

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL

FACULDADE DE ODONTOLOGIA

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EVIDÊNCIAS CIENTÍFICAS DO EFEITO ANTI-CÁRIE DE SISTEMAS ADESIVOS E
MATERIAIS RESTAURADORES CONTENDO ANTIMICROBIANOS: REVISÃO DA
LITERATURA

Porto Alegre

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MATERIAIS RESTAURADORES CONTENDO ANTIMICROBIANOS – REVISÃO DA
LITERATURA

Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso apresentado ao Curso de Graduação em Odontologia da Faculdade de Odontologia da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, como requisito parcial para obtenção do título de Cirurgião-Dentista.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Rodrigo Alex Arthur

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RESUMO

AMARAL, Gabriela S. do. **Evidências científicas do efeito anti-cárie de sistemas adesivos e materiais restauradores contendo antimicrobianos:** revisão de literatura. 2014. 41 f. Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso (Graduação em Odontologia) – Faculdade de Odontologia, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, 2014.

A cárie dentária é um processo de doença complexo que, se não tratada adequadamente, pode avançar para a cavitação e uma intervenção restauradora pode ser necessária. Uma das principais causas para a substituição de restaurações é a ocorrência de cárie ao redor dessas restaurações em pacientes cuja atividade de cárie não for adequadamente controlada. Antimicrobianos tem sido incorporados aos materiais restauradores ou adesivos dentinários com a promessa de reduzir a incidência de cárie ao redor de restaurações. Estudos *in vitro* mostraram que a incorporação de compostos antimicrobianos em materiais restauradores dentários é capaz de afetar negativamente a viabilidade das bactérias cariogênicas. No entanto, a relevância clínica desta abordagem na prevenção da cárie dentária ainda é desconhecida. O objetivo desta revisão da literatura foi fornecer uma discussão atualizada sobre o efeito anticárie de antimicrobianos incorporados a materiais restauradores odontológicos ou sistemas adesivos odontológicos com foco sobre as metodologias utilizadas para avaliar o efeito antimicrobiano e sobre a relevância clínica dos resultados publicados. Além disso, buscou-se investigar se a incorporação de compostos antimicrobianos em materiais restauradores odontológicos evita cárie ao redor de restaurações. Através do MEDLINE, via Pubmed, foram procurados artigos publicados de 1980 a 23 de dezembro, 2013 e 1085 artigos foram encontrados. Após a avaliação de inclusão / exclusão, 145 artigos completos foram lidos e incluídos na revisão, que foi composta por 127 *in vitro*, *in situ* 1 e 5 em estudos *in vivo* e 12 revisões de literatura. Conclui-se a partir dos dados desta revisão de literatura que os métodos utilizados para avaliar os efeitos antimicrobianos de materiais restauradores experimentais são simplistas e não representam o dinamismo das condições encontradas na cavidade oral. Portanto, os dados fornecidos por esses estudos devem ser avaliados com cuidado. Além disso, nenhuma contribuição ou evidência foi encontrada, até o momento, sobre o papel dos antimicrobianos incorporados em materiais restauradores na prevenção / controle da cárie dentária e na prevenção da cárie ao redor de restaurações.

Palavras-chave: Odontologia. Antimicrobianos. Materiais dentários. Cárie dentária.

ABSTRACT

AMARAL, Gabriela S. do. **Scientific evidences of the anti-caries effect of antimicrobial-incorporated dental restorative materials/ dentinal adhesives: a review of the literature.** 2014. 41 f. Final Paper. (Graduation in Dentistry) – Faculdade de Odontologia, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, 2014.

Dental caries is a complex disease process that if not treated properly may advance to frank cavitation and a restorative intervention may be necessary. One of the main causes for restorations replacement is the occurrence of caries around restoration in patients whose carious activity is not adequately controlled. Antimicrobials have been incorporated into restorative materials or dental adhesives with the promise of reducing the incidence of caries around restorations. *In vitro* studies have shown that the incorporation of antimicrobial compounds into dental restorative materials is able to negatively affect the viability of cariogenic bacteria. However, the clinical relevance of this approach in the prevention of dental caries is still unknown. The aim of this review of literature was to provide an updated discussion about anti-caries effect of antimicrobial-incorporated dental restorative materials or dental adhesive systems focusing on the methodologies used to evaluate the antimicrobial effect and on the clinical relevance of the published results. Additionally, we sought to investigate whether the incorporation of antimicrobial compounds to dental restorative materials prevents caries around restorations. MEDLINE, via Pubmed, was searched for papers published from 1980 to December 23, 2013 and 1,085 articles were retrieved. After inclusion/exclusion assessment, 145 full text articles were read and included in the review which was comprised of 127 *in vitro*, 1 *in situ* and 5 *in vivo* studies and 12 reviews of literature. We conclude from the data of this review of literature that the methods used to evaluate the antimicrobial effects of experimental restorative materials are simplistic and do not represent the dynamism of conditions found on oral cavity. Therefore, the data provided by those studies should be evaluated with care. Additionally, no contribution or evidence has been found, so far, regarding the role of antimicrobial incorporated into restorative materials on prevention/control of dental caries and on prevention of caries around restorations.

