

Comparison of Effects of Triple Antibiotic Paste , Double Antibiotic Paste and Proton Pump Inhibitor on *E. faecalis*- An Invitro Study

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ABSTRACT

Endodontic therapy is mainly done for complete elimination of the root canal pathogens within the root canal system. Triple antibiotic paste and double antibiotic paste are one of the intracanal medicaments that are used for root canal disinfection. They are known for complete microbial suppression of root canal pathogens. Endodontic instrumentation with irrigants alone cannot achieve a sterile condition. Therefore, the aim of this study is to compare the effects of triple antibiotic paste, double antibiotic paste and a proton pump inhibitor on *E. faecalis*. In this study, we used 50µl of triple antibiotic paste, 50µl of double antibiotic paste and a proton pump inhibitor (pantoprazole). These antibiotics were then incubated at 37°C and were tested against the bacterial strains of *E. faecalis*. The percentage of microbial inhibition was found and the results were then expressed as the mean percentage of microbial inhibition at 12h and 24h respectively. The results were statistically significant as compared with TAP group and the DAP group ($p < 0.001$). Therefore, TAP and DAP were found to be equally effective against *E. faecalis*, but TAP+PPI was found to have a higher percentage of inhibition than TAP and DAP.

KEY WORDS: TRIPLE ANTIBIOTIC PASTE, DOUBLE ANTIBIOTIC PASTE, INHIBITION, *E. FAECALIS*.

INTRODUCTION

Root canal treatment is a procedure for elimination of bacteria from the infected root canal (Pinky, Subbareddy and Shashibhushan, 2011). The infection of the root canal system is a multifactorial bacterial infection, consisting of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, most of them being

the obligate anaerobes. Bacteria in the infected root canals and periradicular tissues can invade through the cementum and dentin to the periapical region leading to infection of the periapex. A wide range of intra canal medicaments have been used such as the Calcium hydroxide paste, Chlorhexidine gel, Triple antibiotic paste, and Double antibiotic paste. Calcium hydroxide plays an important role as it has the ability to induce hard tissue formation, antibacterial property and tissue dissolving capability (Nerwich, Figdor and Messer, 1993).

A single antibiotic may produce ineffective sterilisation of the root canal system. Therefore, a combination of one or more antibiotics can result in the elimination of the bacteria (Windley et al., 2005). Metronidazole

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was the first antibiotic drug used, but since it cannot kill all the bacteria, a combination of drugs were used. There are numerous ways to eliminate the microbial colonies from the root canal system such as various instrumentation techniques (Mohammadi et al., 2013), irrigation techniques (Mohammadi, Shalavi, et al., 2015; Mohammadi et al., 2017) and intracanal medicaments (Mohammadi, Giardino, et al., 2015).

One of the widely used intracanal medicaments combination is the triple antibiotic paste consisting of metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, and minocycline, due to its antimicrobial properties in endodontic regenerative procedures (Sato et al., 1996; Windleyiii et al., 2005)). Double antibiotic paste is another antibiotic consisting of ciprofloxacin and metronidazole, which is mainly known for its treatment in external resorption. Traditionally used intracanal medicament was the calcium hydroxide to induce apexification at the root apex. Tetracycline belongs to a group of broad-spectrum antibiotics which are effective against a wide range of microorganisms that are bacteriostatic in nature.

Metronidazole is also a broad spectrum antibiotic that is effective against protozoa, anaerobic cocci and gram-negative and gram-positive bacilli. Studies show that 2% metronidazole gel was used for disinfection of dentinal tubules and this metronidazole gel was more efficient than bioactive glass and calcium hydroxide for disinfection (Krithikadatta, Indira and Dorothykalyani, 2007). Ciprofloxacin is a second-generation fluoroquinolone antibiotic that is effective against most strains including *Escherichia coli*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, etc (Drusano et al., 1986). Proton pump inhibitors are drugs that inhibit the production of acid by the stomach and are commonly used in the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), peptic ulcer disease, and infection in the stomach with *Helicobacter pylori*.

Endodontic regeneration can occur from various sources like the vital pulp cells in the root canal, the stem cells in the dental pulp, periodontal ligament from apical papilla (Saad and Yousef Saad, 1988; Gronthos et al., 2002; Cotti, Mereu and Lusso, 2008). Radiographic evaluation reveals the successfulness of endodontic treatment performed (Antony, Thomas and Nivedhitha, 2020). We have numerous highly cited publications on well designed clinical trials and lab studies (Govindaraju, Neelakantan and Gutmann, 2017; Azeem and Sureshbabu, 2018; Jenarthanan and Subbarao, 2018; Manohar and Sharma, 2018; Nandakumar and Nasim, 2018; Teja, Ramesh and Priya, 2018; Janani and Sandhya, 2019; Khandelwal and Palanivelu, 2019; Malli Sureshbabu et al., 2019; Poorni, Srinivasan and Nivedhitha, 2019; Rajakeerthi and Ms, 2019; Rajendran et al., 2019; Ramarao and Sathyanarayanan, 2019; Siddique and Nivedhitha, 2019;

Siddique et al., 2019; Siddique, Nivedhitha and Jacob, 2019). This has provided the right platforms for us to pursue the current study. Our aim was to compare the effects of triple antibiotic paste, double antibiotic paste and a proton pump inhibitor on *E. faecalis*.

