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Implants and halitosis: Screws with a smell

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Halitosis is still a large taboo in our society, although it is a common problem that affects nearly 25% of the total population. The oral cavity (in particular the tongue dorsum) is the major origin of this disease (85%), followed by the ENT-area (10%) and several blood-borne diseases (5%) e.g., Diabetes. First the origin of the phenomenon will be discussed. It is explained that volatile sulfur components (e.g. H₂S) and amines (e.g., Cadaverine), produced by the anaerobic microflora in the oral cavity are the main contributing fragrances of bad breath. Furthermore the different detection methods (Subjective: Organoleptical/Objective: Halimeter® and Oral Chroma®) will be highlighted. Although gingivitis, periodontitis and mainly tongue coating are the principle oral causes, also dental implants can strongly contribute to breath odor problems. So furthermore, the origin of breath malodor due to implant-involved cause peri-implantitis, microbial leakage and dentures will be presented. Finally the treatment approaches for all the different origins of implant-halitosis will be proposed and discussed in more detail.

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