Periodontal status of children with primary immunodeficiencies: a systematic review

H. Halai1 · C. Somani2 · N. Donos1 · Luigi Nibali1,3

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Abstract
Objective The aim of this systematic review was to appraise the existing literature on periodontal disease in children affected by different types of neutrophil-associated primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs).
Methods A PRESS-validated search strategy was developed to search through databases MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, LILACS, Google Scholar and Open Grey. All included studies were assessed for methodological quality and risk of bias.
Results One hundred eighteen articles reporting on 160 PID patients were included for qualitative analysis. The majority (70%) were individual case reports. Clinical and radiographic manifestations of the periodontal disease included poor oral hygiene, generalised alveolar bone loss, severe gingival inflammation, increased pocket depths, tooth mobility and gingival recession. For most studies, the primary intervention was periodontal treatment in the form of scaling and root planing or dental extractions. Stabilisation of the periodontal condition varied between different PIDs. In severe congenital neutropenia (SCN), 61% of cases reported stabilisation of the periodontal condition, while for all other PIDs, ‘stability’ was reported in less than 43% of cases.
Conclusion The published literature suggests that patients with PIDs can present with severe periodontitis and that conventional treatment approaches have limited benefits.

Keywords Immune defects · Inflammatory diseases · Paediatrics · Periodontium · Therapies

Introduction
Primary immunodeficiency diseases (PIDs) are a group of rare disorders encompassing inherited and congenital forms of neutropenia. In PIDs, there is an intrinsic defect of the immune system, such as failure or absence of the cellular defences against infection. PIDs have been associated with more than 200 gene defects and manifest in over 180 different phenotypes [1]. The rarer and more severe forms of PIDs present in childhood and are characterised by increased susceptibility to infection and autoimmune disease [1]. Dental and oral manifestations of PIDs occur frequently and include oral ulceration, developmental abnormalities (such as delayed formation of teeth, enamel hypoplasia and hypocalcification) [2–4] and periodontal disease [5].

As neutrophils play a key role in the innate immune response against periodontal pathogens, children with neutropenia and neutrophil dysfunction-associated PIDs (summarised in Table 1) are thought to be the most susceptible to periodontal disease [6].

The current literature suggests that these patients’ response to conventional periodontal therapy is suboptimal and unpredictable [7–9], leading to early tooth loss and a subsequent debilitating effect on mastication, aesthetics and quality of life. However, most of the published papers on periodontitis in children with neutrophil-associated immunodeficiencies are
| Condition                              | Pattern of inheritance | Gene                  | Effect on neutrophils                                                                 | Clinical features                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Severe congenital neutropenia (SCN)    | Autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive | ELANE, HAX1 and others | ELA: Affect neutrophil proteolytic activity in phagosomes and NETs                     | Recurrent severe infections: pneumonia, otitis media, skin abscesses. Oral findings include oral ulcers, gingivitis and periodontitis |
|                                        |                        | HAX1: Affects apoptosis of neutrophils and myeloid homeostasis |                                                                                       |                                                                                   |
| Chronic benign neutropenia (CBN)       | N/A                    | Unknown               | Reduced circulated neutrophils due to antineutrophil antibodies (autoimmune pathology) | Some patients do experience severe periodontal disease recurrent oral ulceration, furuncles, otitis media and respiratory infections |
| Cyclic neutropenia (CyN)               | Autosomal dominant     | ELA2                  | Dysfunction in the rate of myelopoiesis and the release of mature neutrophils into the bloodstream | Neutrophil counts varying from 0 to normal in a 21-day cycle. Severe recurrent infections. Oral aphthous ulcers and periodontitis often seen ‘Doll-like’ appearance and stunted growth. Increased susceptibility to infections and oral findings include candidiasis, ulceration, gingivitis and periodontitis |
| Glycogen storage disease 1b (GSD1b)    | Autosomal recessive    | SLC367A4              | Defective neutrophil motility, chemotaxis and phagocytosis due blockage of G6P transportation |                                                                                   |
| Leukocyte adhesion deficiencies (LAD)  | Autosomal recessive    | LAD1: ITGB2, LAD2: SLC35C1, LAD3: other variants | LAD1: Defective adhesion of neutrophils to endothelial cell wall                       | Delayed umbilical chord separation, delayed wound healing and persistent bacterial infections with impaired pus formation. Oral findings include rapidly progressive periodontal disease |
| Chronic granulomatous disease (CGD)    | X-linked recessive (70%) Autosomal recessive (30%) | CYBA, CYBB, NCF-1, NCF-2 | Deficiency in NADPH enzyme leading to defective killing ability of neutrophils and production of free radicals | Recurrent infections of the skin, mucous membranes, respiratory and urinary tract. Oral findings include ulceration, geographic tongue and gingivitis |
| Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome (PLS)        | Autosomal recessive    | CTSC                  | Decreased ability of neutrophils to phagocytose microorganisms                        | Palmo-planter keratosis and severe periodontal disease                             |
| Chédiak-Higashi syndrome (CHS)         | Autosomal recessive    | LYST                  | Defective exocytosis and transports of molecules into lysosomes. Leading to dysfunction in chemotaxis and phagocytosis. | Oculocutaneous albinism, photophobia, frequent infections, lymphadenopathy. Accelerated phase: hepatosplenomegaly, fever, jaundice, pancytopenia and bleeding tendencies. Oral findings include periodontal disease and severe gingival inflammation |
| Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome (WAS)         | X-linked               | WAS                   | 40% of WAS patients develop neutropenia (exact cause unknown)                         | Petechiae, eczema, bloody diarrhoea and recurrent infections. Oral findings include periodontal disease |
| Cohen syndrome                         | Autosomal recessive    | COH1                  | Unknown                                                                              | Obesity, hypotonia, mental retardation, narrow hands and feet, characteristic facial features. Oral findings include periodontal disease |
| Chronic idiopathic neutropenia (CIN)   | Unknown                | Unknown               | Unknown                                                                              | Mild infections of the skin and respiratory tracts. Oral findings include periodontal disease |
limited to case reports and case series. These have not been extensively and systematically appraised. Consequently, there is a lack of comprehensive data on the prevalence of periodontal disease in patients with such PIDs and on response to treatment.

