Does Consumption of Coloring Substances during Tooth Whitening Treatment Influence the Final Outcome? A Systematic Review

O Consumo de Corantes durante o Clareamento Dental Influência no Resultado Final? Uma Revisão Sistematizada

¿Influye el Consumo de Colorantes durante el Tratamiento de Blanqueamiento Dental en el Resultado Final? Una Revisión sistemática

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Abstract
The purpose of this systematic review recorded in PROSPERO (CRD4201913125) was to test the hypothesis that dye substances during and / or immediately after treatment can affect the effectiveness of tooth whitening. Two independent reviewers performed a search was conducted in the PubMed / MEDLINE, Web of Science databases and Cochrane Library. Articles were selected based on the inclusion criteria: in vitro studies with direct comparisons between groups undergoing treatment with or without dying substances consumption during or immediately after bleaching treatment; reflectance spectrophotometry was used as evaluation method; studies in which any type of dye was used, studies in which treatment was performed on human and / or bovine teeth. Of the 8 studies selected, including 347 samples analyzed in vitro. The coffee does not appear to influence tooth whitening when consumed during tooth whitening sessions or immediately after treatment (up to 24 hours after treatment). However low-alcoholic beverages such as red wine and cola drinks may have the potential to change pigmentation and influence the change in tooth color.

Descriptors: Tooth Bleaching; Coloring Agents; Systematic Review.

Resumo
O objetivo desta revisão sistemática registrada no PROSPERO (CRD4201913125) foi testar a hipótese de que os corantes durante e / ou imediatamente após o tratamento podem afetar a eficácia do clareamento dental. Dois revisores independentes realizaram uma pesquisa nas bases de dados PubMed / MEDLINE, Web of Science e Cochrane Library. Os artigos foram selecionados com base nos critérios de inclusão: estudos in vitro com comparações diretas entre grupos em tratamento com ou sem consumo de corantes durante ou imediatamente após o tratamento clareador; a espectrofotometria de reflexância foi utilizada como método de avaliação; estudos em que foi utilizado qualquer tipo de corante; estudos em que o tratamento foi realizado em dentes humanos e / ou bovinos. Dos 8 estudos selecionados, incluindo 347 amostras analisadas in vitro. O café não parece influenciar o clareamento dental quando consumido durante as sessões de clareamento dental ou imediatamente após o tratamento (até 24 horas após o tratamento). No entanto, bebidas com baixo teor de álcool, como vinho tinto, refrigerantes, podem ter o potencial de alterar a pigmentação e influenciar a mudança na cor dos dentes.

Descritores: Clareamento de Dentes; Colorantes; Revisão Sistematizada.

INTRODUCTION
Several factors can alter the esthetics of a smile, including changes in the teeth coloring. Dental whitening is a conservative and safe procedure which involves the use of hydrogen peroxide or carbamide peroxide in various concentrations and times of application without light. These bleaching gels are unstable and, when in contact with oral fluid, releases oxygen and free radicals that break down pigment macromolecules via oxidation and reducing its concentration, thereby whitening the teeth. When in contact with bleaching gels, the enamel undergo temporary structural alterations,
such as reduction in microhardness, increase in surface roughness, porosity and demineralization.

Some colored drinks and foods, such as red wine, coffee, cola soft drinks, chocolates, among others, produce a greater influence on teeth staining. However, the consumption of such beverages and foods is highly popular worldwide. Due to the possibility of these products influencing on the final effect and color stability obtained by bleaching, professionals advise patients to avoid the intake of food and drink with colorants during and after treatment. Notably, during and/or after tooth whitening procedures, a permanent total ban of these drinks and foods for aesthetic purposes is impractical for most people.

The consumption of dying substances after tooth whitening is well established as a cause of loss of color stabilization and dimming, however there is a general lack of information regarding the esthetic damage caused by dyes during or shortly after the bleaching treatment in relation to the final outcome.

Therefore, the overall goal of this systematic review was to test the hypothesis that coloring substances used during and/or immediately after treatment affect the effectiveness of tooth whitening.

**MATERIAL AND METHOD**

The present systematic review was performed following the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses statement [10]. Furthermore, the systematic review was registered in PROSPERO (CDR42019131255).

