

Antibacterial property of hydroxyapatite compared to Glass Ionomer Cement and Amalgam



Medical Science

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to evaluate antimicrobial activity of Hydroxyapatite (HAP) which been fully investigated previously by the author^{24,25} (in its biocompatibility In vitro and in vivo its chemical, physical, mechanical sealing ability properties) compared with Gutta-percha (GP), glass ionomer cement (GIC) and amalgam (Amg) used as retrograde root filling materials. The antibacterial activity of retrograde Filling material was assessed using the Agar diffusion inhibitory test. HAP and GIC, GP were compared with amalgam commonly used retrograde root filling materials. The four retrograde materials were placed on agar (MH) plate inoculated with Streptococcus anginosus (milleri) and Enterococcus faecalis, bacteria commonly found in peri-apical lesions (. At interval of 24, 48, and 72 hours). the presence and diameter of zone of inhibition were recorded with precision ruler for each material and its incubation period. The diameter of zone of inhibition increased with time for all materials, GIC had the most pronounced antibacterial activity against bacteria, producing the largest zone of inhibition, followed by HAP.

Introduction:

The root-end filling material should improve the sealing of the existing canal filling or provide an apical sealing to an otherwise unobturated root canal, preventing the movement of bacteria and bacterial products from the root canal system to periapical tissues^{1,2}. These substances should also be biocompatible, non-toxic, non-carcinogenic, easy to use, and should not be sensitive to moisture^{3,4}.

With the purpose of obtaining root-end sealing in endodontic surgery, many different materials have been suggested. The most commonly used ones are amalgam, glass ionomer cement, zinc oxide, eugenol cement, gutta-percha and composite resins⁴

More recent studies have shown mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) as a promising material for root-end filling^{5,6}. Root-end filling materials have been tested for leakage assessment, marginal adaptation, cytotoxicity and usage tests^{1,2,5,6,7,8,9}.

GIC release fluoride affects bacterial viability with respect to carbohydrate transport over the cell membrane and subsequent acid production GIC act against cariogenic property of bacteria¹¹.

Gutta percha has shown to exhibit some antimicrobial activity due to zinc content recently antiseptics MGP with iodoforn or chlorhexidin have more antimicrobial activity¹².

Hydroxyapatite (HAP) has been studied extensively and its biocompatibility is well recognized whether implanted in bone or soft tissue^{13,14,15}, or hard tissue^{16,17}. Synthetic hydroxyapatite with a stoichiometric composition as Ca₁₀(PO₄)₆(OH)₂ has an excellent biocompatibility with human teeth and bone. Mangin et al. (2003)¹⁸ tested its sealing ability in its use as a root-end filling material. Lucas et al. (2003)¹⁹ tested the improvement of the mechanical strength of glass ionomer cement by adding HA. Their results indicated that hydroxyapatite-added glass ionomer cement has a greater potential as a reliable restorative material with improved fracture toughness, long-term bonding strength to dentin and unimpeded ability of sustained fluoride release²³. . . Kouassi et al.(2003)²⁰ studied the antibacterial effect of hydraulic calcium phosphate for dental applications and found that calcium bis- dihydrogenphosphate monohydrate CaO-based cement has an antibacterial effect and is potential candidate for pulp capping and cavity lining. In study by Tin-Oo et al 2007²¹ of newly produced hydroxyapatite they found that HAP possess antibacterial activity against streptococcus mutans. Studies on biological properties of IRM (Intermediate Restorative Material), with the addition of HA as a retrograde root filling material showed antibacterial activity against Streptococcus anginosus (milleri) and Enterococcus faecalis on blood agar plates with standardized pellets of HAP-modified forms (Owadally et al., 1994). Ingram et al. (1996)²² also studied the antibacterial effect of porous hydroxyapatite gran-

ules. They found that cultures of Staphylococcus epidermidis evinced inhibition

The aim of retrograde filling is to seal the root canal system by means of an apical cavity preparation, which is then filled using a material with adequate physical, chemical and biological properties. The ideal root-end filling material must possess certain characteristics, including biocompatibility, adequate marginal sealing, ability to allow or induce bone repair, and antimicrobial activity⁽²¹⁾. As hydroxyapatite ceramic is one of the specialty Calcium Phosphate Products being used as, adjunct to dental implants and cements (dental and orthopedic), dentrifices, maxillo-facial surgery, pulp-capping materials, repair of periodontal defects and repair of failing implants, the study of antibacterial properties of this material is an area of profound interest.