The aim of this systematic review was to provide a comprehensive assessment of the characteristics and management of periodontitis in neutrophil-associated PID patients. In turn, this may help in early diagnosis and treatment of affected children and identify areas in need of further research.

Materials and methods

The PRISMA checklist [10] was followed in conducting this systematic review. The review protocol was registered with PROSPERO (ref no. CRD42016041252).

Review question

What is the prevalence and features of periodontitis and the response to periodontal treatment in children with neutrophil-associated PIDs?

Eligibility criteria

Studies were selected according to the defined criteria below:

- Study designs
  
  Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and controlled clinical trials (CCTs), case-control, cross-sectional, case reports and case series included.

- Participants
  
  Studies examining and reporting human children participants (age ≤ 16 years old) with a neutrophil-associated PID (as per Table 1) were included.

- Interventions
  
  Interventions of interest involved treatment of periodontal disease taking a broad perspective (for example, oral hygiene instruction or root surface debridement). Other types of interventions were considered on a case-by-case basis (for example full mouth extractions or surgery) to what existed in the literature.

- Comparators
  
  If any experimental studies existed in the literature, the comparator of interest would be no periodontal treatment provided.

  - Outcomes
    
    Studies were only included if at least one clinical or radiographic feature of periodontal disease was reported (e.g. gingival inflammation, increased pocket depths, alveolar bone loss).

  - Report characteristics
    
    No restriction on publication date, publication status, setting, language or geographical location was applied.

Information sources

The initial search was conducted through databases: MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, LILACS, Google Scholar and Open Grey up until 28 February 2018. To ensure literature saturation, the electronic search was complemented by a search through reference lists of included studies and previous reviews within the topic.

Search strategy

The developed search strategy (supporting material 2) was peer-reviewed by a specialist librarian, using the Peer-Review of Electronic Search Strategies (PRESS) standard [11].

Study selection process

Step 1: Initial screening of potentially suitable titles and abstracts. A kappa score was calculated to assess the agreement between the two reviewers (authors HH and CS)

Step 2: Full paper screening, verification of eligibility and data extraction of those studies identified in step 1. Ten randomly selected studies (using an online random number generator—www.random.org) were used to calibrate the two reviewers. A kappa score was again calculated. One reviewer, HH, completed full paper screening of the remaining studies.

In case of a disagreement between reviewers, a third reviewer (author LN) judged study inclusion.

A standardised data extraction form was used to record study characteristics, design, patients included, clinical and radiographic diagnoses, treatment provided, response to treatment and patient-reported outcomes.
The reviewers were not blinded to the journal titles, authors or institutions. Overlapping or duplicate reports were identified in the extraction process and data was only included once. Authors were contacted if clarification was required; any missing information was noted as ‘NR- not reported’.