Keywords: Dentistry. Antimicrobials. Dental Materials. Dental caries.

SUMÁRIO

1 INTRODUÇÃO.....	8
2 ARTIGO CIENTÍFICO.....	11
3 CONCLUSÃO.....	39
REFERÊNCIAS.....	40

1 INTRODUÇÃO

A cárie dentária é um processo de doença complexo que tem sido estudado por décadas. Sua etiologia é multifatorial levando à desmineralização dos tecidos dentais em resposta aos ácidos produzidos por bactérias do biofilme dental que degradam carboidratos fermentáveis provenientes da dieta (SELWITZ; ISMAIL; PITTS, 2007). Quando esse processo de desmineralização não é controlado, a área de perda de mineral pode progredir e lesões inicialmente subsuperficiais podem resultar na formação de cavidades na superfície dos dentes (FERREIRA-ZANDONÁ, 2012).

Nesse contexto, o tratamento e prevenção da cárie dentária se dá, principalmente, pelo controle de dieta, reduzindo frequência de ingestão de carboidratos fermentáveis (KIDD, 2011), pela orientação e motivação do paciente para um correto controle mecânico de biofilme dental, que é considerado como fator necessário para desenvolvimento da cárie dentária, e orientação para uso racional do flúor permitindo que baixas concentrações estejam presentes na cavidade bucal de forma constante para interferir nos eventos de des/ e de remineralização (FEATHERSTONE, 2008).

O uso do flúor tem sido considerado como um dos principais fatores responsáveis pelo declínio na prevalência de cárie dentária (MARINHO, 2009) principalmente no que se refere ao uso de dentifrícios fluoretados (ZERO, 2006). Quando flúor está presente no meio bucal, em baixas concentrações e de forma constante, toda vez que houver redução no pH em resposta à fermentação dos carboidratos da dieta pelas bactérias do biofilme, e o pH chegar até 4,5 (esmalte) ou 5,5 (dentina), o mineral do tipo hidroxiapatita que compõe o tecido dental é dissolvido porém, há precipitação na superfície dental de um mineral com maior conteúdo de flúor, denominado de fluorhidroxiapatita. Dessa forma, o flúor atua reduzindo a perda líquida de mineral do dente na medida em que permite a redeposição de parte dos minerais perdidos durante as quedas de pH (TEN CATE et al., 2003; CURY; TENUTA, 2008).

Dessa forma, o foco do tratamento da doença cárie deve incidir sobre a sua causa e não sobre a sua consequência (cavidade de cárie). Por isso, o ato de restaurar um elemento dentário não deve ser considerado um tratamento em si, mas sim a resolução de uma sequela dessa doença. Sendo assim, cavidades de cárie

nas superfícies dentais que impossibilitem uma adequada limpeza e remoção de biofilme, que fragilizem o remanescente dentário, que comprometam a função mastigatória e que apresentem comprometimento estético podem ser restauradas.

Quando uma lesão cáriosa surge em um tecido previamente hígido, ela é classificada como *cárie primária*. Porém, quando ocorre lesão cáriosa adjacente à margem de restaurações, estas são chamadas, segundo MJOR, 2005, de *cárie recorrente* ou *cárie secundária*. Vale ressaltar que esses termos estão em desuso, uma vez que apresentam ocorrências de uma mesma doença. A denominação usada atualmente classifica como “cárie adjacentes às restaurações” as lesões de cárie que se desenvolvem nas proximidades de uma restauração ou na interface do dente hígido com o material restaurador (MJOR, 2005) apenas como uma forma de diferenciá-las das lesões de cárie que não se desenvolvem associadas ou nas proximidades das restaurações. É sabido que a microinfiltração bacteriana ao redor da interface dente/restauração de resina composta cria um nicho para colonização bacteriana que pode levar ao desenvolvimento de lesão de cárie ao redor dessas restaurações (KHALICHI et al., 2009). Além disso, essa microinfiltração pode contribuir para a sensibilidade pós-operatória e, se intervenção adequada não for realizada, o processo carioso pode progredir causando dor e comprometimento pulpar (KHALICHI et al., 2009).

