Plaque-induced inflammation around implants.

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This article is a review of plaque-induced inflammation around dental implants. The microflora around successful implants is similar to healthy sulci, while that associated with failing implants is similar to periodontally diseased sites. Implant microflora is similar to the tooth microflora in the partially edentulous mouth. The microflora of implants in partially edentulous mouths differs from that in edentulous mouths. This seems to indicate a bacterial reservoir around the teeth and the possibility of reinfection of the implant sulcus by periodontal pathogens. The maintenance of a tooth microflora consistent with periodontal health in partially edentulous mouths may lead to maintaining an implant microflora consistent with peri-implant health. Thus, periodontal and implant maintenance are linked and neither can be overlooked.