Outcomes

The primary outcomes assessed were as follows:

- Clinical and radiographic features of periodontal disease in children with PIDs
- Periodontal treatment response (clinical and patient-reported outcomes) in children with PIDs and periodontal disease

Periodontal phenotype definition

Owing to heterogeneous reporting of periodontal status across papers including definition based on probing pocket depths (PPD) and clinical attachment loss (CAL), or narrative descriptions such as ‘periodontal disease was present’ or ‘deep pockets’, the definitions below were used to summarise studies:

- Gingival inflammation: defined as ‘gingivitis’, ‘gingival redness’, ‘gingival oedema’, ‘gingival swelling’, ‘gingival erythema’, ‘bleeding on probing’ and any other term denoting inflammation of the gingival tissues.
- Periodontitis: defined as PPD > 3 mm or CAL > 1 mm in at least one site (18), ‘periodontitis or periodontal disease was present’, ‘increased pocket or probing depths’, ‘attachment loss’, radiographic evidence of bone loss or ‘bone destruction’ and any other terms denoting increased pocket depths, clinical attachment loss or alveolar bone loss.
- Oral hygiene status: ‘Poor or suboptimal’ defined as plaque indices > 2 (19), full mouth plaque scores (FMPS) > 30% (20), generalised plaque and or calculus. ‘Fair’ defined as plaque indices of 1–2, FMPS ≤ 30% and >20%, localised plaque and or calculus. ‘Good’ defined as plaque index < 1, FMPS ≤ 20%, minimal plaque and or calculus.
- Response to treatment: ‘deterioration’ defined as persistence of gingival inflammation, non-resolution of pocket depths, further clinical attachment loss and further tooth loss; ‘stabilisation’ defined as absence of gingival inflammation, resolution of pocket depths, no further clinical attachment loss and no further tooth loss.

All other terms to describe severity of gingival inflammation and periodontitis were assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Data synthesis

Narrative synthesis with text and tables were used to explore the association and findings within and between included studies and the results were stratified for each PID. In this article, the results have been summarised for each measured outcome. No meta-analysis was performed as a lack of homogeneity existed in reporting between studies.

Risk of bias and quality assessment

The qualities of the included studies were assessed using specific criteria for each study design as listed in supporting material 3. Each study was given a final score indicating the relative research quality. Publication bias and outcome reporting bias also affected the strength of the results, the authors accept this presents a limitation of the systematic review, and wherever possible attempted to detect and mitigate these biases.

Results

Study selection

The initial search resulted in 3099 titles from all mentioned sources. Following first-stage screening of titles and abstracts, 223 articles qualified for full text examination. Three articles were discarded because full text papers were not available, despite attempts to contact the publishers and authors. After full text analysis of the remaining papers, 102 were excluded and 118 articles met the defined inclusion criteria (Fig. 1—flowchart of study selection). (Supporting material 4—list of excluded studies and reason for exclusion).

An additional 12 articles were identified meeting the inclusion criteria from the reference lists and citations of other included studies. Translation of foreign language manuscripts was completed by colleagues of the authors all of whom also work within the field of dentistry.

The level of agreement between the two reviewers was calculated using kappa statistics for the first and second stage of study selection. The agreement coefficient (κ) was 0.88 and 0.83 for the first and second stage, respectively.

Study characteristics

Of the 118 included studies, 83 were case reports, 33 were case series and 2 were case-control studies. All studies were carried out in a hospital or university environment. A total number of 160 children were reported in the included studies. The number of cases reported in each study varied from 1 to 7. The age range of included children was 1 to 15 years old.
Eighty-seven (54%) were female, 72 (45%) males and in one case sex was not reported. The included PIDs were severe congenital neutropenia (n = 28), chronic benign neutropenia (n = 13), cyclic neutropenia (n = 22), glycogen storage disease 1b (n = 5), leukocyte adhesion deficiency (n = 11), chronic granulomatous disease (n = 1), Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome (n = 61), Chédiak-Higashi syndrome (n = 8), Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome (n = 1), Cohen syndrome (n = 3) and chronic idiopathic neutropenia (n = 7). Most outcomes were measured as narrative descriptions of the child’s periodontal condition after periodontal treatment intervention. In some cases, objective measures such as pocket depth reduction, clinical attachment gain, mobility scores, furcation grade, recession grade, plaque and bleeding indices were used. Three studies [12–14] described patient-reported outcomes also. The follow-up period ranged from 6 days to 30 years.

Summary of main findings

Table 2 reports summary findings for all papers included in this systematic review, arranged by PID diagnosis.

Presenting complaints

The most common presenting complaints for reported cases was bleeding and sore gums, loose teeth, bad breath and difficulty eating. Presenting complaints were not reported for up to 57% of cases.

Oral hygiene

Oral hygiene was reported as poor or suboptimal in up to 57% of cases. Fair oral hygiene was reported in up to 27% of included cases. In all other cases, oral hygiene was not reported. Twenty percent of Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome patients presented with halitosis, severe congenital neutropenia, cyclic neutropenia and chronic benign neutropenia patients were reported to have halitosis in 5–10% of cases.