- **Eligibility criteria**
  
  The question of this systematic review was as follows: Does the consumption of coloring substances during dental bleaching influence the efficacy of the treatment? The studies selected for this review met the criteria established by the PICO (population, intervention, control, and outcomes) approach. Population: Teeth who underwent dental bleaching; Intervention: Teeth subjected to coloring substances during the bleaching treatment; Comparison: Teeth no subjected to coloring substances during the bleaching treatment; Outcome: Effectiveness of tooth whitening.

Eligible articles were published until November 2019, published in English, in vitro studies with direct comparisons between groups that underwent treatment with or without consumption of coloring substances during or immediately after bleaching treatment (up to 24h after treatment); studies in which reflectance spectrophotometry was used as evaluation method; studies in which any type of coloring substance was used; studies in which the treatment was performed on human and/or bovine teeth. Case reports, reviews and articles that did not report relevant data for the purpose of this study were excluded.

- **Information Source and Search Strategy**
  
  A comprehensive search of studies published and listed in the PubMed/MEDLINE, Web of Science, Scopus and Cochrane Library databases (until 30th November 2019) was performed using a combination of the following search terms: "dental health services" [MeSH Terms] OR "dental" [All Fields] AND "health" [All Fields] AND "services" [All Fields] OR "dental health services" [All Fields] OR "dental" [All Fields] AND bleaching [All Fields] OR (("dental health services" [MeSH Terms] OR "dental" [All Fields] AND "health" [All Fields]) AND bleaching [All Fields]) OR (("dental health services" [MeSH Terms] OR "dental" [All Fields] AND "health" [All Fields]) AND bleaching [All Fields]) OR "dental health services" [All Fields] OR "oral health services" [All Fields] OR "oral health services" [MeSH Terms] OR "oral" [All Fields] AND "health" [All Fields] AND whitening [All Fields]) AND (("coffe" [MeSH Terms] OR "coffee" [All Fields]) OR ("wine" [MeSH Terms] OR "wine" [All Fields]) OR ("tea" [MeSH Terms] OR "tea" [All Fields]) OR juice [All Fields] OR ("fruit" [MeSH Terms] OR "fruit" [All Fields]) OR ("diet" [MeSH Terms] OR "diet" [All Fields]) OR ("pigmentation" [MeSH Terms] OR "pigmentation" [All Fields] OR "pigments" [All Fields]) OR ("staining and labeling" [MeSH Terms] OR ("staining" [MeSH Terms] OR ("staining and labeling" [All Fields]) OR ("staining" [All Fields]) AND "labeling" [All Fields]) OR ("staining and labeling" [All Fields] OR "staining" [All Fields]) AND ("beverages" [MeSH Terms] OR "beverages" [All Fields]) OR ("coloring agents" [Pharmacological Action] OR "coloring agents" [MeSH Terms] OR ("coloring" [All Fields] AND "agents" [All Fields]) OR ("coloring agents" [All Fields] OR "dye" [All Fields]))). The articles were selected individually by two of the authors (M.L.S. and C.A.A.L.). All authors analyzed the differences in choices between M.L.S. and C.A.A.L. and consensus was reached by discussion. The same authors performed a manual search of studies in the reference list of the articles identified in the databases. Also, manual searches of three high-impact dentistry journals comprising the last 6 months were performed: American Journal of Dentistry, International Journal of Dentistry and Brazilian Dental Journal.

- **Quality Assessment of Selected Studies**
  
  The studies were analyzed to identify the risk of bias in the results and conclusions. The modified Methodological Index for Non-Randomized Studies (MINORS) was used for this evaluation for the in vitro. The "Inclusion
of consecutive patients” (item 2 of the MINORS scale) was replaced for “Inclusion of confection methods of the speciments”.

Twelve items were evaluated, and each item was scored from 0 to 2, where 0 indicates that the item was not reported in the assessed article; 1 indicates that the item was reported, but inadequately; and 2 indicates that the item was reported adequately. Studies with a score above 16 were considered as having a low risk of bias and those with a score below 16 were considered high risk.

- **Data collection**

Data were extracted from the selected articles by one of the authors (M.L.S.). The extracted data were sorted as quantitative or qualitative, tabulated for ease of comparison, and verified by all researchers. Table 1 presents data from the in vitro studies. Any disagreements were solved through discussion until a consensus was obtained. The following data were identified in each article: author/date, study design, coloring substances, sample size, groups, bleaching agents, evaluation methods, evaluation time, bleaching efficacy, and treatment outcome.

