



LOCALLY DELIVERED HERBS FOR TREATMENT OF DENTAL AND PERIODONTAL DISEASES– A REVIEW

Dental Science

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ABSTRACT

The Herbal remedies for the management of diseases related to periodontium are used as local delivery agents. The aim of this article is to present an overview of the current Herbal, Ayurvedic formulations used in day to day practice in management of pain, treatment of gingivitis and related conditions of the oral cavity.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

Antimicrobial agents are of great interest and may be valuable as adjuncts to mechanical therapy in treating Periodontitis. Systemic administration of antimicrobial drugs involves a relatively high dose with repeated intake over a prolonged period of time to achieve the required inhibitory concentrations in the sulcular fluid, which thus increases the chances of developing resistance to antibiotics. Local administration as an alternate provides a useful answer to these problems. Potential risks associated with systemically administered antibiotics include development of resistant bacterial strains, emergence of opportunistic infections, and possible allergic sensitization of patients. Local administration as an alternate provides a useful answer to these problems. Dr. Max Goodson et al (1979)¹⁷ proposed the concept of controlled delivery in the treatment of periodontitis. Allopathic medications were successfully used as local drug delivery agents but, due to undesirable side effects such as tooth staining, taste alteration, and cost, the use of natural formulations in the form of herbal or Ayurvedic have gained popularity³⁷.

There are quite a few numbers of herbs that have been proved as an antioxidant which eliminates/ minimises dental and periodontal diseases.

Aloe vera (Aloe Barbadensis)-Aloe vera is a cactus plant that belongs to the Liliaceae family. Aloe Vera reduces bleeding and gingivitis. It has antiseptic properties and its antifungal property helps in curing denture stomatitis, aphthous ulcers, cracked and split corners of the mouth^{10,11,16,38}

Oak (Quercus Brantii)-Oak is a species from Fagaceae family used for the treatment of gastric ulcers, superficial injuries and local inflammation with haemostatic, anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, antinociceptive and anti-oxidant effects²⁵.

Coriander (Coriandrum sativum)-C. Sativum is from the Umbelliferae family was used in Iranian folk medicine as a carminative and spasmolytic agent. It has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-bacterial and anti-oxidant activities^{4,8,25,45}

Green Tea (Camellia sinensis)-It has antioxidant, anti-collagenase, anti-inflammatory, anticaries, antifungal, antiviral and antibacterial effects^{3,13,22,26,27,29,33,34}.

Turmeric (Curcuma longa)-Turmeric is a rhizome of Curcuma longa is used as an antiplaque mouthwash^{9,12}.

Bakul (Minusopselengi)- Bakul has cryogenic glycosides in addition to several enzymes such as oxidases, peroxidases and pectinases that have shown to inhibit antimicrobial properties³⁵.

Pomegranate (Punica granatum)-Pomegranate has active compounds containing polyphenolic flavonoids (eg Punicalagins and ellagic acid), are believed to prevent gingivitis^{7,30,39}.

Neem (Azadirachta Indica)-It belongs to Meliaceae family and widely distributed in Asia and Africa. Almost every part of the plant was used in indigenous systems, particularly against disease of bacterial and fungal origin^{2,11,43}.

Peppermint (Mentha piperita)-It grows in moist areas with dark green, lance-shaped leaves and purple flowers. Peppermint oil is used for curing toothache. Soaked cotton ball in the peppermint oil and placing in cavity helps to relieve pain²⁸.

Lemongrass (Cymbopogon citratus)-It is a popular medicinal plant. This plant is commonly used in teas, cosmetics, and folk medicine for its antiseptic, antiemetic, antirheumatic, analgesic, antispasmodic, and antipyretic properties⁴⁴.

Tulsi (Ocimum Sanctum)-It is widely used grown, sacred plant of India and belongs to Labiateae family. It has long history of use in ayurvedic system of medicine to treat various ailments. It is studied that 2% tulsi was effective in the treatment of experimental periodontitis^{18,32}.

Meswak (Salvadora persica)-The most common type of chewing stick, Meswak, is derived from Arak tree. Used as dentifrices in the recent years as antiplaque and anti-gingivitis agent¹⁹.