Segundo Silva e Maltz (2004), a ocorrência de cárie ao redor das restaurações é considerada como uma das principais causas de substituição de restaurações. Em virtude disso, tem sido discutido que materiais restauradores contendo antimicrobianos em suas formulações possam ser usados para controlar esse processo (HAMOUDA et al., 2012).

Inúmeros estudos *in vitro* têm demonstrando que a incorporação de antimicrobianos aos materiais restauradores é capaz de inibir o crescimento de *Streptococcus* ssp e de *Lactobacillus* ssp (GARCÍA-CONTRETAS et al., 2011; CHEN; SHEN; SUH, 2012; IMAZATO, 2003; MELO et al., 2013. Porém, não existe evidência científica da relevância clínica dessa abordagem no tratamento e prevenção de cárie dentária.

Dessa forma, o objetivo desse trabalho foi fornecer uma discussão atualizada sobre efeito anti-cárie de antimicrobianos incorporados em materiais restauradores e sistemas adesivos levando-se em conta as metodologias utilizadas para avaliação

desses materiais bem como a relevância clínica dos resultados publicados. Adicionalmente, esta revisão objetivou investigar se a incorporação de antimicrobianos aos materiais restauradores previne a ocorrência de cárie ao redor das restaurações.

ARTIGO CIENTÍFICO

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCES OF THE ANTI-CARIES EFFECT OF ANTIMICROBIAL- INCORPORATED DENTAL RESTORATIVE MATERIALS/ DENTINAL ADHESIVES: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

ABSTRACT

Dental caries is a complex disease process that if not treated properly may advance to frank cavitation and a restorative intervention may be necessary. One of the main causes for restorations replacement is the occurrence of caries around restoration in patients whose carious activity is not adequately controlled. Antimicrobials have been incorporated into restorative materials or dental adhesives with the promise of reducing the incidence of caries around restorations. *In vitro* studies have shown that the incorporation of antimicrobial compounds into dental restorative materials is able to negatively affect the viability of cariogenic bacteria. However, the clinical relevance of this approach in the prevention of dental caries is still unknown. The aim of this review of literature was to provide an updated discussion about anti-caries effect of antimicrobial-incorporated dental restorative materials or dental adhesive systems focusing on the methodologies used to evaluate the antimicrobial effect and on the clinical relevance of the published results. Additionally, we sought to investigate whether the incorporation of antimicrobial compounds to dental restorative materials prevents caries around restorations. MEDLINE, via Pubmed, was searched for papers published from 1980 to December 23, 2013 and 1,085 articles were retrieved. After inclusion/exclusion assessment, 145 full text articles were read and included in the review which was comprised of 127 *in vitro*, 1 *in situ* and 5 *in vivo* studies and 12 reviews of literature. We conclude from the data of this review of literature that the methods used to evaluate the antimicrobial effects of experimental restorative materials are simplistic and do not represent the dynamism of conditions found on oral cavity. Therefore, the data provided by those studies should be evaluated with care. Additionally, no contribution or evidence has been found, so far, regarding the role of antimicrobial incorporated into restorative materials on prevention/control of dental caries and on prevention of caries around restorations.

INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is a complex disease process that has been studied for decades. Briefly, dental caries is a multifactorial disease characterized by demineralization of dental tissues in response to acids produced due to the degradation of fermentable dietary carbohydrates by dental biofilm bacteria. This leads to a pH decrease on tooth surface resulting in loss of dental mineral structure (FEATHERSTONE, 2008). In this context, mutans streptococci, mainly *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Lactobacillus casei* have been considered as the main bacteria responsible for the metabolic-induced dental tissue loss, because they are able to survive under acidic-pH environment and to produce acids from rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (TAKAHASHI; NYVAD, 2008). This process, known as “Ecological Plaque Hypothesis” (MARSH, 1994), takes into account the role of diet on microbial shifts of dental biofilm and the impact of this microbial changes on tooth surfaces integrity. Recently, an extension of the above mentioned Hypothesis has been postulated by Takahashi and Nyvad (2008). These authors consider that the frequent episodes of acidification of dental biofilm lead to a transition of microbial composition of dental biofilm from a dynamic stage, where there is a predominance of non-mutans streptococci and *Actinomyces* on biofilms, to an acidogenic stage characterized by the predominance of non-mutans streptococci able to withstand low pH environments. For instance, this latter stage might be converted into an aciduric one, due to the perpetration of low-pH environment, where mutans streptococci and other acid-tolerant bacteria prevail. These shifts alter the phenotypic/genotypic traits of dental biofilm microbiota resulting in an imbalance on mineral equilibrium between tooth and surrounding aqueous phase leading to a net mineral loss.