Gingival inflammation

All patients with chronic granulomatous disease, Chédiak-Higashi syndrome, Cohen syndrome and chronic idiopathic neutropenia presented with severe gingival inflammation. Gingival status was described as ‘edematous’, ‘fiery red’, ‘hyperplastic’ and ‘granulomatous’. Three to 18% of children with severe congenital neutropenia, chronic benign neutropenia, leukocyte adhesion deficiency and Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome were reported to have mild inflammation in the gingival tissues. Five percent of children with cyclic neutropenia and 4% with severe congenital neutropenia presented with no gingival inflammation. Gingival inflammatory status was not reported in up to 20% of the included cases.
| PID  | Age range | Male/ female ratio | Complaint | OH and halitosis | Gingival inflammatory status | Periodontitis | Other findings | Microbes present | Treatment provided | Response to treatment |
|------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| SCN  | 1–15      | 9:19               | 21% bleeding gums | 36% poor OH 14% fair OH 51% OH 10% ulcers 7% ulcers 7% loose teeth 4% crowding 46% NR | 71% severe inflammation 4% mild inflammation 4% no inflammation 7% other 3% NR | 86% periodontitis | 86% alveolar bone loss 50% tooth mobility 46% increased probing depths 14% furcation involvement 14% gingival recession | P. nigrescens, T. forsythia, C. rectus, C. gingivalis, P. intermedia, P. gingivalis, P. melaninogenica, A. actinomycetemcomitans, C. albicans | 36% SRP 18% SRP + OHI | deterioration |
| CBN  | 3–15      | 9:4                | 23% bleeding gums | 54% poor OH 15% fair OH 31% OH 8% swollen gums 46% NR | 92% severe inflammation 8% mild inflammation 8% healthy | 92% periodontitis | 85% alveolar bone loss 54% increased probing depths 31% tooth mobility 15% furcation involvement 54% gingival recession | NR | 31% SRP 15% SP + OHI | 8% XLA only 7% SRP and XLA 7% OHI only 4% SP and XLA 4% SRP, XLA and surgery 25% adjunctive antimicrobials 32% antiseptics 4% NR | 15% deterioration 8% XLA only 7% SRP and XLA 7% OHI only 4% SP and XLA 4% SRP, XLA and surgery 15% treatment unspecified |
| CyN  | 2–15      | 9:12               | 23% bleeding gums | 32% poor OH 18% ulcers 14% mobile teeth 9% sore mouth 5% bad breath | 95% severe inflammation 5% fair OH 63% OH 8% halitosis | 73% ‘Severe’ periodontitis 9% ‘Mild’ periodontitis 8% NR | 77% alveolar bone loss 50% increased pocket depths 50% tooth mobility 14% furcation involvement 27% gingival recession | P. intermedia, C. rectus, C. gingivalis | 32% periodic SRP 27% periodic SP | 9% SP and XLA 5% cyclic reoccurrence 55% NR |
| GSD  | 3–9       | 4:1                | NR         | NR               | NR                           | NR           | NR            | NR             | NR                | NR                   |
| LAD  | 3–13      | 5:6                | 18% oral pain | 46% poor OH 27% bleeding gums 18% loose teeth 9% swelling | 73% severe periodontitis 18% mild periodontitis 18% no periodontitis | 73% severe periodontitis 9% mild periodontitis 18% no periodontitis | 73% alveolar bone loss 45% increased pocket depths 64% tooth mobility 27% furcation involvement 55% gingival recession | Capnocytophaga, E. corrodens, C. albicans, Anaerobes, Bacteroides melaninogenicus, P. micros, P. mitis, P. melanoferax, P. aeruginosa | 37% OHI and SRP 18% XLA and ABs 9% ABs only | 55% deterioration 18% XLA and ABs 9% ABs only 9% OHI and SP 27% NR | 20% OHI and SRP 20% OHI and SRP 40% adjunctive antimicrobials 60% NR |
| CGD  | 5         | 1:0                | Loose teeth | Poor OH           | Severe inflammation          | Severe periodontitis | Alveolar bone loss, increase pocket depths, tooth mobility, furcation involvement all present 9% alveolar bone loss 8% teeth have a ‘floating in air’ appearance | NR | 18% NR | OHI, XLA and monthly SP 18% NR |
| PLS  | 1.5–15    | 26:35              | 33% loose teeth | 41% poor OH        | 80% severe inflammation      | Severe periodontitis | 86% alveolar bone loss 50% tooth mobility 46% increased probing depths 14% furcation involvement 14% gingival recession | T. forsythia, Capnocytophaga | 5% AB only 20% | 5% SP | deterioration |
Table 2 (continued)

