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CONSUMER HEALTH DAILY - BRIEFING

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Oral bacteria linked to oral bone loss

BUFFALO, N.Y., June 18 (UPI) -- A University at Buffalo study found women infected with four bacteria that cause periodontal disease were more likely to have more severe oral bone loss.

Two widely recognized periodontal pathogens -- *P. gingivalis* and *T. forsythensis* -- were found to infect 15 percent and 38 percent of the women, respectively. Two additional oral bacteria suspected to be pathogenic, *P. intermedia* and *C. rectus*, were found in 43 percent and 17 percent of women, according to senior author Jean Wactawski-Wende.

The study involved 1,256 postmenopausal women who were part of a larger population-based investigation of risk factors for osteoporosis and oral bone loss in postmenopausal women.

"This is one of the first studies in community-dwelling postmenopausal women that assessed bacteria presence and associated it with oral bone loss, while controlling for other factors, such as age, smoking status and income," Wactawski-Wende said in a statement.

The findings appear in the *Journal of Periodontology*.

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