

# Do bacteria in the mouth affect risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis?

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Investigators found similarities in the bacterial composition of the mouth among patients with early rheumatoid arthritis and those at risk of

developing the disease, compared with healthy individuals who were not at risk. The findings come from a study published in *Arthritis & Rheumatology*.

Patients and at-risk individuals had an increased relative abundance of potentially pro-inflammatory bacteria in the mouth, suggesting a possible link between oral microbes and rheumatoid arthritis.

"*Prevotella* and *Veillonella*—both gram-negative anaerobes—were at higher relative abundance in saliva, and *Veillonella* was also at higher relative abundance in tongue coating, of both early [rheumatoid arthritis patients](#) and at-risk individuals compared to healthy controls," the authors wrote.

**More information:** Johanna M. Kroese et al, The oral microbiome in early rheumatoid arthritis patients and individuals at risk differs from healthy controls, *Arthritis & Rheumatology* (2021). [DOI: 10.1002/art.41780](#)

Provided by Wiley

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