| PID | Age range | Male/ female ratio | Complaint | OH and halitosis | Gingival inflammatory status | Periodontitis | Other findings | Microbes present | Treatment provided | Response to treatment |
|-----|-----------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| CHS \( (n = 8) \) | 5–14 | 4:4 | 13% toothache | 50% poor \( \text{OH} \) | 100% severe inflammation | 87% severe periodontitis | 87% increased pocket depths | 18% \( \text{SRP and XLA} \) | 30% | stabilisation | 10% | surgery | 7% \( \text{XLA only} \) |
| WAS \( (n = 1) \) | 5 | 1:0 | Enlarged and bleeding gingiva | Poor OH | Drug-induced hyperplasia | NR | NR | 25% \( \text{SRP} \) | 12% | deterioration | 38% \( \text{FXLA} \) | stabilisation | 63% \( \text{NR} \) |
| Cohen syndrome \( (n = 3) \) | 14–15 | 2:1 | NR | 33% suboptimal OH | 100% severe inflammation | 33% mild periodontitis | 33% increased pocket depths | 33% OH and \( \text{SRP} \) | 33% | stabilisation | 33% | NR | 67% NR |
| CIN \( (n = 7) \) | 2–14 | 2:5 | 14% exfoliated teeth | 57% suboptimal OH | 100% severe inflammation | 71% severe periodontitis | 71% alveolar bone loss | 57% \( \text{OH and XRA} \) | 43% | deterioration | 29% \( \text{XLA} \) | stabilisation | 29% | antimicrobials | 14% | NR |

F, female; M, male; NR, not reported; SRP, scaling and root planing; SPT, supportive periodontal therapy; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; XLA, extraction; FXLA, full mouth extractions; SP, scaling and polishing; OHI, oral hygiene instruction; SCN, severe congenital neutropenia; CBN, chronic benign neutropenia; CyN, cyclic neutropenia; GSD, glycogen storage disease 1b; LAD, leucocyte adhesion deficiencies; CGD, chronic granulomatous disease; PLS, Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome; CHS, Chediak-Higashi syndrome; WAS, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome; CIN, chronic idiopathic neutropenia.

Definitions of ‘periodontitis’, ‘stabilisation’ and ‘deterioration’ are provided in the text.
Periodontitis

In the one case report of chronic granulomatous disease, the child presented with severe periodontitis characterised by alveolar bone loss, increased pocket depths, furcation involvement and tooth mobility. A range of 71–97% of patients with cyclic neutropenia, leukocyte adhesion deficiency, Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome, Chédiak-Higashi syndrome and chronic idiopathic neutropenia were described to have a ‘severe’ level of periodontitis. ‘Mild’ periodontitis was reported in 9–33% of cases of severe congenital neutropenia, cyclic neutropenia, leukocyte adhesion deficiency. Cohen syndrome and chronic idiopathic neutropenia. No periodontitis was reported in 4–67% of patients with severe congenital neutropenia, chronic benign neutropenia, leukocyte adhesion deficiency and Cohen syndrome. The characteristics of periodontal disease in these patients were reported as alveolar bone loss in up to 90% of cases, increased probing depths in up to 77% of cases, tooth mobility in up to 75% of cases, furcation involvement in up to 27% cases and gingival recession in up to 57% of cases. Twenty-three percent of patients with Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome also presented with purulent exudate from periodontal pockets and severe bone loss to the apex of teeth in 8% of cases giving a characteristic ‘floating in air’ appearance.

Microbiological outcomes

Some papers reported data of microbes detected in periodontal pockets of PID patients. A variety of microbial techniques were employed, including culture, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques, dark-field microscopy [15] and amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) techniques [16]. The microbes detected in cases of severe congenital neutropenia included Prevotella nigrescens, Tannerella forsythia, Campylobacter rectus, Capnocytophaga gingivalis, Porphyromonas gingivalis, Prevotella intermedia, Fusobacterium nucleatum, Peptostreptococcus micros, Aggregatibacter actinomycetcomitans and Candida albicans. In cyclic neutropenia, P. intermedia, C. rectus and C. gingivalis were detected. In leukocyte adhesion deficiency, Capnocytophaga spp., Eikenella corrodens, C. albicans, anaerobes Bacteroides melaninogenicus, P. micros, Proteus mirabilis and Pseudomonas aeruginosa were found. Children with Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome presented with T. forsythia, Capnocytophaga spp., F. nucleatum, E. corrodens, A. actinomycetcomitans, P. gingivalis, P. intermedia, Cytophagovirus and Epstein-Barr virus. In Chédiak-Higashi syndrome, T. forsythia, P. gingivalis, P. intermedia, A. actinomycetcomitans, Fusobacterium spp. and Campylobacter spp. were found. In chronic idiopathic neutropenia, the presence of A. actinomycetcomitans, P. gingivalis, P. intermedia, Capnocytophaga sputigena and Capnocytophaga ochracea was also reported.