Once the mineral loss progresses as a response to the altered microbiota composition and to a sucrose-rich diet, a cavitation may be clinically seen on tooth surface. This cavitation may need to be sealed with dental restorative materials in order to restore chewing function and in order to decrease biofilm accumulation on that particularly site. In this context, it has been suggested that the main cause for restoration flaw and need for replacement is the occurrence of caries around restorations (SILVA; MALTZ, 2004), which is caused by the penetration of bacteria into tooth/restoration interface leading to demineralization of the surrounding tooth walls. Therefore, in an effort to increase the longevity of restorations, the incorporation

of antimicrobial substances into dental restorative materials has been encouraged (HAMOUDA et al., 2012) with the aim to reduce biofilm formation on the surface of these restorative materials. Long-term restorations are clinically attractive since they may reduce the costs of restoration replacement and the discomfort for the patient due to several re-interventions (WENG et al., 2012).

Among the antimicrobials incorporated into dental restorative material, monomer 12-methacryloyloxydecylpyridinium bromide (MDPB), chlorhexidine digluconate (CHX) and Silver Nanoparticle (NAg) are the most frequently used (CHEN et al., 2012). MDPB is a cationic agent and exhibits biocidal activity by reacting with negatively charged bacterial surfaces (IMAZATO et al., 1994) irreversibly damaging the cytoplasmic membrane of the bacteria (KWON et al., 2010; LI et al., 2009). CHX acts on bacterial cell wall provoking leakage of intracellular constituents, which lead to cell death (MCDONELL; RUSSELL, 1999). Additionally, it has been reported that silver ions of silver nanoparticles (Nag) inactivate important bacterial enzymes and affect the replication mechanism of the microbial DNA leading to a reduction on bacterial viability (MORONES et al., 2005). It has also been shown that silver attaches to the outer membrane and affects permeability as well as induces structural changes in the cell ultimately leading to cell death (FAN et al., 2011). Several articles have shown that the incorporation of these above mentioned antimicrobials to dental adhesives and restorative materials is able to inhibit *Streptococcus* ssp and *Lactobacillus* ssp growth under laboratorial conditions (GARCÍA-CONTRETAS et al., 2011; IMAZATO et al., 1994; FOLEY; BLACKWELL, 2003).

Besides these before mentioned antimicrobial substances, other antimicrobial compounds such as quaternary ammonium dimethacrylate (QADM), chitosan, triclosan, furanone and poly quaternary ammonium salt (PQAS) have also been also incorporated into dental restorative materials (IMAZATO, 1995b; WENG et al., 2012; IMAZATO, 2003). Overall, these compounds act on microbial cell surfaces provoking leakage of intracellular content (REGOS; HITZ, 1974; KIM et al., 2013; JEON et al., 2014).

Under laboratorial conditions, it has been shown that the incorporation of antimicrobial compounds into dental restorative materials is able to negatively affect the viability of cariogenic bacteria (CARVALHO et al., 2012; SEVINÇ; HANLEY, 2010;

CHENG et al., 2012d; ELSAKA, 2012; FAN et al., 2011; HE et al., 2012). However, the clinical relevance of this approach in the prevention of dental caries is still unknown (PEREIRA-CENCI et al., 2013). Therefore, the aim of this review of literature is to provide an updated discussion about anti-caries effect of antimicrobial-incorporated dental restorative materials or dental adhesive systems focusing on the methodologies used to evaluate the antimicrobial effect and on the clinical relevance of the published results. Additionally, we sought to investigate whether the incorporation of antimicrobial compounds to dental restorative materials prevents caries around restorations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

