Figure 2** PRISMA flow chart for study selection.

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522 **Figure 3** Proportion of (a) surgical intervention investigated and (b) surface decontamination
523 methods used in the included studies.

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525 **Figure 4** The relationship between observed outcomes and time for (a) BOP and (b) PPD ^{28, 29, 49}.

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527 **Figure 5** Forest plot for (a) probing pocket depth (PPD) reductions and (b) radiographic bone level
528 (RBL) changes.

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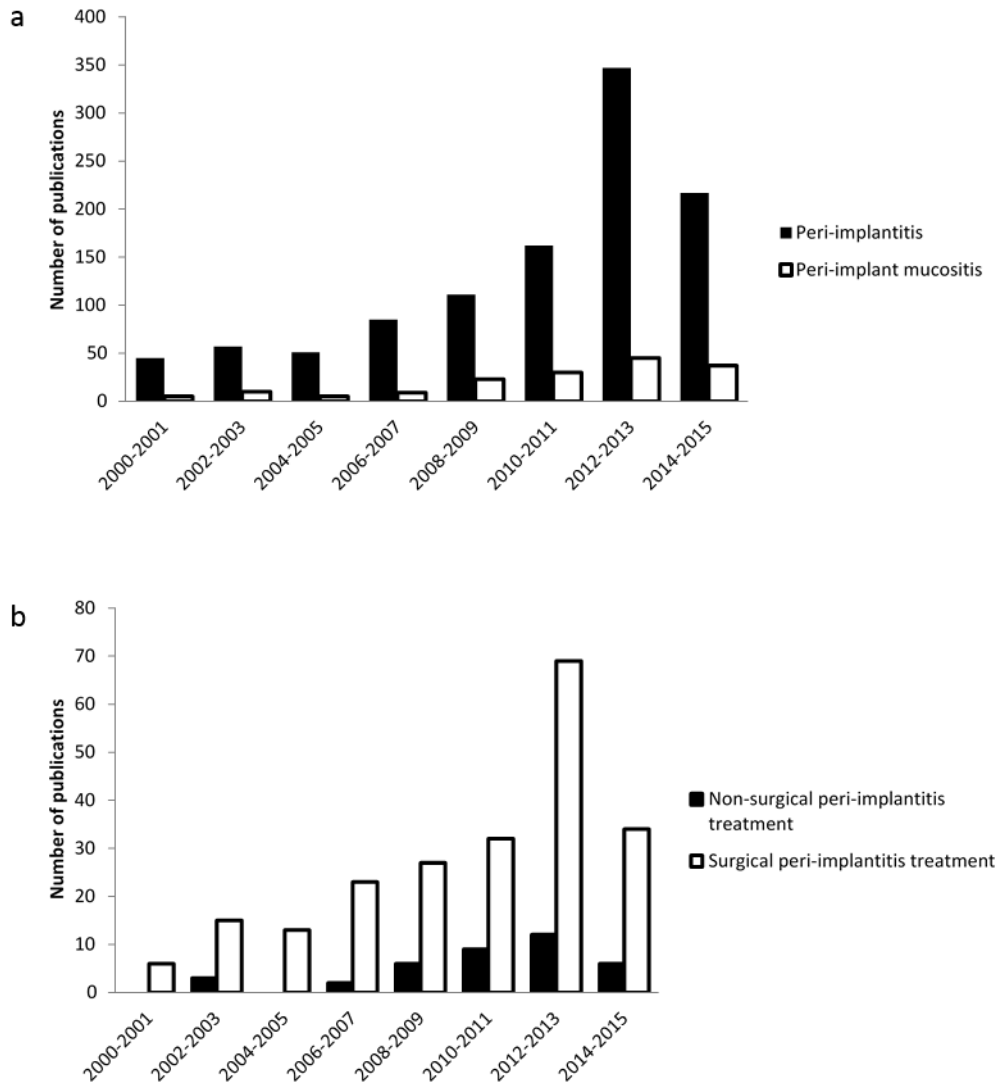
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537 Figure 1:

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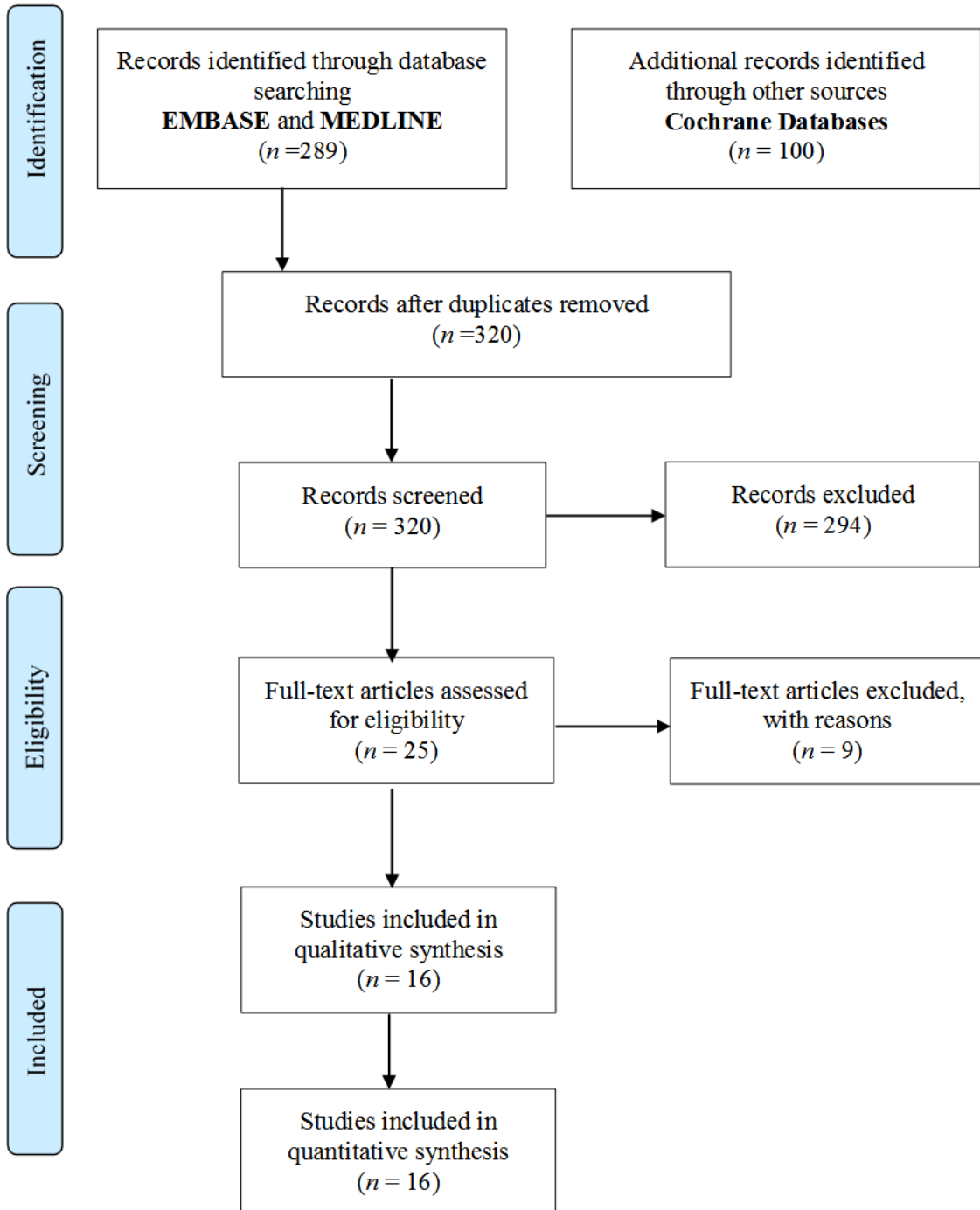