Although bacteria superficially adhering to root canal dentin might be more easily killed than those protected in the depths of dentinal tubules, bacteria inside dentinal tubules might also be affected by antibacterial activity of retrograde filling material and sealer such as calcium hydroxide, HAP, GIC, MTA and Kalizino²¹.

Root-end resection may be the treatment of choice for teeth in which adequate nonsurgical retreatment had failed to eliminate existing periapical pathosis, thus following the resection, efforts should be made to seal the root-end and prevent microleakage, improving the surgical endodontic procedure by selecting proper root end filling material to eliminate the etiological factor and attempt to prevent microleakage and promote periradicular (bone) tissue healing. Some materials used in RCT may elicit foreign body reaction in the perapical tissue such as talc-contaminated gutta-percha, the cellulose component of paper points, cotton wool and food material of vegetable origin^{.20,23}.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of Hydroxyapatite (which fully investigated in our previous studies regarding thermal stability, mechanical, physical chemical, and ((biocompatibility In vitro and In vivo)) with bone tissue)²⁴ against Streptococcus miller and Enterococcus faecalis compared with the antibacterial activity of Glass ionomer amalgam and guttapercha commonly used

Materials and Methods

In this study, we had four experimental groups as follows: group 1, Hydroxyapatite ;group 2, Glass ionomer cement; group 3, Amalgam; group 4, Gutta Percha. Amalgam (SDI Ltd Australia) Glass ionomer cement GIC(AHL Generic UK) 3. Hydroxyapatite (HAP) (Plasma bional UK) 4. Gutta-percha (calcium hydroxide sealapex)(Dencare Ltd UK)

The study was conducted on double-layered plates, in which

the base layer was made of 10 mL of sterilized Muller-Hinton agar (MH) poured into 2×10 cm sterilized Petri plates. Four uniform cavities or wells (4-mm diameter, one for each test material) were punched at equidistant points in agar by means of a sterile copper coil after 24 h. The cavities were filled by materials immediately after being prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions standardized pellets as 4mm diameter.

Antibacterial activities of the selected materials were evaluated against the *Streptococcus anginosus* (milleri) and *Enterococcus faecalis*, commonly found in Peri apical lesions and a mixture of these bacteria was evaluated by the agar diffusion method. The strains were obtained from the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine TRIPOLI, University. After activation from stock culture, microorganisms were maintained in MH broth until use. Overnight cultures of the microorganisms were done. All the microbial strains were grown at 37°C for 24 h in MH broth and then seeded into 15 mL of the MH agar, to produce a turbidity of 0.5 on the McFarland scale, which corresponds to a concentration of 10⁸ colony forming units ml⁻¹. For the mixture group, the second layer contained equal concentrations of each microorganism. The seeded agar was added over the plates immediately after the insertion of freshly prepared pellets of test materials. The plates were kept at room temperature for 2 h for pre-diffusion of the materials and then incubated at 37°C for 72 h. under anaerobic condition and zone of growth inhibition were measured at 24, 48, and 72 hours. The inhibition zones around the wells were then measured with a precision millimeter ruler with accuracy of 0.5 mm. Data were subjected to the Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn test at a 5% significant level. The mean and standard deviation of diameter of growth of inhibition zone of the test materials were statistically analysed using Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the inhibition zones associated with each material and each duration were compared by Tukey's honest significant difference (HSD) pairwise comparison. All statistical analyses were performed with the SPSS statistical software package, and all results were evaluated at the 5% significance level.

Results:

The mean diameters of zones of inhibition caused by the four root-end materials are presented in Table 1. The 4 trials yielded consistent results.

All four root-end materials caused zones of inhibition. However, the Amalgam had little effect on the tested micro-organism. The Glass ionomer cement and Hydroxyapatite exhibited the largest inhibition zones. The Amalgam and Gutta-percha showed mild antimicrobial activity against micro-organism.

The results after 48 and 72 hours showed that the effectiveness of the root-end materials increased slightly with time.