- **Additional Analysis**

The articles were selected by the authors (M.L.S. and C.A.A.L.) and the kappa score was used to calculate the inter-rater agreement during the inclusion process of publications databases. Agreement was reached by consensus, with differences being discussed and resolved by all authors.

### RESULTS

- **Selection of the studies and risk of bias**

  The initial search of the databases identified 688 articles, including 296 in PubMed/MEDLINE, 77 in Web of Science, 253 in Scopus and 62 in Cochrane Library. After reading the titles and abstracts, 8 articles were selected for full-text analysis. All 8 studies were included in this review and processed for data extraction (Table 1). All completed papers were included in the qualitative analysis in this review. The PRISMA flow diagram showing the complete selection process and inclusion of the articles is illustrated in Figure 1.

  The kappa coefficient was applied to the selection of the abstracts and used to calculate the inter-rater agreement during the inclusion process of publications from the PubMed/MEDLINE (kappa = 0.75), Web of Science (kappa = 0.86), Scopus (kappa = 1.0) and Cochrane Library (kappa = 1.0) databases. The kappa values indicated a high level of agreement between raters. Agreement was reached by consensus, with differences being discussed and resolved by all authors.

| ATTIA et al. 2009 | Dosing of Study | In vitro | Coloring Substance | Coffee | Sample size | 32 H/T | Groups | N=16 (no bleaching group) | N=18 (bleaching group) |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------|-------|------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|                   | Bleaching Agents | 25% HP | Evaluation Methods | Reflection spectroscopy | Evaluation times | Immediately after | Bleaching Efficacy | 1.60±0.07 | Treatment Outcome | No Bleaching/No Staining |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Positive |                     |                         |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Negative |                     |                         |
| LIPORONI et al., 2010 | Dosing of Study | In vitro | Coloring Substance | Coffee | Sample size | 32 H/T | Groups | N=16 (no bleaching group) | N=18 (bleaching group) |
|                   | Bleaching Agents | 25% HP | Evaluation Methods | Reflection spectroscopy | Evaluation times | Immediately after | Bleaching Efficacy | 1.6±0.07 | Treatment Outcome | No Bleaching/No Staining |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Positive |                     |                         |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Negative |                     |                         |
| AZEN et al. 2011 | Dosing of Study | In vitro | Coloring Substance | CP | Sample size | 32 H/T | Groups | N=16 (no bleaching group) | N=18 (bleaching group) |
|                   | Bleaching Agents | 25% CP | Evaluation Methods | Reflection spectroscopy | Evaluation times | Immediately after | Bleaching Efficacy | 1.0±0.07 | Treatment Outcome | No Bleaching/No Staining |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Positive |                     |                         |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Negative |                     |                         |
| COSTES et al. 2012 | Dosing of Study | In vitro | Coloring Substance | Coffee | Sample size | 32 H/T | Groups | N=16 (no bleaching group) | N=18 (bleaching group) |
|                   | Bleaching Agents | 25% CP | Evaluation Methods | Reflection spectroscopy | Evaluation times | Immediately after | Bleaching Efficacy | 1.0±0.07 | Treatment Outcome | No Bleaching/No Staining |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Positive |                     |                         |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Negative |                     |                         |
| DE MEIJER et al. 2017 | Dosing of Study | In vitro | Coloring Substance | Coffee | Sample size | N=16 (no bleaching group) | N=18 (bleaching group) |
|                   | Bleaching Agents | 25% CP | Evaluation Methods | Reflection spectroscopy | Evaluation times | Immediately after | Bleaching Efficacy | 1.0±0.07 | Treatment Outcome | No Bleaching/No Staining |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Positive |                     |                         |
|                   |                |         |                    |                    |                |               |                     | Negative |                     |                         |

HP: Hydrogen Peroxide; CP: Carbamid Peroxide; HT: Human teeth; BT: bovine teeth; Positive: not influenced the outcome; Negative: influenced the outcome.
Among all the studies, coffee was the most frequently used coloring substance (6 studies)\(^2,8,13,16\) followed by red wine (4 studies)\(^2,3,14,16\).

Other substances were included, such as: Coke (3 studies)\(^2,3,8\), Chocolate (2 studies)\(^2,3\), red 40(1 study)\(^18\), black tea (1 study)\(^2\) and shoyu sauce (1 study)\(^2\).