MEDLINE, via Pubmed, was searched for papers published from 1980 to December 23, 2013. The search strategy used was (((dental material) AND antimicrobial) OR antibacterial) AND restorative. Titles and abstracts of all identified studies based on the above search strategy were read. Whenever there was not enough information available, the full-text article was read. Only articles written in English, reporting antimicrobial effect of antimicrobial-incorporated- dental restorative material or dentinal adhesives against cariogenic bacteria or reporting an anti-caries effect were included in the review and fully read. It was excluded from the review articles reporting antimicrobial effect of fluoride, antimicrobial effect of dental materials other than restorative/dentinal adhesives, reports of mechanical properties of the studied materials, remineralization effects due to fluoride incorporation into the tested materials and difficulty to access the full-text. References of eligible articles and narrative reviews were hand-searched to detect other potential studies of interest. Duplicated studies were excluded. Data about type of study (*in vitro*, *in situ* or *in vivo*), dental material/dentinal adhesives used, antimicrobial tested, microorganisms against antimicrobials were tested, methodology used to evaluate the antimicrobial effect and the antimicrobial effect (positive or negative) were extracted from the selected articles. Number of volunteers, collection of clinical samples, presence of an adequate control group and anti-caries effect were also collected from *in situ* and *in vivo* studies.

RESULTS

The search retrieved 1,085 articles. 145 full text articles were read and included in the review. Figure 1 shows a flow diagram of the articles that were identified, screened, excluded and included in the review. Out of the included articles, 127 were *in vitro*, 1 *in situ* and 5 *in vivo* studies and 12 reviews of literature.

Within all the selected studies, composite resin was the dental restorative material most tested (n=36 studies), followed by Glass Ionomer Cement (GIC; n=25), dentinal adhesives (n=23) and dentinal primers (n=19). The most incorporated antimicrobials were MDPB, CHX and NAg, comprising for 45,2% of the selected studies, followed by silver ions, QADM, triclosan, Cetrimide, PEI (Polyethyleneimine nanoparticles) and NACP (nanoparticles of amorphous calcium phosphate) (26,9%) (Figure 2). Another 18 antimicrobial were also incorporated into restorative materials and they comprised 27,9% of the selected studies (Figure 3). The results of Figures 2 and Figure 3 were taken from the appendage.

Within the *in vitro* studies, regarding the methodology used to evaluate the antimicrobial effects of the materials, inhibition of bacterial growth by direct contact with the tested material surface and inhibition of bacterial growth in broth were used by all of them. The time elapsed for the evaluation of the antimicrobial effect varied from 2 hours to 90 days, but the vast majority of studies evaluated bacterial viability only after 24 hours. Positive results in the inhibition of bacterial growth were seen in more than 70% of the studies for any of the tested antimicrobials, either for composite resins, GIC, dentinal adhesives or dentinal primers.

A positive result in decreasing bacterial viability due to the use of experimental antimicrobial-incorporated dental restorative materials/ dentinal adhesives was found in all of the selected *in situ* and *in vivo* studies. In only one of them the antimicrobial effect was evaluated after a long-time exposure to intraoral environment (up to 6 months), while all the other articles reported antimicrobial effects in a period shorter than a week (Table 1).

None of the selected articles (*in vitro*, *in situ*, *in vivo*) evaluated the anti-caries effect or the ability of the incorporated-antimicrobial restorative materials/dentinal adhesives on the prevention of caries around restoration.