Myrrh (Commiphora myrrha)-It is obtained in the form from the trees and shrubs. Myrrh is documented to promote healing in cases of pyorrhea^{14,42}.

Tea tree oil (Melaleuca alternifolia)-The local delivery of tea tree oil (TTO) gel can be used in case of chronic periodontitis which have proved some beneficial effects to augment the results of the conventional periodontal therapy^{14,15,41}.

Triphala-It has a free radical scavenging property and the antimicrobial activity^{1,5,37}.

Clove (Syzygium aromaticum)-The germicidal and anaesthetizing properties of the oil make it very effective for relieving toothache, sore gums and mouth ulcers²⁴.

Cinnamon (Cinnamomum verum)-*Streptococcus mutans*, the etiological agents of dental caries, are highly sensitive to Cinnamon therefore ensuring it as antiseptic toothpaste, mouthwash or chewing gum for prevention of dental caries and other oral infections³⁰.

Garlic (Allium sativum)-Garlic concentrate is has been used as antibacterial agent for root canal lavage^{21,23}.

Eucalyptus (Globuluslabill)-Eucalyptus oil exhibits antibacterial activity against cariogenic (tooth decay-causing) and periodontopathic

bacteria, is beneficial against some microorganisms such as *Vibrio cholerae*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *S.aureus*²⁰.

Licorice Root (Glycyrrhizaglabra)-Licorice root is used as digestive stimulant and also soothing expectorant for lung disease. It is used in various allergies or as an anti-inflammatory agent³¹.

Chamomile (*Matricariarecutita*)-It belongs to Asteraceae family. It has anti-inflammatory activities^{7,24}.

For several decades, numerous studies have been conducted in order to elucidate the chemical and pharmaceutical characteristics of many herbs.

Cao et al. (1998) reviewed articles published on the effects and mechanisms of herbal medicine on periodontal disease. Particularly, two modifications of an ancient compound prescription, Guchiwan (Tooth-firming pills) and Guchigao (Tooth-firming extract), were serially studied. It was pointed out in the review that various herbal extracts had shown suppressive effects on bone resorption by isolated osteoclasts in vitro studies¹¹.

Sastravaha G et al (2005) conducted a study to evaluate the efficacy of the combined herbal preparation in comparison to standard supportive periodontal therapy (SPT), with additional monitoring of certain inflammatory markers. Fifteen patients in the recall programme who had completed conventional periodontal therapy with remaining probing pocket depths of 5-8 mm were enrolled. They concluded that adjunctive local delivery of extracts of *C. asiaticum* with *P. granatum* significantly improved clinical signs of chronic periodontitis and IL-1 level in maintenance patients³⁵.

Bansal S et al (2012) reviewed mechanical, chemical and herbal aspects of periodontal disease control. They concluded that despite of several agents being commercially available, that could alter oral microbiota and with side-effects such as vomiting, diarrhoea, tooth staining, and bacterial resistance to antibiotics, used to treat oral infections. Hence natural phytochemicals isolated from plants used in traditional medicine are considered as good alternatives to synthetic chemicals⁶.

Phogat M et al (2014) evaluated the efficacy of a xanthan-based chlorhexidine gel versus herbal extracts gel as an adjunct to periodontal therapy in the treatment of chronic periodontitis. They concluded that the local application of herbal gel is comparable to chlorhexidine gel in the treatment of chronic periodontitis as an adjunct to mechanical periodontal therapy³⁵.

CONCLUSION- The delivery of safe and efficient Herbal and Ayurvedic medicine into periodontal pockets through local delivery system has reduced the side effects of allopathic medicine system through limited use of antibiotics. With the introduction of Herbal and Ayurvedic medicine system, avenues for research have opened for their use in treatment of periodontal diseases. Development of novel drug delivery systems for treatment of dental and periodontal diseases is likely to be one of the thrust areas of research in future. Thus it can be concluded that various Ayurvedic and herbal byproducts as an adjunct to scaling and root planing has beneficial effect on periodontal diseases.

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