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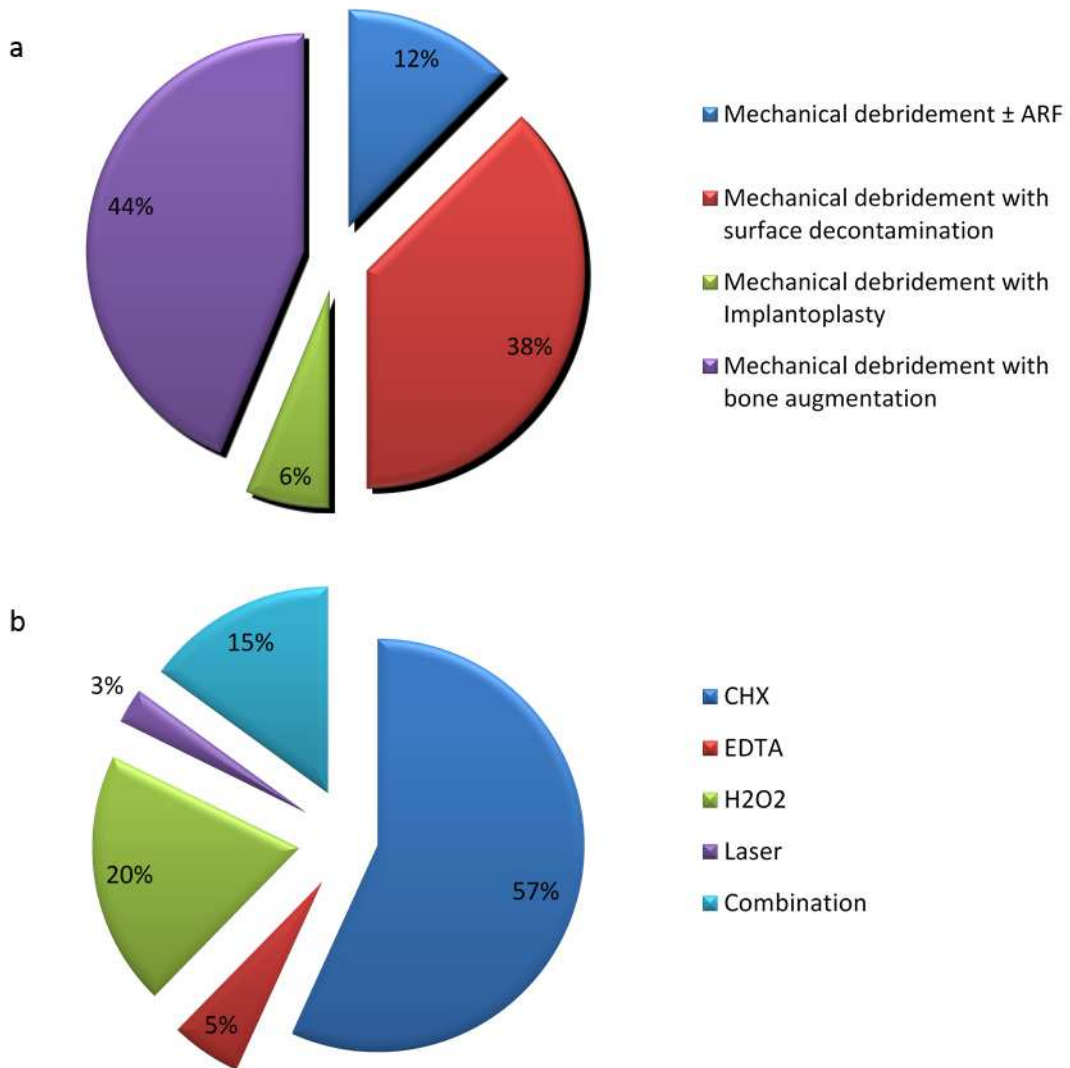


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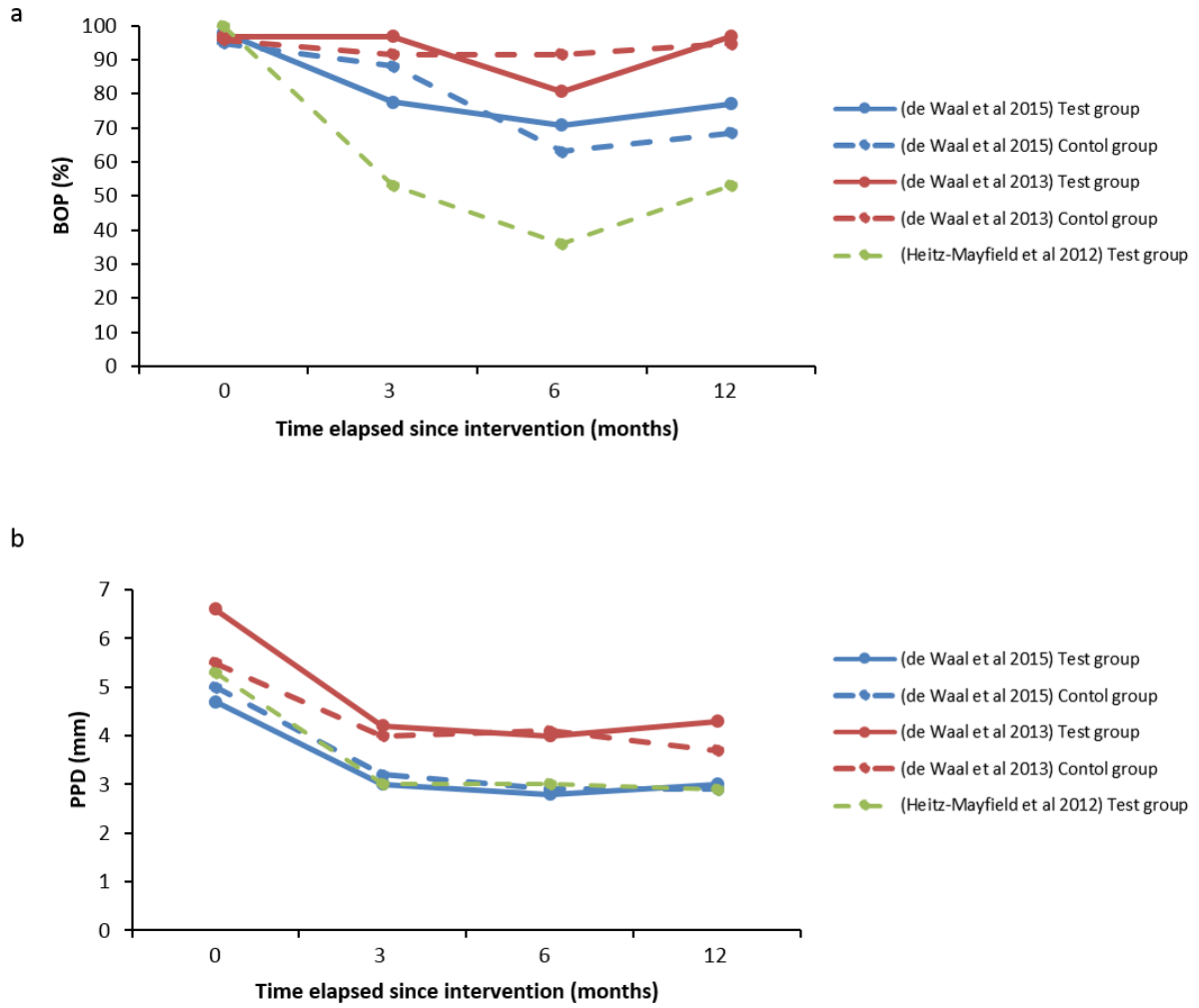
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