The Role of Triclosan/Copolymer Toothpaste in the Management of Periodontal Disease (1-2 hours)

As a result of their metabolism, plaque bacteria release toxic substances into their environment. These substances trigger an inflammatory response of the tissue also known as gingivitis. If untreated, gingivitis may progress into periodontitis.

The prevention and management of periodontal disease may require professional treatment; the primary pillar, however, remains effective daily oral home care. To augment mechanical cleaning procedures, active ingredients with antibacterial properties have been added to oral care products – and been shown to provide significant oral health benefits.

A widely recognized antibacterial ingredient with a long track record of safe use is triclosan, which has been incorporated into toothpaste. Its antiplaque and antigingivitis properties have been demonstrated in numerous clinical studies that support the use of triclosan/copolymer in the management of periodontal disease.

This course provides an overview of the etiology and management of periodontal disease with special emphasis on the role of triclosan/copolymer and the clinical evidence supporting its use.

Learning Objectives:

Following this presentation, the dental/dental hygiene student will be able to:

- Review periodontal disease and its management
- Explore the role of triclosan/copolymer toothpaste in the management of periodontal disease
  - Explain the technology
  - Examine the efficacy and safety
  - Assess and integrate the extensive body of research