Stability of Doxycycline Absorbed on Root Canal Dentin After Obturation with Gutta-Percha/AH26 and Resilon/RealSeal at Different Time Intervals

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Abstract

	Objective: Eradication of microorganisms present in the root canal system is paramount
	for the successful outcome of root canal therapy. The purpose of this study was to com-
	pare the of doxycycline absorbed from MTAD into root canal dentin after obturation with
	gutta-percha/AH26 and Resilon/RealSeal at different time intervals.
	Materials and Methods: Fifty-one extracted human teeth were instrumented. Thirty sam-
	ples were obturated with either gutta-percha/AH26 or Resilon/self-etch RealSeal after fi-
	nal irrigation with MTAD. Fifteen samples were kept unobturated (positive control); six
	samples were obturated with either gutta-percha/AH26 or Resilon/self-etch RealSeal
	without MTAD irrigation (negative control).
	After aging for 1, 3 or 6 weeks, dentin debri were collected, the Doxycycline compound
	was extracted and its amount was quantified using high performance liquid chromatogra-
	phy. The statistical significance of the change in Doxycycline concentrations was tested
	with two-way ANOVA.
	Results: The mean concentration of Doxycycline in dentin for one, three and six-week
	guttapercha/AH26 samples was 1.8±0.36, 1.22±0.22 and 0.67±0.11 respectively, whereas
	these concentrations in Resilon/RealSeal samples were 1.60±0.26, 0.80±0.14 and
	0.59±0.01 respectively. Regarding the positive control group, these concentrations were
	2.09 ± 0.11 , 1.54 ± 0.12 and 0.72 ± 0.07 respectively for 1, 3 and 6-week intervals. No Dox-
	ycycline was detected in negative control groups. The Doxycycline concentrations showed
	a significant difference for obturating materials ($p=0.008$). These concentrations were
Corresponding author:	higher in the gutta-percha/AH26 samples than Resilon/RealSeal samples in each time in-
Department of Endodontics,	terval.
School of Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences,	Conclusion: The remaining amount of Doxycycline bonded to dentin was higher when
Tehran, Iran	root canals were obturated with gutta-percha/AH26 compared to Resilon/RealSeal. The
	stability of Doxycycline showed a time dependent decrease.
naghmeh_m82@yahoo.com	Key Words: MTAD; Substantivity; Real Seal; AH26 Sealer; Resilon Sealer
Received: 23 February 2013	······································
Accepted: 20 May 2013	Journal of Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (2013; Vol. 10, No.4)

INTRODUCTION

The outcome of endodontic therapy is influenced by the presence of bacteria in the root canal system at the time of obturation [1]. One of the strategies for preventing bacterial recolonization or eliminating the remaining bacteria after endodontic treatment is to apply a final irrigating solution with substantivity [2].

MTAD is an aqueous solution consisting of 3% doxycycline, 4.25% citric acid, and 0.5% polysorbate 80 detergent [3].

It is effective in removing endodontic smear layers [3] with less erosion [4], it eliminates microbes that are resistant to common endodontic irrigants and dressings [5] such as *E*. *faecalis* [6], it provides residual antimicrobial activity through the affinity of doxycycline towards dental hard tissues [7], and it subsequently releases without losing its antibacterial activity [8].

One study revealed that MTAD does not adversely affect the sealing ability of Resilon/Epiphany [9].

Its half-life in unobturated root canals has been reported to be 3.0 weeks (10). Some studies have shown that doxycycline has a significantly greater zone of inhibition than 6% NaOCl for *P. micros, P. intermedia, and S. sanguis* [11].

Resilon and RealSeal have been recently developed as an alternative root-filling material. RealSeal's second generation is an acidic selfadhesive sealer [12, 13]. Self-adhesives have the advantage of reducing errors that might occur during bonding steps because they are less technique sensitive and require fewer steps and less time [13].

No studies have shown the changes in MTAD's stability overtime. There is also no information about probable effects of obturation material on MTAD's stability. The present study was aimed to compare the stability of doxycycline absorbed into root canal dentin after obturation with guttapercha/AH26 or Resilon/Realseal after 1, 3 and 6-week time intervals.

MATHERIALS AND METHODS Sample preparation

Fifty-one extracted human single rooted, single canal mandibular premolars with no carious lesion that were extracted due to periodontal problems were collected.