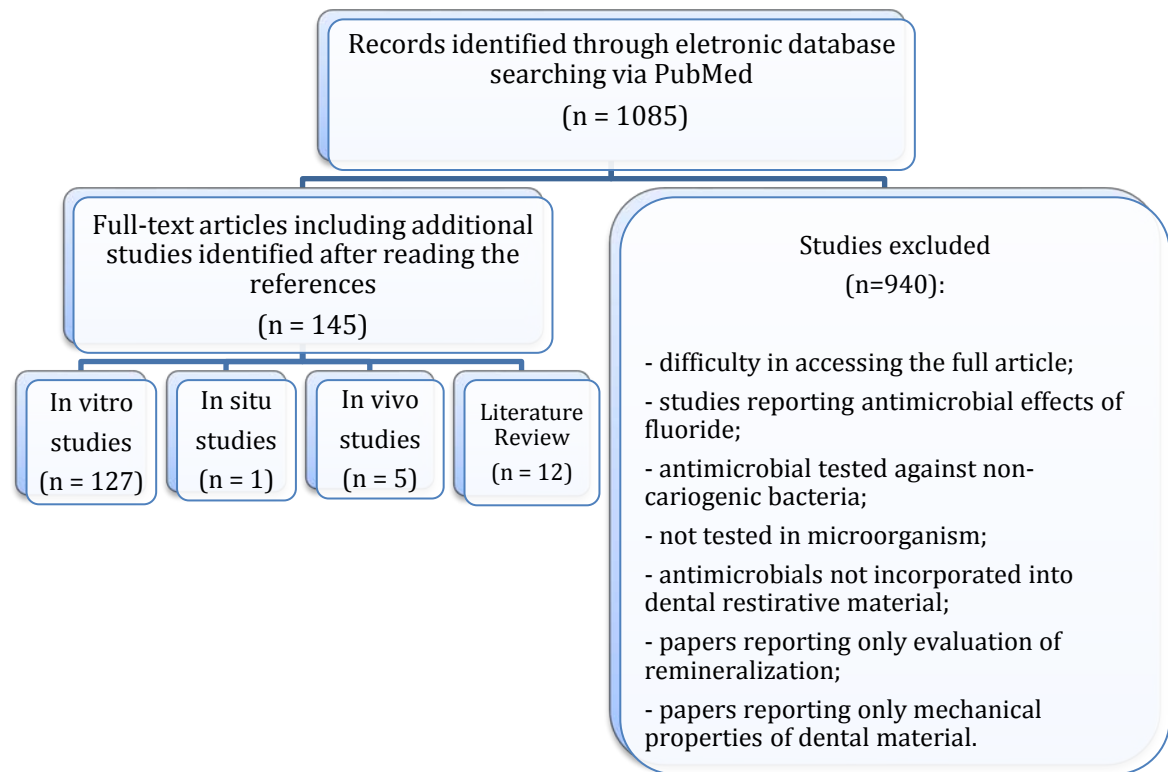


Figure 1. Flow diagram showing included and excluded studies retrieved from the electronic search.

Figure 2 – Descriptive analysis of the most incorporated antimicrobials into restorative materials / Adhesive systems.

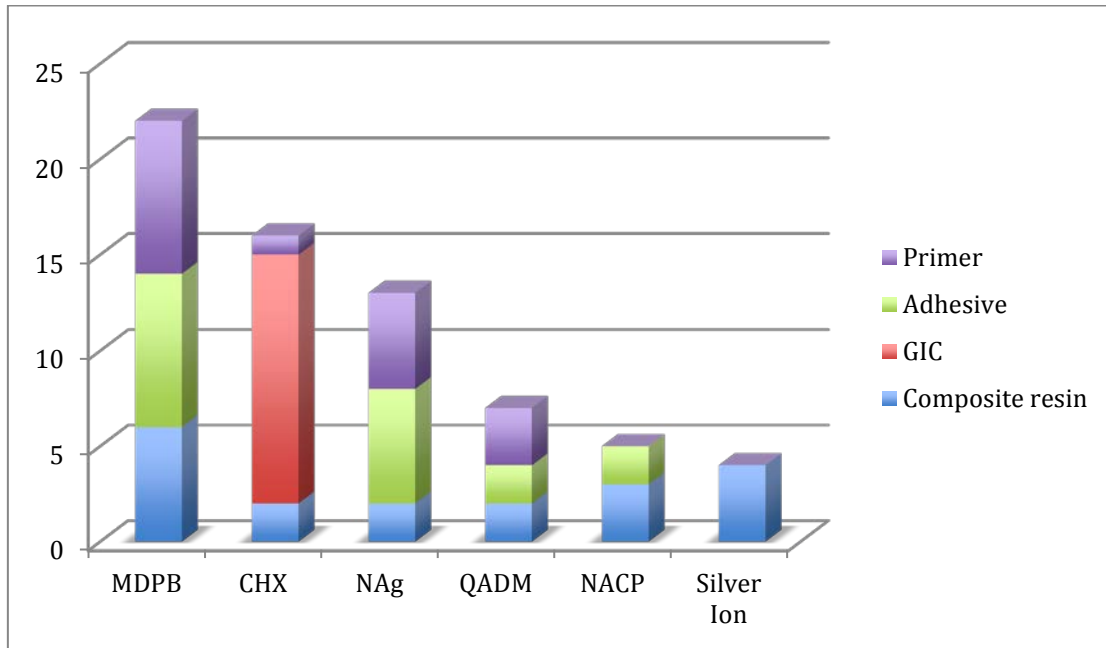


Figure 3 - Descriptive analysis of the less incorporated antimicrobials into restorative materials / Adhesive systems.