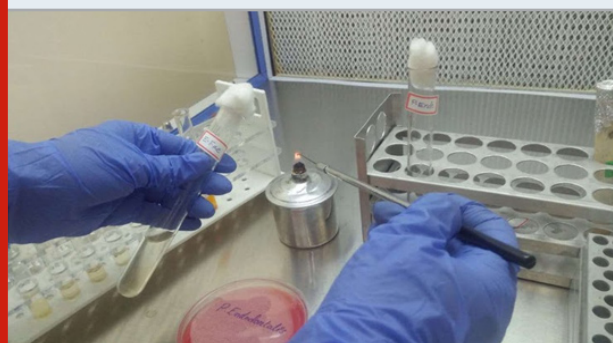
MATERIAL AND METHODS

Chemicals:

1. Pantoprazole (PPIs) - pantoprazole was mixed with deionised water at a concentration of 1 mg/ml and dilutions made at 12.5 µg/ml.
2. Double antibiotic paste (DAP) - Equal amounts (250 mg tablets) of metronidazole and ciprofloxacin were mixed with distilled water (1 g/mL).
3. Triple antibiotic paste (TAP) - Equal amounts (167 mg tablets) of metronidazole, ciprofloxacin and minocycline were mixed with distilled water (1 g/mL).

TAP and DAP were used as the positive control.

Figure 1: This figure shows the inoculation of the *E. faecalis* from the master broth



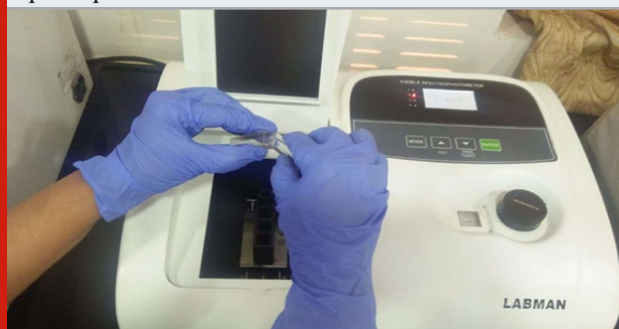
Microbial strains: Bacterial strains of gram positive *Enterococcus Faecalis* were obtained from ATCC 29212 that were cultured on Mueller Hinton broth. Bacterial growth of this master broth was confirmed by the presence of turbidity. Two millilitres of the sterilised Muller Hinton broth was inoculated with 50 µl of *E. faecalis* from the master broth and incubated at 37°C for 5 h. The growth of bacteria was confirmed by the turbidity of the broth (Figure 1 and 3).

Figure 2: This figure demonstrates the incubation of the tubes for 12hrs and 24hrs at 37°C



Experiment protocol: The tubes containing broth were divided into two time parameters for evaluation after 12h and 24h. *E. faecalis* in the media without treatment served as controls for optical density (OD) evaluation. Tubes were divided into four groups each for evaluation at 12 and 24h (Figure 2).

Figure 3: This figure shows measuring the turbidity for confirmation of bacterial growth using a spectrophotometer



- Group 1- Triple antibiotic paste (50 µl)
- Group 2- Double antibiotic paste (50 µl)
- Group 3- TAP (25 µl) + pantoprazole (25 µl)
- Group 4- DAP (25 µl) + pantoprazole (25 µl)

As described above, the test solutions were added to the test tubes and incubated at 37°C. The tubes were then evaluated for OD at 630 nm at 12 and 24 h after addition of test solutions, and the mean of five readings of each dilution was taken.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the Mean microbial inhibition rates were expressed at 12h and 24h at three intervals and represented as Mean \pm SD. Statistical significance was determined by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and post hoc least-significant difference test using SPSS software (version 22.0). P values less than 0.05 were considered significant. The results were statistically significant as compared with TAP group and the DAP group (* $p < 0.001$). Therefore, the results suggest that the TAP or its combination with PPIs can even be used at a lower concentration as it is statistically significant than DAP at $p < 0.001$, in order to avoid the deleterious effects associated with higher concentrations.