Duration of incubation and mean diameter (SD) of inhibition zone (mm)a

Table 1: Mean diameter of zones of growth inhibition with four root-end materials

Materials	72hours	48 hours	24 hours
GIC	(30,31,31,32) 31 (1.5)	(29,30,30,31) 30(1.7)	(27,28,28,29) 28(1.25)
HAP	(25,25,24,22) 24(2.16)	(20,21,23,24) 22(2.16)	(19,20,22,23) 21(2.21)
Amalgam	(20,21,23,24) 22(2.06)	(18,19,21,22) 20(1.70)	(17,18,19,22) 19(1.41)
Gutta-percha	(17,21,22,23) 20(0.81)	(18,19,19,20) 19(0.95)	(16,18,18,20) 18(1.63)

Each value is the mean of four wells SD = standard deviation

Discussion

The agar diffusion method used in the present study is one of the most commonly employed techniques for evaluation of antimicrobial activity^{26,27}. The prediffusion period, which consists of maintaining the inoculated culture medium at room temperature for 2 hours, is an important step for demonstrating the antimicrobial activity of HAP, Amalgam, GIC and Gutta-percha. Our method was in accordance with those obtained by Leonardo et al.^{21,29}, who employed similar methodology. Dental materials/cements may show different degrees of diffusion in agar.

The data corresponding to the antimicrobial activity of each material were analyzed statistically using the, as advised by Siqueira et al.²⁸ The microorganisms utilized in this study are predominant in persistent or refractory periapical lesions in teeth subjected to periapical surgery^{31,31}.

Our results revealed that all of the materials tested possessed antimicrobial activity, substantiated by the formation of growth inhibition zones in all strains evaluated. The antimicrobial activity of GIC release fluoride which may it interfere with bacteria metabolism and colonization was evaluated by Torabinejad et al.²³, who demonstrated its effectiveness against some facultative bacteria.

Gutta percha has shown to exhibit some antimicrobial activity due to zinc content recently antseptis³⁸ Hydroxyapatite-added to GIC has potential as a reliable retrograde filling material with improve fracture toughness, bonding to dentine and ability of fluoride release. Fluoride can inhibit bacteria's ability to create acids and reduce its survive in dental plaque, hydroxyapatite and fluoroapatite is created during remineralization process Fluoroapatite (fluoride release from GIC added to HAP) rendering the tooth structure less susceptible to decay. Fluoride reduce cariogenic potential of bacteria by inhibiting their metabolism²¹MGP with iodoform or chlorhexidin have more antimicrobial activity¹². Several studies investigated fluoride levels released from amalgam^{34,36,37}

In this study the antibacterial activity of GIC, HAP, amalgam against *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Streptococcus millers* may related to fluoride release which play role in bacteria inhibition by interference with its biosynthetic metabolism and reduce its colonization, Other component release simultaneously release from some retrograde materials (aluminium, zinc, monomers and catalysts) may involve in antibacterial activity of the root-end materials³⁵,

Amalgam has been the most commonly used material for retro grade filling, as it is easy to manipulate, available in all dental offices, radio-opaque, well tolerated by peri apical tissues, seals with acceptability due slight expansion on complete setting and non-resorbable. Its disadvantages include, it shows an initial leakage due to contraction at the time of primary setting^{7,8}, non sterile, slow setting, amalgam 'cloud', amalgam 'tattooing', reaction of mercury to tissues and corrosion. Different amalgams (including Zn free or high Copper amalgams) are available but vary in properties regarding corrosion and cytotoxicity.⁹

Gutta-percha is malleable to a certain degree and thus adaptable to irregular cavity walls and also inert, inexpensive, does not corrode but heat sealed gutta-percha has showed significant marginal defects, pull-aways, and heat blistering.¹⁰

HAP and GIC had similar antimicrobial activity, suggesting that the addition of a HAP agent to GIC does not hinder its antimicrobial action.³⁰ In vivo GIC leads to larger decrease in count of streptococcus mutans and lactobacilli than amalgam in accordance with our study^(169,170). In contrast Wearheijm et al⁽¹⁷¹⁾ found no difference in number of oral streptococci and lactobacilli. Likewise when Hap was added in IRM as retrograde root filling material (Owadally et al 1994) it was found that streptococcus anginosus (miller) and *Enterococcus faecalis* growth inhibition were increased with time which is in accordance with our study The finding of this study has shown that HAP possesses

antibacterial properties This studies reiterates as evinced by Ingram et al 1996³⁹, Owadally 1994⁴⁰ and Tin-OoMM et al 2007²¹

Conclusion:

GIC and HAP had the most pronounced antibacterial activity compared with the other materials Guttapercha and Amalgam. The antibacterial activity of the materials was ranked in the following order GIC>HAP>guttapercha> amalgam HAP bioactive promote periapical tissue healing and possessed antibacterial activity so it can be used as retrograde root filling material but further clinical studies are required to assess its performance clinically

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