Treatment provided

Up to 57% of cases were treated with scaling and root planing (SRP). Seven to 29% of cases were treated with extraction only. Fifteen percent of Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome patients and 37% of Chédiak-Higashi syndrome patients had full mouth extractions. Periodontal surgery was performed in 10% of Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome patients, 9% of leukocyte adhesion deficiency patients, 5% of cyclic neutropenia and 14% of severe congenital neutropenia patients. Adjunctive antimicrobials were used in up to 40% and adjunctive antiseptics in up to 32% of cases. Periodontal treatment was not reported in up to 67% of cases.

Treatment response

‘Stabilisation’ of the periodontal condition was noted in 61% of severe congenital neutropenia cases. In all other conditions, ‘stabilisation’ was noted in up to 43% of cases. ‘Deterioration’ occurred in up to 43% of cases. Cyclic recurrence of periodontal disease was apparent in 5% of cyclic neutropenia cases. Depending on the PID, periodontal treatment response was not reported in up to 67% of cases. It was not possible to assess any potential associations between treatment response and oral hygiene levels, since these were rarely reported.

Risk of bias/quality assessment

A summary of the methodological assessment of included studies is described in supporting material 5, 6 and 7. Using the CARE checklist, the quality assessment rating for case reports varied from 9 to 27. Eight case reports were considered to ‘low’ quality (score ≤ 10), 54 case reports were considered to be of ‘medium’ quality (score > 10 and ≤ 20) and 21 case reports were considered to be of ‘high’ quality evidence (score > 20 and ≤ 30). The case series were assessed using the modified Delphi checklist and the range for studies was 1 to 12. Fourteen case series were considered to ‘low’ quality (score ≤ 6) and 19 case series were considered to be of ‘medium’ quality (score > 6 and ≤ 12). No case series were considered to be of ‘high’ quality evidence (score > 12 and ≤ 18). The two included case-control studies were assessed using a Newcastle-Ottawa Tool and both studies scored 4 out of a possible 8, and were therefore considered to be of ‘medium’ quality.

Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first systematic review attempting to determine the clinical and radiographic features of periodontal disease and outcomes of periodontal treatment in children with different types of neutrophil-associated PIDs.
Acknowledging that it is difficult to summarise such data presented in reports spanning seven decades and with heterogeneous reporting and writing styles, we have attempted to collate the data to provide some general findings that have been summarised in Table 2.

In the gingival tissues, neutrophils make up more than 95% of the total number of leukocytes and form the first line defence against the subgingival biofilm [17]. Therefore, any reduction or dysfunction of neutrophils at the gingival crevice, as seen in severe congenital neutropenia, chronic benign neutropenia, cyclic neutropenia and leukocyte adhesion deficiency, leads to a marked increase in host susceptibility to periodontal disease. A recent study has also reviewed the emerging role of neutrophils in the natural resolution of inflammation, including the secretion of pro-inflammatory mediators such as annexin-A1 and interleukin-10. The same study described the presence of apoptotic neutrophil bodies and their soluble mediators in the host tissues as having the potential to switch the microenvironment from pro-inflammatory to pro-resolution. This phenomenon is termed the ‘neutrophil alarm bell’ [18].

The defective LYST protein in Chediak-Higashi syndrome disrupts effective neutrophil phagocytosis and the presence of intracellular inclusions inhibits the cellular deformability that allows neutrophil diapedesis. As such, Chediak-Higashi syndrome predisposes patients to a high susceptibility of severe periodontal disease (87% of the cases reported here). The persistence of intracellular Fusobacterium spp. associated with periodontal disease have been isolated in Chediak-Higashi syndrome, demonstrating their ability to invade neutrophils and exert their proteolytic activity [19].

Children diagnosed with glycogen storage disease and Cohen syndrome also present with a lower prevalence of periodontal disease (33–40% of cases reported here). This is also in concordance with previous narrative reviews in this area [6, 20]. Although in our review one case of chronic granulomatous disease was included with severe periodontitis, a large study of 368 children and adult chronic granulomatous disease patients in USA found only 2–3% presented with gingival inflammation and periodontitis [21]. This study was not included in the current review, as it did not separate findings for adults and children. The reduced prevalence of periodontitis seen in such PIDs could be associated with reduced neutrophil-mediated periodontal tissue destruction [22]. In the case of chronic granulomatous disease, the absence of a ‘respiratory burst’ from neutrophils, although important in killing of periodontal pathogens, may also protect the periodontal tissues from the ‘overspill’ of free radicals that occurs during the burst.

