EMDOGAIN (EMD) AND PLATELET-RICH PLASMA (PRP) IN PERIODONTAL REGENERATION

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ABSTRACT

Periodontitis is a major cause of adult tooth loss and is characterized by bacteria-induced inflammation and periodontal destruction. The ultimate goal of periodontal therapy is not only to slow down the development of periodontal disease, but also to regenerate the architectural and functional integrity of the periodontal complex, which includes the formation of new cementum together with a new connective tissue attachment between the newly formed bone and cementum.

Keywords: periodontitis, regeneration, EMD, PRP

INTRODUCTION

Periodontitis is a major cause of adult tooth loss and is characterized by bacteria-induced inflammation and periodontal destruction. The ultimate goal of periodontal therapy is not only to slow down the development of periodontal disease, but also to regenerate the architectural and functional integrity of the periodontal complex, which includes the formation of new cementum together with a new connective tissue attachment between the newly formed bone and cementum (1).

Regeneration uses the principles of guided tissue regeneration (GTR) (2) and guided bone regeneration (GBR) as modern techniques in implantology. Their main goal is to restore lost tissues, creating a perfect condition for implant placement or tooth preservation.

Periodontal Regeneration

Periodontal regeneration uses bone restorative materials to “fill” periodontal defects. Many techniques have been developed focusing on the search for the ideal materials for regeneration - autograft, allograft, xenograft and various artificial bone replacements (3). The autograft is considered a gold standard for periodontal regeneration. Other alternatives are used to restore the periodontium to avoid a second surgical site and complications such as ankylosis and root resorption. Various allografts, xenografts, and synthetic materials such as DFDBA, inorganic bovine bone, hydroxyapatite (HA) and tricalcium phosphate (TCP) are available and widely used materials. Also, biocomposite hydroxyapatite is successfully used for periodontal regeneration (4). Some authors report full bone regeneration and high volume stability around implants using high porosity synthetic biphasic calcium phosphate, sintered deproteinized bovine bone mineral, and synthetic two-phase nano-hydroxyapatite paste in combination with a pericardial collagen membrane (5).
The use of biological mediators may selectively increase cell repopulation in the periodontium. Combination of biologically active agents with scaffold materials may positively influence the treatment of intraosseous defects (6). EMD, PRP, PRF, biomaterials derived from human organisms or animals have been extensively investigated and clinically administered in periodontal regeneration (7-13).

**EMD in Periodontal Regeneration**

In recent decades EMD has been available as a biological regenerative material. It is derived from the developing porcine teeth and contains a mixture of low-molecular weight proteins that can be absorbed on the hydroxyapatite and collagen fibers at the root surface and cause cementum formation (7-9). EMD induces angiogenesis of human microvascular cells (14). EMD acts as a cytostatic agent on cultured epithelial cells and can thus favor regeneration of the periodontium by inhibiting or delaying epithelial regeneration (10).

Its effects are compared with those with open flap debridement (OFD) and other surgical procedures such as GTR or combined approaches in the treatment of periodontal intraosseous defects (8,15-17). OFD followed by further administration of EMD may lead to significantly greater clinical attachment gain compared to OFD used alone (17,18). Most studies show that there is almost no advantage of EMD when used with bone graft materials (bovine bone mineral, nanocrystalline hydroxyapatite and biphasic calcium phosphate) (13,19-22).

Several studies show histological evidence of periodontal regeneration using EMD (9,23-26). EMD was observed on the root surface for 4 weeks post-application, and early signs of regeneration were observed after 2 to 6 weeks (27,28).

EMD has been shown to achieve an average reduction in probing depth (PD) of 3.8 to 4.9 mm and an average clinical attachment level (CAL) of 2.2 to 3.4 mm, (8,17,29-31) as well as 74% bone fill of the defect (17).

Because of its semi-liquid consistency, EMD has a limited space-building potential, which in turn can lead to collapse of the flap (23). The bone restorative material helps to overcome the risk of collapse of the flap after application of EMD, especially in deep intraosseous defects and provide space for the regeneration process and at the same time allows the EMD to support periodontal regeneration (32). Boyan et al. (33) have found that the addition of 4 mg of EMD to DFDBA increases the amount of bone induction and new bone formation compared to DFDBA alone. Rosen (34) demonstrates the clinical benefits of using a combined therapeutic approach where EMD is combined with DFDBA or FDBA. Harrelet al. successfully used DFDBA mixed with EMD with minimally invasive surgery to treat 130 periodontal defects (35). Hoidal et al. (19) found that the addition of EMD to DFDBA did not provide a statistically significant improvement in measured soft and hard tissue parameters compared to DFDBA alone 6 months after surgery.