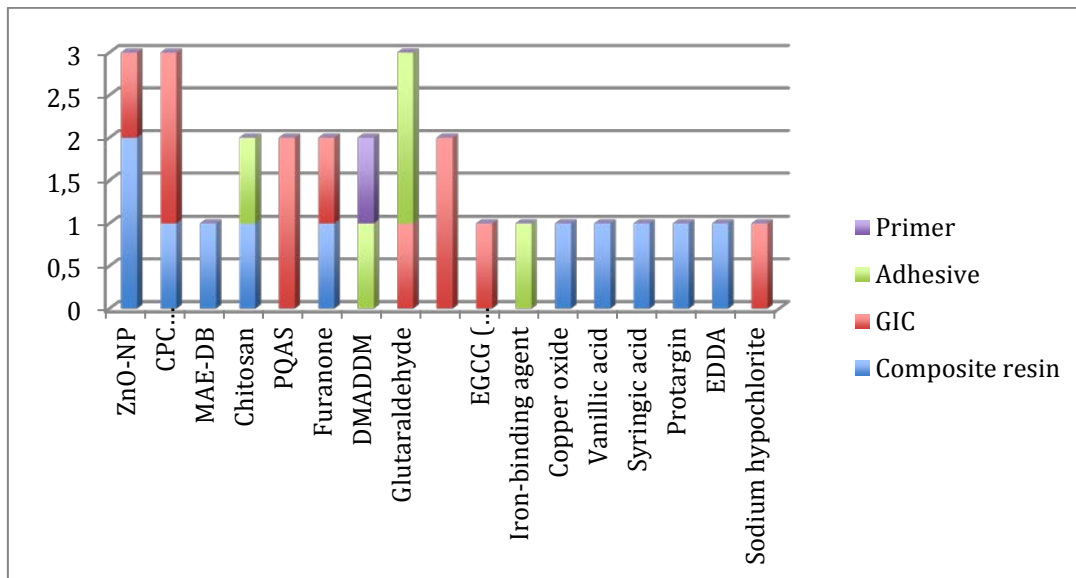


Table 1 - Descriptive analysis of the short-term clinical studies included in the review of the literature:

Authors	Year	Study	Patients	Clinical sample	Antimicrobial	Material	Control	Microorganisms	Anti-carries effect	Methods	Time	Results
Rupf et al.	2012	<i>In situ</i>	6	No	Octenidine dihydrochloride 3% and 6%	Composite resin	Composite resin without antimicrobial	Multispecies biofilm formed <i>in situ</i>	Not tested	SEM/ FM	3 and 7 days	Antimicrobial +
Rolland et al.	2011	<i>In vivo</i>	36	Root caries	MDPB (Concentration not informed)	Clearfill SE Bond Clearfill Protect Bond	Root caries sampling before primer application	<i>Streptococci</i> <i>Lactobacilli</i> <i>Yeasts</i> <i>Anarobes</i>	Not-tested	Viable cells counts	20 seconds	Antimicrobial +
Du et al.	2012	<i>In vivo</i>	8	No	CHX 2%	Experimental GIC Experimental GICRM	GIC w.o CHX GICRM w.o CHX	Multispecies biofilm formed <i>in vivo</i>	Not-tested	CLSM SEM	4h, 24h	Antimicrobial +
Foley; Blackwell	2003	<i>In vivo</i>	45	Dental caries	Copper phosphate (Concentration not informed)	Experimental Liner	No liner application	Mutans streptococci Lactobacilli Anaerobes	Not-tested	Viable cells counts	1 month, 6 months	Antimicrobial +
Frencken et al.	2007	<i>In vivo</i>	50	Dental caries	CHX (Concentration not informed)	GIC	GIC w.o CHX	Mutans streptococci Lactobacilli Total Aerobes Total Anaerobes	Not-tested	Viable cells counts	7 days	Antimicrobial +
Imazato et al.	2004	<i>In vivo</i>	5 beagle dogs	Dentin	MDPB (Concentration not informed)	Primer	not clear	<i>Streptococcus mutans</i>	Not-tested	Viable cells counts	30 minutes	Antimicrobial +

,MDPB: 12-methacryloyloxydo-decylpyridinium bromide; CHX: Chlorhexidine digluconate; GIC: glass ionomer cement; GICRM: glass ionomer cement resin modified; SEM: scanning electronic microscopy; FM: fluorescence microscopy; CLSM: Confocal scanning laser microscopy.

