ABSTRACT

Diabetes Mellitus is not a single disease entity, but rather a group of metabolic disorders sharing the common underlying feature of hyperglycemia. A number of oral disorders have been associated with Diabetes Mellitus, such as salivary dysfunction, xerostomia, dental caries, gingivitis, periodontitis, Taste and other neurosensory disorders, and oral candidiasis. The body surface provides a protective barrier against mechanical and microbial insult. This microbial barrier may be especially significant in the mucosa of the oral cavity and other mucosae, where the potential for bacterial and fungal infections is great. Innate host defenses are a critical aspect of the maintenance of oral health. These defenses include multiple salivary factors, secreted antibodies, and epithelial products. One family of epithelial antimicrobial peptides is the β-defensins. β-defensins which are inducibly expressed by microbial cell components within the oral cavity, skin, and internal epithelia.

Keywords: Diabetes Mellitus, oral candidiasis, β-defensin