Table 2 - Quality assessment and risk of bias

| ATTIA et al. 2009 | Aim of the study | 2 |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Confection methods of the specimens | 2 |
| Collection of data | 2 |
| Endpoint appropriate | 2 |
| Unbiased evaluation | 2 |
| Follow-up | 2 |
| Loss to follow up | 0 |
| Control group | 0 |
| Contemporary groups | 0 |
| Baseline | 2 |
| Sample size | 2 |
| Statistical analyzes | 2 |
| Risk of bias | Low |

| LIPORONI et al. 2010 | Aim of the study | 2 |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| Confection methods of the specimens | 2 |
| Collection of data | 2 |
| Endpoint appropriate | 2 |
| Unbiased evaluation | 0 |
| Follow-up | 2 |
| Loss to follow up | 0 |
| Control group | 0 |
| Contemporary groups | 0 |
| Baseline | 2 |
| Sample size | 2 |
| Statistical analyzes | 2 |
| Risk of bias | Low |

| SCAMINACI et al. 2010 | Aim of the study | 2 |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Confection methods of the specimens | 2 |
| Collection of data | 2 |
| Endpoint appropriate | 2 |
| Unbiased evaluation | 0 |
| Follow-up | 2 |
| Loss to follow up | 0 |
| Control group | 0 |
| Contemporary groups | 2 |
| Baseline | 2 |
| Sample size | 2 |
| Statistical analyzes | 2 |
| Risk of bias | Low |

| AZZER et al. 2011 | Aim of the study | 2 |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Confection methods of the specimens | 2 |
| Collection of data | 2 |
| Endpoint appropriate | 2 |
| Unbiased evaluation | 0 |
| Follow-up | 2 |
| Loss to follow up | 0 |
| Control group | 0 |
| Contemporary groups | 0 |
| Baseline | 2 |
| Sample size | 2 |
| Statistical analyzes | 2 |
| Risk of bias | Low |

| CORDES et al. 2003 | Aim of the study | 2 |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| Confection methods of the specimens | 2 |
| Collection of data | 2 |
| Endpoint appropriate | 2 |
| Unbiased evaluation | 0 |
| Follow-up | 2 |
| Loss to follow up | 0 |
| Control group | 0 |
| Contemporary groups | 2 |
| Baseline | 2 |
| Sample size | 2 |
| Statistical analyzes | 2 |
| Risk of bias | Low |

| DE ARAUJO et al. 2013 | Aim of the study | 2 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Confection methods of the specimens | 2 |
| Collection of data | 2 |
| Endpoint appropriate | 2 |
| Unbiased evaluation | 0 |
| Follow-up | 2 |
| Loss to follow up | 0 |
| Control group | 0 |
| Contemporary groups | 0 |
| Baseline | 2 |
| Sample size | 2 |
| Statistical analyzes | 2 |
| Risk of bias | Low |

A detailed description of the studies included is shown in Tables 1. Of the 9 selected studies, it was possible to analyze 347 samples.
Regarding the bleaching gel and concentrations, carbamide peroxide with concentrations of 10% to 22% was used in 5 in vitro studies. Hydrogen peroxide with concentrations of 25% to 35% was used in 3 in vitro studies.

The bleaching time protocols was varied. The treatment ranging from a single 4 hours session to multiple sessions performed over a period of 28 days, with each session lasting for a maximum duration of 6 hours. The light emitter diode (LED) was used in 2 studies.

Seven in vitro studies evaluated color variation using reflectance spectrophotometry. Among these studies, 3 used ΔE as a parameter for quantification of tooth color variation, 1 study evaluated Δa, and 1 study evaluated ΔW.

Of all the in vitro studies, 18 analyzes were performed associating bleaching agents with coloring substances. In 10 analyzes (55.6%) the use of this substances during or immediately after the bleaching treatment did not influence the final result.

Coffee was the coloring substance most used and, in the most cases, there was no influence on the final result. Wine was the second substance most used and influenced the final result in 50% of the analyzes.

Regarding the environmental storage, eight analysis have used artificial saliva to store the specimens and 10 have used distilled water.

**DISCUSSION**

Dentists generally recommend the removal of coloring substances from food and beverages during whitening treatments to avoid the aversive effects on the final whitening result. This systematic review was carried out to obtain a consensus on this topic based on the results of relevant studies. The hypothesis that the coloring substances used during, and / or immediately after, treatment affect the effectiveness of tooth whitening has been partially rejected. Most of in vitro analyzes on this systematic review demonstrate that the coloring substances used during and / or immediately after treatment did not interfere teeth whitening.