Therefore, It can be seen that, in TAP there is a higher amount of antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration at the third interval with a mean inhibition rate of 0.294 ± 0.03 (Figure 4). In DAP, there is a higher amount of the antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration at the first interval with a mean inhibition rate of 0.215 ± 0.20 (Figure 5). In TAP+PPI, there is an increase in the antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration at the second interval with a mean inhibition rate of $0.195 \pm$

0.003 (Figure 6). In DAP+PPI, there is an increase in the antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration at the second with a mean inhibition rate of 0.172 ± 0.003 (Figure 7). On association between mean antibiotic sensitivity (Abs) at 12h and 24h concentration of four types of antibiotic combinations at three different intervals, TAP+PPI showed a highly significant inhibition at both the 12h and 24h concentration with a mean inhibition rate of 0.157 and 0.191 respectively with a p value of 0.001 (< 0.05), statistically significant association (Figure 8).

Figure 4: Bar graphs represent the antibiotic sensitivity (Abs) at 12h and 24h of Triple antibiotic paste (TAP) at three different intervals. X- axis represents the three different intervals of Triple antibiotic paste (TAP) and Y-axis represents the mean inhibition rates. It can be seen that there is an increased amount of antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration (red) at the third interval with a mean inhibition rate of 0.294

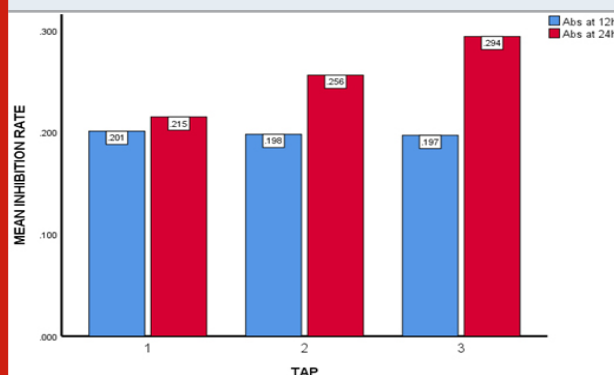
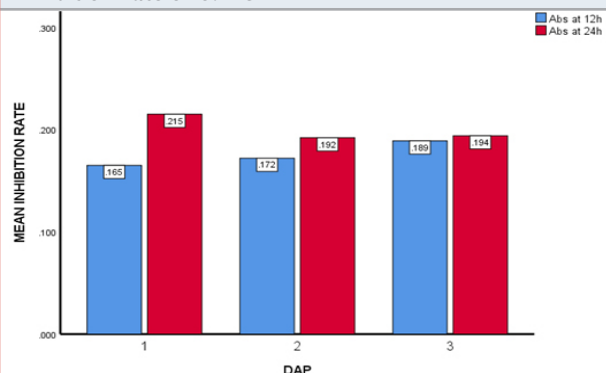


Figure 5: Bar graphs represent the antibiotic sensitivity (Abs) at 12h and 24h of Double antibiotic paste (DAP) at three different intervals. X-axis represents the three different intervals of Double antibiotic paste (DAP) and Y-axis represents the mean inhibition rates. It can be seen that there is an increased amount of antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration (red) at the first interval with a mean inhibition rate of 0.215



Generally, reinfection and failure of root canal treatment is due to the microorganisms in the periapical region. Studies prove TAP to be biocompatible (Gomes-Filho et al., 2012). Tetracycline group of drugs inhibits collagenases and

matrix metalloproteinases and is not cytotoxic (Yao et al., 2007; Soory, 2008). They are known to increase the level of interleukin-10 which is an anti-inflammatory cytokine (Ramamurthy et al., 2002). Antibiotics such as metronidazole and ciprofloxacin have been proven to generate fibroblasts (Ferreira et al., 2010). TAP consists of metronidazole, minocycline, and ciprofloxacin and when used as an antimicrobial dressing, induces bleeding and creates a matrix for the growth of new vital tissue within the pulp canal (Hoshino et al., 1996).

Figure 6: Bar graphs represent the antibiotic sensitivity (Abs) at 12h and 24h of Triple antibiotic paste with a proton pump inhibitor (TAP+PPI) at three different intervals. X- axis represents the three different intervals of Triple antibiotic paste with a proton pump inhibitor (TAP+PPI) and Y-axis represents the mean inhibition rates. It can be seen that there is an increase in the antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration (red) at the second interval with a mean inhibition rate of 0.195.