All of the patients with periodontitis in leukocyte adhesion deficiency were reported to have severe alveolar bone loss. In leukocyte adhesion deficiency-1, there is often an absence of lymphocyte function-associated antigen (LFA)-1 which is expressed on lymphocyte cell surfaces and is involved in cell signalling, antigen presentation and cytotoxic activity. Interestingly, it has also been shown that in LFA-1 deficient mice develop a spontaneous microbial dysbiosis and alveolar bone loss, although it has not been determined whether this leads to or is a result of local tissue inflammation [23].

Microbes shown to be associated with periodontitis were found in patients with severe congenital neutropenia, cyclic neutropenia, leukocyte adhesion deficiency, Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome, Chédiak-Higashi syndrome and chronic idiopathic neutropenia. These included P. gingivalis, P. intermedia, T. forsythia, F. nucleatum and A. actinomycetemcomitans [24, 25]. P. gingivalis, a ‘key stone’ pathogen implicated in periodontitis, has been shown to disrupt the expression of chemokines involved in neutrophil recruitment such as IL-8 and E-selectin. This phenomenon has been termed ‘local chemokine paralysis’ [26] and may explain in part why children with P. gingivalis infection present with severe periodontal disease. A. actinomycetemcomitans produces potent leukotoxins that have been shown to be important in the pathogenesis of early onset and aggressive periodontal diseases [27]. F. nucleatum is another virulent periodontopathogen that has shown to induce excessive recruitment of neutrophils [26]. The persistence of redundant and excessive neutrophils can lead to necrosis and subsequent release of their harmful enzymatic contents into the periodontal tissues [28]. Furthermore, in 2 cases of severe congenital neutropenia and one case of cyclic neutropenia, the authors reported improved neutrophil levels after the provision of periodontal therapy or dental extractions [29, 30]. Therefore, it could be hypothesised that disruption and removal of the subgingival biofilm in these cases prevented the periodontal pathogens from exerting their harmful effects on the local microenvironment and allowed the neutrophil count to recover.

The included cases were managed with a wide array of treatment protocols and adjunctive antimicrobial regimes. Many cases also used chlorhexidine antiseptic mouthwash as an adjunct to periodontal therapy [31]. In some patients with cyclic neutropenia and severe congenital neutropenia, the use of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) to stimulate haemopoiesis of neutrophils appeared to reduce the presence of oral ulceration and gingival inflammation [14, 32–34]. In our systematic review, 20% of the cases reporting periodontal treatment outcomes for these PIDs were treated with G-CSF and showed periodontal stability, and 10% showed deterioration. It has also been hypothesised that the periodontal disease pathognomonic in Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome arises from a defective epithelial barrier function in the gingival sulcus and consequential infection with periodontopathogenic bacteria (such as Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans and Prevotella intermedia) [35, 36]. Tooth loss in such patients has historically been considered inevitable due to the progressive and uncontrollable nature of the periodontal disease. In
this review, no more than 30% of Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome patients were reported to have stabilisation of their periodontal condition at follow-up. In some cases, however, early extraction of deciduous teeth and elimination of periodontopathogenic bacteria (with the use of systemic antimicrobials) prior to eruption of the permanent dentition has been suggested as a management protocol that may reduce the periodontal destruction seen in the permanent teeth [37]. The uses of synthetic retinoids, such as Acitretin, have also been advocated to reduce the chronic gingival inflammation by treating imbalances in collagenolytic activity [38]. Another suggested approach is vital root submergence, where teeth are de-coronated and submerged under the gingival tissues in order to maintain alveolar ridge height and facilitate complete denture retention, support and stability [39]. This suggests that prophylactic removal or submergence of teeth and attempts to eliminate pathogenic bacteria with systemic antimicrobials allow resolution of gingival inflammation. There is evidence to suggest that such treatment approaches allow periodontal health to be maintained for up to 9 years [40, 41].

In general, the periodontal treatment outcomes for all PIDS are unpredictable and largely independent of the type of treatment provided. The highest rate of reported periodontal disease ‘stabilisation’ is seen in only 61% of severe congenital neutropenia cases. The unsuccessful outcomes of protocols targeted at removal or disruption of the biofilm may suggest that mechanisms other than the loss of neutrophil defence against bacteria could contribute to the development of periodontal disease. Such mechanisms include the persistence of redundant neutrophils in the periodontal tissues, the cytotoxic effects of defective neutrophil lysis [28] and the possible role of neutrophils in the natural resolution of inflammation [18].