In 2002, Velasquez-Plata et al. (36) examined the use of EMD alone or in combination with xenograft and did not detect a significant difference between the groups with respect to PD reduction or CAL gain. Lekovic et al. (37) show a greater reduction in probing depth, clinical attachment gain, and bone fill with a combination of xenograft and EMD compared to EMD alone.

In an attempt to determine whether bone fill material plays a role in the potential beneficial effects of EMD addition, Gurinsky et al. (38) examined the combination of DFDBA and EMD and EMD alone, demonstrating significantly more bone filling in the combined group but no difference in probing depth reduction and clinical attachment gain.

In summary, EMD is a protein preparation of developing porcine teeth that contains a mixture of low-molecular weight proteins. When applied to the root surface, the proteins are absorbed into the hydroxyapatite and collagen fibers, causing cement formation, followed by periodontal regeneration. Clinical use of EMD may be characterized as safe with excellent clinical outcomes and limited complications. EMD alone or in combination with bone graft materials provides excellent clinical outcome and long-term stability (8,29).

**PRP in Periodontal Regeneration**

PRP and PRF are the two generations of platelet concentrates obtained by treating autogenous blood samples by centrifugation. PRP is an autologous highly concentrated platelet product (39) and its preparation requires anticoagulants at the time of
taking blood-thymidine and calcium chloride. This product is derived from a centrifuged blood sample that contains high concentration of platelet growth factors, insulin-like growth factor, and fibroblast growth factor (40). In addition, the lower pH of PRP (6.5-6.7) compared to normal blood (7-7.2) can increase bacteriostatic and bactericidal properties (41). Unlike PRP, PRF is centrifuged blood without any additives (10).

Both PRP and PRF contain highly concentrated growth factors such as transforming growth factor-β (TGF-β), platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), vascular growth factor (VEGF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), epithelial growth factor, and fibroblast growth factor-β (FGF-β)(42).

Wiltfang et al. (43) evaluated immunohistologically the use of PRP in the regeneration of bone defects of the skull of minipigs by treating them with b-TCP with or without PRP and found that the addition of PRP did not affect bone regeneration and did not add any additional benefit. The same team (44) compared b-TCP and PRP / b-TCP sinus floor elevations at the 6th month and reported 8 to 10% more bone formation with PRP / b-TCP, but the difference was statistically insignificant.

Velichet et al. (45) evaluated the efficacy of b-TCP and hydroxyapatite bone graft materials and the PRP / b-TCP combination in the treatment of mandibular defects reporting that all treatment approaches were successful and the PRP / b-TCP group showed a faster formation of new bone and bone remodeling at the end of the first year.

Dori et al. (46) treated periodontal intraosseous defects with a combination of b-TCP / GTR with or without PRP and at the end of the first year no statistically significant differences were observed in any of the clinical parameters in either group and no additional clinical benefits for PRP.

In an experimental study, Kovacs et al. (47) compared b-TCP and PRP / b-TCP combinations and assessed histologically the bone formation in bone defects after premolar extraction in dog lower jaw. They found significantly greater bone formation in the PRP / b-TCP group at week 12. In another experimental study of similar design, Kovacs et al. (48) reported a significant difference in favor of the PRP / b-TCP group at week 12 and concluded that the use of PRP accelerated remodeling of b-TCP and resulted in the formation of bone with a quality similar to autogenous bone.

Yassibag-Berkman et al. (49) evaluated the efficacy of b-TCP, PRP / b-TCP, and PRP / b-TCP / GTR in the treatment of two- and three-wall intraosseous defects, and reported an improvement in all parameters tested compared to the baseline. However, PRP did not add significant clinical benefit after 6 months. These results are confirmed by other authors (50).

Some studies (51-53) have shown that optimal clinical results with GTR in combination with bone graft materials with or without PRP have been obtained in the first year following regenerative therapy of intraosseous defects.

S. Peev and D. Atanasov (54) have shown in their own research on 86 implants that the use of PRP with immediate loaded implants improves the stability.

**CONCLUSION**

The data on the different approaches are contradictory and therefore more research is needed. The combination of EMD and bone grafts may result in additional clinical improvements in terms of CAL gain and PD reduction compared with those obtained with EMD alone. Platelet-derived concentrates have been shown to enhance soft tissue healing which indirectly can create a better environment for bone growth. Future studies testing the efficacy of this materials promoting GBR, GTR and treatment of peri-implant defects are needed.

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