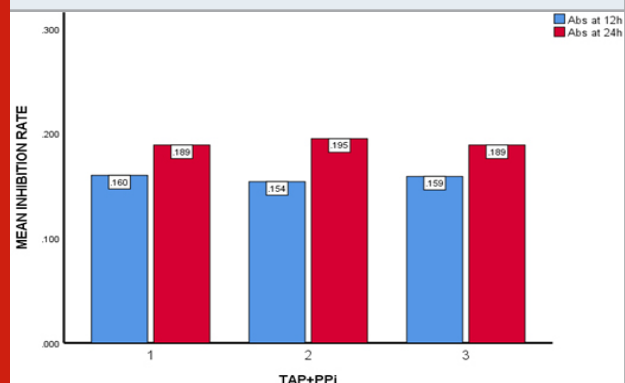
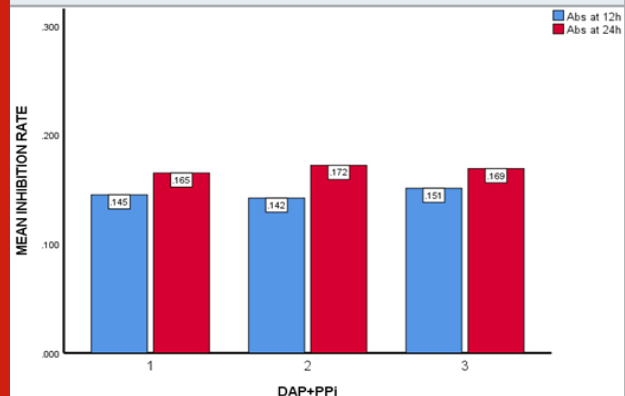
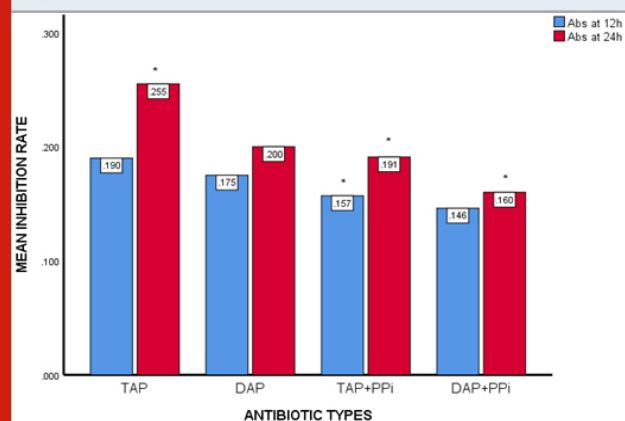


Figure 7: Bar graphs represent the antibiotic sensitivity (Abs) at 12h and 24h of Double antibiotic paste with a proton pump inhibitor (DAP+PPI) at three different intervals. X-axis represents the three different intervals of Double antibiotic paste with a proton pump inhibitor (DAP+PPI) and Y-axis represents the mean inhibition rates. It can be seen that there is an increase in the antibiotic sensitivity at 24h concentration (red) at the second interval with a mean inhibition rate of 0.172.



E. faecalis is known to express a proton pump in its plasma membrane for its energy metabolism and maintenance of constant cytoplasmic pH, which enables the bacteria to maintain homeostasis of the cytoplasm (Booth, 1985; Kakinuma, 1987). PPIs exert both antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties along with the pro-reparative effects that enhance the healing of the periapical region (Kedika, Souza and Spechler, 2009). Studies show that removal of TAP from the canal using irrigation is much more difficult when compared to calcium hydroxide (Berkhoff et al., 2014). Therefore, as the success of the endodontic treatment lies upon the elimination of bacteria from the root canal, the future scope of this study was to evaluate the antibacterial efficacy of these drugs against other bacteria and fungi and evaluate its efficiency as an intracanal medicament.

Figure 8: Bar graph represents the association between the mean antibiotic sensitivity (Abs) at 12h and 24h concentration of four types of antibiotic combinations at three different intervals. X- axis represents the three different intervals of Triple antibiotic paste (TAP), Double antibiotic paste (DAP), Triple antibiotic paste with a proton pump inhibitor (TAP+PPI) and Double antibiotic paste with a proton pump inhibitor (DAP+PPI) whereas Y-axis represents the mean inhibition rates. It can be seen that the mean inhibition rate of TAP is significant only at the 24h concentration (0.255), whereas TAP+PPI showed a highly significant inhibition at both the 12h and 24h concentration (0.157 and 0.191 respectively). DAP+PPI was found to be significant only at the 24h concentration (0.160). Therefore, TAP or its combination with PPIs can be used at a lower concentration as it is statistically significant than DAP. [*p value- 0.001 (<0.05), statistically significant association]



CONCLUSION

Therefore, within the limitations of this study, Triple antibiotic paste in combination with a proton pump inhibitor (TAP+PPI) showed significant and effective inhibition against bacterial strains of *E. faecalis* at both 12h and 24h concentration than TAP and DAP alone.

Further studies have to be conducted for evaluation of other different combinations of antibiotics against *E.faecalis*.

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Conflicts of Interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

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