This aesthetic procedure can be performed for clinical purposes using high concentrations of hydrogen peroxide or by patients at home, using individualized low concentrations of carbamide peroxide. Two studies analyzed the coffee pigmentation immediately after using carbamide peroxide gel bleaching. In the studies by Attia et al. and Côrtes et al. the specimen were immersed in coffee during the whitening sessions, and the studies obtained different results, as Côrtes et al. reported that there was no influence of the solution with pigmentation potential on the final result. This difference cannot be attributed to the concentration of the whitening gel, since concentrations of 10 to 20% of carbamide peroxide are effective for whitening and statistically similar in terms of whitening treatment. The difference in the result may be related to immersion in artificial saliva for a longer time. Attia et al. bleached samples were stored in artificial saliva for 5 min, and this time was insufficient to make the enamel resistant to coffee surface stains, while Côrtes et al. stored the samples in artificial saliva for 2h after bleaching, then immerse in coffee solution, and reserved the specimens in artificial saliva again for 17h45min simulating oral conditions.

In this way, saliva acts to replace lost minerals (remineralization) with the dental structure during whitening. It can also neutralize the low pH of the coffee, which justifies the favorable results obtained. A positive result was also found in the clinical study by Rezende et al., in which it was concluded that, exposure to coffee during tooth whitening performed at home with 16% carbamide peroxide did not affect tooth sensitivity or the effectiveness of tooth whitening. When analyzing hydrogen peroxide in concentrations of 25 to 35%, it can be noted that the coffee solution also did not interfere with the effectiveness of tooth whitening.

The results of this review showed unfavorable results obtained when the enamel was exposed to soft drinks with cola and red wine. Cola soda (pH 2.60) and red wine (pH 3.60) are highly acidic solutions compared to coffee (pH 5.11). This shows that the low pH of these solutions may have had an important
effect on the structure of bleached teeth. In addition to color change, modifications in the micro morphological nature of tooth enamel may be associated with the use of bleaching agents of low or high concentration, including enamel erosion or porosity, greater surface roughness and increased permeability. These effects can be enhanced with soft drinks with cola and red wine. In addition to the low pH, the erosive loss of enamel is greater with the cola, due to the presence of phosphoric acid which has a high erosive power. In addition, the acid nature of the wine associated with ethanol increases the demineralization of the enamel surface, favoring the penetration of these solutions, influencing the general change in the color of the teeth during the whitening treatment.

Toothbrushing and fluoride toothpaste can affect the result of tooth whitening. They can increase the potential for remineralization and prevent the penetration and deposition of the coloring substance during the bleaching treatment. In addition, polishing can obtain a smooth enamel surface that makes it difficult to retain coloring substances. However, in the study by De Araujo et al., even with brushing and fluoride toothpaste during whitening, red wine and cola soda influenced the dental result of whitening. This suggests that when the colorant drink has a very acidic pH, mechanical cleaning with or without fluoride is not able to stop tooth substance retention / penetration.

Several methods have been used to assess tooth color, such as spectrophotometers, colorimeters and techniques for analyzing computer images. In this review, studies in which only reflectance spectrophotometry was used as an evaluation method were eligible due to an accurate and reliable process. According Gehrke et al., the spectrophotometer used in the study showed 82% accuracy between two consecutive measurements of the same sample, while the colorimeter represented 70%.

The main limitation of the present study was the articles included are in vitro studies. An in vitro study may not be able to reproduce all conditions in the oral cavity and therefore may not be applicable to actual oral conditions. In addition, the methodologies applied in these studies varied both in the treatment and in the concentration of bleaching and coloring substances. The ideal clinical evidence is always provided by a randomized clinical trial, because the results are applicable to real oral conditions. However, only one study in the literature carried out this methodology; this finding can be explained by the difficulty in conducting randomized clinical studies on whitening treatment. This review highlights the need for more clinical studies to evaluate more accurately the influence of these colorants during whitening treatment, as results may vary under real oral conditions.

CONCLUSION

Coffee does not seem to influence tooth whitening when consumed during tooth whitening sessions or immediately after treatment (up to 24h after treatment). However, beverages with low pH can be harmful to teeth, such as red wine and cola. Soft drinks with low pH may increase the potential for remineralization and chemical composition after experimental light-activated bleaching. Oper Dent. 2015;40:132-41.

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CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS
The authors declare no conflicts of interests.

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