Straight and angulated radiographs were taken to confirm the root canal anatomy. Teeth with more than one canal or with calcified root canals were excluded. After disinfection and access cavity preparation, the root canals were instrumented with Protaper rotary instruments (Dentsply Maillefer, Ballaigues,Switzerland) in the following sequence: S1, S2, F1 and F2.

The root portion and apical foramen were covered with nail polish. Forty-five samples were selected and irrigated with MTAD (Dentsply Tulsa, Tulsa, OK) according to the manufacturer's instructions: a 2-minute rinse with 3 ml of 1.3% NaOCl, a brief rinse with 1 ml of MTAD left for 5 minutes, and finally a 1minute flush with 4 ml of MTAD.

After drying all canals with paper points (Ariadent, Iran), 30 of the samples were randomly divided into two groups: A, obturation with gutta-percha (Gapadent Co, Ltd, Korea)/AH26 (Dentsply, DeTrey, Germany); B: obturation with Resilon/self-etch RealSeal (SybronEndo, USA). Fiftenn samples were kept unobturated (positive control); six samples were obturated with either guttapercha/AH26 or Resilon/self-etch RealSeal (three samples for each group) without MTAD irrigation (negative control). After obturation, all teeth were restored with Coltosol (Aria-Dent, Iran). The samples were coded and placed in 37 degrees centigrade and 100% humidity. Then experimental samples in all groups were divided into three subgroups according to the tested time intervals: 1 week, 3 and 6 weeks. After aging, samples were split in half by a high speed diamond bur, obturation material was taken out with a spatula and dentin debris were collected in coded eppendorf tubes from 2 mm below the CEJ from both sides of the root canal by using a low speed round #7 bur to a width and depth equivalent to the bur's radius and a length of 3 mm (Fig 1).



Fig 1. location of dentinal debri collection

Recovery of active compound

0.02 gr of dentinal debris from each sample was measured by a digital Analytic Balance (Sartorius, Germany) and transferred to another coded eppendorf tube.

The recovery solution for the samples was 5% pH 7.5 EDTA (Merck, Germany), after adding 0.9 mL of the solution, the debris were vigorously shaken with Vortex mixer (Labnet international,USA) then 0.3 ml of 0.4% perchloric acid (Merck,Germany) in acetonitrile (Merck, Germany) was added to each sample. All samples were syringe-filtered with 13 mm 0.22 mm PTFE filters (MS®, USA) before HPLC analysis.

Quantification of doxycycline

Doxycycline was quantitatively analyzed according to the method described by Rasimick et al. [10] with some modifications. The separation was performed by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) system (Waters Chromatography Division, Milford, MA, USA) with a C-8 column (Lichrospher 100RP8EC 5µm 250.46, Teknokroma, Spain). The protocol consisted of isocratic system with mobile phase including 49.5:49.5:0.5 (volume) water: acetonitrile: THF, respectively that was neutralized with NaOH to pH=2.5. The flow rate was 1 ml/min for 20 min and injection volume was 20 μ L. Detection was carried out at a wavelength of 350 nm.

Linearity in the range of 0-60 μ g/mL doxycycline was confirmed by using known dilutions of standard doxycycline hyclate (Merck, Germany) in mobile phase.

The limit of detection (LOD), S/N =3.3, and the limit of quantitation (LOQ), S/N=10, were 1.49 and 4.52 μ g/ml, respectively.

The statistical significance of the change in doxycycline concentrations was tested with two-way ANOVA. (The interaction effect of the obturation material and time was insignificant; p=0.25). Post hoc analysis for pairwise comparison between time intervals was done by Tukey test. Correlation between time intervals and docycycline concentrations was calculated by Spearman correlation test. P-values less than 0.05 were considered as significant.

RESULTS

The comparative chromatograms of the extracted doxycycline in samples are illustrated in figure 2. The peak at the retention time of 3.8 min is contributed to oxytetracycline compared to the one in the standard chromatogram. The concentration of doxycycline in liquid is the concentration calculated based on the area under the curve from the recovered samples obtained from 0.02gr of dentinal debris. The concentration of doxycycline in dentin is its concentration in 1 gr dentin that was calculated by mathematical proportion from the concentration in liquid.

The mean concentration of doxycycline in dentin for one, three and six-week gutta percha/AH26 samples was 1.8 ± 0.36 , 1.22 ± 0.22 and 0.67 ± 0.11 , respectively, whereas these concentrations in Resilon/RealSeal samples were 1.60 ± 0.26 , 0.80 ± 0.14 and 0.59 ± 0.01 , respectively.