This systematic review in particular provides a detailed summary of the published papers reporting periodontal disease in children patients with neutrophil-associated PIDs. Although every attempt was made to access full paper articles of the included studies, this was not possible for 3 articles [42–44]. A large number of studies were included in this systematic review (n = 118), but it is important to note that 70% were case reports and 28% were case studies, as such representing some of the lowest levels of quality in the hierarchy of evidence [45]. The quality of the included studies varied greatly with case reports scoring between 9 and 27 out of a maximum of 30 and case series ranging from 1 and 12 out of a maximum of 18. Generally, the older papers presented less relevant clinical data and were less well structured. Many papers failed to report adequately the outcome of treatment and follow-up of the patient. Very few reports appraised different therapeutic options for the patient, and did not provide justification for the chosen treatment. As shown in this systematic review and as described by others [46], many authors did not mention patient-reported outcomes. With medicine becoming ever more patient centred, patient-reported outcomes are more relevant in case reporting and help to inform treatment and the practice of evidence-based healthcare [47].

In such rare conditions as PIDs, there is often a lack of patients to reach statistically significant sample sizes for intervention studies, and so case reports may present the only way to publish information on these patients. However, case reports cannot be used to generalise findings to larger populations because of a lack of cause-effect relationship and of a representative sample. The CARE guidelines [48] were developed in 2013 to provide transparency, accuracy and consistency in the publication of case reports. Despite this, case reports are still susceptible to significant biases, in particular reporting and publication bias where the papers are only published when patients show conditions or outcomes of interest. Therefore, this systematic review does not comment on the relative prevalence of periodontal disease in patients with PIDs, as this can only be determined through comparative case-control studies, of which there are only 2 in this systematic review. There is a definite need for more homogenous studies that focus on comparing PID patients with and without exposure to periodontal disease over a long recall period to allow for the assessment of patient-related outcomes and ultimately tooth loss in such patients. There are also no high-quality trials investigating the outcomes of periodontal treatment in this topic area. Publication of such studies would facilitate a meaningful meta-analysis in this systematic review. The lack of randomised controlled trials for the treatment of the dental diseases in children with PIDs should be highlighted. There is also insufficient evidence relating to patient-related outcomes of periodontal treatment and the psychological and functional consequences of periodontal disease in these children.

The role neutrophil homeostasis in the pathogenesis of periodontal disease is well documented. Through this systematic review, several case reports and case studies and some case-control studies have been identified that document the effect of neutropenia and neutrophil dysfunction on periodontal health in individual children. This review has highlighted that in some of these rare conditions where the neutrophils are absent or dysfunctional, severe periodontal disease often ensues. Affected patients generally complain of oral pain, bleeding and swollen gums, loose teeth, bad breath and difficulty eating. The clinical and radiographic manifestation of the periodontal disease often includes poor oral hygiene, generalised advanced alveolar bone loss, severe gingival inflammation, increased pocket depths, tooth mobility and gingival recession. In some patients (particularly those suffering from neutropenic diseases), the periodontal destruction appears more advanced around the mandibular incisors and in others around molar teeth. Treatment protocols for periodontal disease management have included dental extractions, scaling and root planing, periodic scaling and prophylaxis, adjunctive
an antimicrobial or antiseptic therapy and less so, surgical interventions. Unfortunately, the current limited evidence suggests that these conventional approaches have limited benefits and the end result often is deterioration of the condition and eventually tooth loss. In Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome, prophylactic extraction of the primary dentition 6 months prior to eruption of the permanent dentition in younger patients tended to experience less periodontal destruction and tooth loss later in life [37]. The use of topical antimicrobial agents was less successful due to lack of patient compliance [37]. In older patients with erupted permanent dentitions, vital root submergence can successfully maintain alveolar ridge height and facilitate complete denture retention, support and stability [39]. The periodontal stability in such patients using these management approaches have been maintained for up to 9 years [37, 40, 41].

Loss of neutrophil protection against periodontal pathogens may not be the only mechanisms that determines the development of periodontal disease in these children. There is increasing evidence of the role of neutrophils in immune signalling pathways and the natural resolution of chronic inflammation. A better understanding of these functions and their role in the pathogenesis of early onset type periodontal disease may help inform novel therapeutic interventions to help relieve the burden on affected children.

The existing literature base with regard to the periodontal health of patients affected by neutrophil-associated PIDs is populated with mostly case reports and case studies of varying quality. The limitations of these case reports and case studies have been discussed previously. There is a need for higher quality observational studies and/or RCTs that compare the relative risk and document the characteristics of periodontal disease in PID patients compared with healthy controls over longer time periods. Generally, PIDs are caused by single mutations in known genes. These genes may provide an insight into the natural mediators of periodontal health and disease. In turn, they may help inform interventional studies aimed at combining gene therapy, stem-cell transplants or G-CSF with periodontal treatment protocols. The difficulty here lies with the rarity of these conditions and the feasibility of recruiting sufficient numbers of patients to make up representative samples.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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