Result

Num	RT[min]	Area[mV*s]	Туре	Width[sec]	Area%
1	1.6667	0.3028	FF	24.0000	0.0795
2	2.3000	110.8529	FF	46.0000	29.1114
3	3.8000	269.6329	FF	155.0000	70.8091
Sum		380.7886			

Fig 2a. Chromatogram of a gutta-percha/AH26 sample. The peak at the retention time of 3.8 min. is contributed to doxycycline.

These concentrations were higher in the guttapercha/AH26 samples than Resilon/RealSeal samples in each time interval.

A significant difference was seen between doxycycline concentrations in different time intervals regardless of the type of obturating material (p<0.001).

Regarding the positive control group, these concentrations were 2.09 ± 0.11 , 1.54 ± 0.12 and 0.72 ± 0.07 , respectively for 1, 3 and 6-week intervals.No doxycycline was detected in the negative control groups.

The statistical analysis showed there was a

significant difference for doxycycline concentrations between different obturating materials (p=0.008). No significant difference was seen between the doxycycline concentrations in the positive control group and gutta-percha/AH26 samples in each time interval (p>0.05), but a significant difference was seen between this concentration in the positive control and Resilon/RealSeal samples in each time interval (p<0.05). All groups showed a time dependent decrease in doxycycline concentrations (Spearman's correlation coefficient=0.91, p<0.001).



Num	RT[min]	Area[mV*s]	Туре	Width[sec]	Area%	
1	1.6667	0.3886	FF	28.0000	0.1712	
2	2.2667	138.3069	FF	34.0000	60.9285	
3	2.7500	1.6379	FF	14.0000	0.7216	
4	3.7833	86.6653	FF	143.0000	38.1788	
Sum		226.9988				

Fig 2b. Chromatogram of a Resilon/RealSeal sample. The peak at the retention time of 3.8 min. is contributed to doxycycline

The highest concentration of doxycycline was found in the one-week positive control samples and then in the one-week gutta percha/AH26 samples and the lowest concentration was found in six-week Resilon/RealSeal samples.

The mean concentration of doxycycline in dentin for one, three and six-week gutta percha/AH26 samples was 1.8 ± 0.36 , 1.22 ± 0.22 and 0.67 ± 0.11 , respectively, whereas these concentration in Resilon/RealSeal samples were 1.60 ± 0.26 , 0.80 ± 0.14 and 0.59 ± 0.01 , respectively. Regarding the positive control group, these concentrations were 2.09 ± 0.11 , 1.54 ± 0.12 and 0.72 ± 0.07 , respectively for 1, 3 and 6-week intervals.

No doxycycline was detected in the negative control groups.

The statistical analysis showed there was a significant difference for doxycycline concentrations between different obturating materials (p=0.008).

These concentrations were higher in the guttapercha/AH26 samples than Resilon/RealSeal samples in each time interval.

A significant difference was seen between doxycycline concentrations in different time intervals regardless of the type of obturating material (p<0.001). No significant difference was seen between the doxycycline concentrations in the positive control group and guttapercha/AH26 samples in each time interval (p>0.05), but a significant difference was seen between this concentration in the positive control and Resilon/RealSeal samples in each time interval (p<0.05). All groups showed a time dependent decrease in doxycycline concentrations (Spearman's correlation coefficient=0.91, p<0.001). The highest concentration of doxycycline was found in the one-week positive control samples and then in the oneweek gutta percha/AH26 samples and the lowest concentration was found in six-week Resilon/RealSeal samples.

The mean concentrations of doxycycline found in our experimental groups are shown in Table 1.

DISCUSSION

Various methods for determination of doxycycline in-vitro and in-vivo have been reported such as microbiology, fluorimetry, TLC-fluorescence scanning densitometry, spectrophotometry, sequential injection chromatography (SIC) and HPLC [14]. High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) is a chromatographic technique used to separate a mixture of compounds with the purpose of identifying and quantifying the individual components of the mixture [15, 16].

Hplc separation is accomplished by means of sample mixture interacts with solid particles within the hplc column [15-17].

This technique offers several advantages over other techniques, including minimal sample manipulation before chromatography, rapid analysis and the simultaneous analysis of multiple compounds with good specificity, precision and accuracy [14].

Portenier et al [18] reported that the minimum concentration of doxycycline that provided a bactericidal effect against E. faecalis in the presence of dentin within 24 hours of contact, was 0.3% (3mg/ml). The measured concentration of doxycycline in the dentin in both groups of our study was lower. On the other hand, Newberry et al [19] reported that MTAD killed most strains of E. faecalis when diluted to 1:512. Upon dilution of MTAD to 1:512 the concentration of doxycycline would be 0.05mg; therefore, according to the results of the present study, the concentration of doxycycline in root canal dentin within 6 weeks might be able to kill most strains of E. faecalis which deserves further studies.

Obturation Material	1 week		3 weeks		6 weeks	
	Concentration in Liquid (microg/ml)	Concentration in Dentin (mg/gr)	Concentration in Liquid (microg/ml)	Concentration in Dentin (mg/gr)	Concentration in Liquid (microg/ml)	Concentration in Dentin (mg/gr)
Gutta Per- cha	30.00±6.01	1.8 ±0.36	20.37±3.67	1.22±0.22	11.25±1.94	0.67±0.11
Resilon	26.70±4.36	$\begin{array}{c} 1.60 \pm \\ 0.26 \end{array}$	13.43±2.33	0.80±0.14	9.841 ±1.64	0.59 ± 0.01
Positive Control	34.94±1.9	2.09±0.11	25.82±2.11	1.54±0.12	12.02±1.32	0.72±0.07

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The decomposition and diffusion rate of the antimicrobial compounds is likely a function of pH [10]. It has been reported that acidic solutions and environments result in the dehydration of tetracycline [20, 21]. Acidic sealers like Epiphany SE might substantially affect the local pH of dentin and hence, the stability of doxycycline [10]. This might be one of the reasons for the lower concentration of doxycycline found in Resilon/RealSeal groups in the present study.

The bond strength of AH26 to dentin is related to the formation of covalent bonds between epoxide rings and exposed amino groups in the collagen network [22]. Doxycycline also has an amino group in its molecular structure [23]; Therefore, AH26 might be able to form covalent bonds with doxycycline too.

Although there is no study that documented the aforementioned reaction, in theory, the higher concentration of doxycycline in guttapercha/AH26 samples might be due to this bonding. Further studies in this regard are recommended.

Rasimick et al. [10] analyzed the doxycycline concentration in teeth that were not obturated and showed that its concentration decreased over a 9-week period of time, which was consistent with our results.

The primary and most important factor in determining the long term success of an endodontic treatment is the presence and/or persistence of microorganisms [24]. There is strong evidence that all microorganisms cannot be removed after chemo-mechanical preparation of the root canal system [25]. However, it is possible to minimize the amount of bacteria present in the root canal [26]. Maintaining a good coronal seal after completion of obturation is also important to minimize bacterial colonization [27]. Microorganisms may penetrate into the root canal system via temporary restorations and any defects in the coronal tooth structure. Furthermore, reinfection of the root canal system can occur because of regrowth of residual microorganisms that have survived the endodontic treatment procedures [28]. A disinfection protocol that provides substantivity might improve the outcome of endodontic treatment [29] and optimize single visit disinfection [30]. The long term antibacterial efficacy of absorbed doxycycline in dentinal walls and its effects on success/failure of the treatment is not determined yet.

The possibility and mechanisms of leakage in root canals obturated with gutta-percha/AH26 [31-33] and Resilon/RealSeal [13, 31, 33] has been well documented. Because of the potential of leakage after obturation with either of these materials it might be beneficial to use irrigants with antimicrobial substantivity. According to outcomes of the present study, after using MTAD as the final irrigant, root canal obturation with non-acidic sealers like AH26 might be better in terms of stability of doxycycline.

Although the present study showed that the stability of doxycycline following MTAD irrigation decreased more in the presence of Resilon/RealSeal in the root canal space, the clinical relevance of the issue is still unclear. Besides, the stability of doxycycline showed a time dependent decrease that raises questions about the long-term antibacterial effectiveness of MTAD. Therefore, randomized clinical trials on the effects of MTAD on success/failure of the endodontic treatments are recommended.

CONCLUSION

The outcomes of this study showed that the stability of doxycycline following irrigation with MTAD was lower when the root canals were obturated with Resilon/RealSeal compared to gutta-percha/AH26. The stability of doxycycline showed a time dependent decrease.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study was supported by a grant from Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Health Services (grant no. 15658). 1- Sjögren U, Figdor D, Persson S, Sundqvist G. Influence of infection at the time of root filling on the outcome of endodontic treatment of teeth with apical periodontitis. Int Endod J. 1997 Sep;30(5):297-306.

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