Discussion

Irrespective to the antimicrobial incorporated into restorative material/dentinal adhesives, a reduction in bacterial viability has been found (ESTEVEZ et al., 2010; GUPTA et al., 2011; RATHKE et al., 2010). The effects of MDPB and CHX have been extensively tested by *in vitro* and short-term clinical studies (IMAZATO et al., 2002; TURKUN et al., 2008; CHENG et al., 2013; RUPT et al., 2012; ROLLAND et al., 2011; DU et al., 2012; FOLEY; BLACKWELL, 2003; FRENCKEN et al., 2007; IMAZATO et al., 2004) (Figure 2). The antimicrobial effects of silver nanoparticules have been tested only under *in vitro* conditions. It has been discussed though that in a nanoparticulate form, silver ions are released more effectively from the materials and therefore they have better bactericidal activity than higher size silver particles due to its high surface area-to-volume ratio (KUMAR, 2008) and that could also be a promising approach to be used as an antimicrobial therapy in fields other than dentistry (FAN et al., 2011). There is no report so far regarding its antimicrobial effect under clinical conditions.

However, it is important to discuss that, although the methods used to assess the antimicrobial effects of experimental restorative materials present a first screening and the first evidence about the a potential effect, they are simplistic, limited and only provide a short-time effect on bacterial cell viability. Most of the selected articles evaluated whether the incorporation of an antimicrobial into a restorative material is able to reduce bacterial growth on its surface by a direct contact inhibition or by preventing biofilm formation. Keeping in mind that the most frequent cause of restorations replacement is due to caries around restoration (MJOR, 2005), it is reasonable to think that the prevention of biofilm formation, mainly on tooth/restoration interface, could contribute to the prevention of caries around restorations. However, the tested conditions and the available data do not allow any conclusions to be drawn in this respect.

Additionally, it has been shown that the tested materials are able to release the antimicrobial to the surrounding aqueous environment and inhibits the growth of the bacteria. In fact, the release of the antimicrobial to the oral

cavity might be a desirable behavior of a restoration since it could inhibit, at a distance, the growth of cariogenic microorganisms on oral cavity leading to a more favorable and health-related microflora (MARSH, 1994). However, although we have learnt from those studies that the incorporation of antimicrobials into restorative materials effectively reduces the bacteria viability, in most of them the antimicrobial effect of an experimental restorative material was evaluated in a short period of time (up to 24 hours) (BOTELHO, 2005; LI et al., 2013; FRENCKEN et al., 2007; HERRERA et al., 2001; HU et al., 2013; KIM; SHIN, 2013; HOMORI et al., 1999; SAKU et al., 2010). In only 3 *in vitro* studies the antimicrobial effect was studied over a period of time of 6 months (ZHANG et al., 2013b), but it seems that the antimicrobial effect is reduced over the time. Considering that a restoration has a high longevity in oral cavity, it is questionable whether a short-time bacterial inhibition has any clinical relevance.

It has been argued that the incorporation of antimicrobials into dentinal adhesives aims to impair biofilm colonization on tooth/restoration interface as a consequence of composite resin contraction and degradation of adhesive interface (KHALICHI et al., 2009). However, we consider that once a restoration is placed under the standard and well-controlled clinical steps, the chance of failure is low and, therefore, there is no need for adding antimicrobials to dentinal adhesives. Additionally, clinical studies have suggested that once a carious cavity is restored and it is well sealed, mainly in respect to the surrounding dentine walls, any microorganism left on the remaining dentine is inhibited and no progression of carious lesion is observed (BJORNDAL et al., 1997; ORHAN et al., 2010; LULA et al., 2011; MALTZ et al. 2002; 2007; 2012). Therefore, it may be clinically irrelevant the incorporation of antimicrobial into dentinal adhesives aiming its anti-caries effect. Additionally, it has been proposed that dentinal primers with antimicrobial effect could be used as a minimally invasive treatment for root caries (ROLLAND et al., 2011). However, that assumption was done based on microbiological counts of carious dentine samples obtained before and after only one short-time primer application. There was not any kind of follow-up for lesion activity assessment. Therefore, no conclusion can be drawn

based on those data.

We could also observe the lack of clinical studies evaluating the role of antimicrobials incorporated into restorative materials and its potential anti-caries effect. Only 6 studies evaluated the effect of experimental restorative materials under *in situ* or *in vivo* conditions (Table 1), but they focused only on the antimicrobial effect *per se*. No investigation was carried out in an attempt to verify whether the presence of the antimicrobial indirectly affects carious lesions development or not.

Ideally, in a first attempt to explore the antimicrobial effect of restorative materials, clinical conditions must be simulated under *in vitro* conditions but in a more realistic way. That means further studies need to be better design and their experimental designs should consider tooth/restoration as substrates for biofilm formation under a dynamic and constant flow of saliva in order to mimic the release of these antimicrobials as it would happen in oral cavity. Once *in vitro* results are promising, well-controlled short-term clinical studies should be designed and the extent of demineralization around restorations needs to be better explored in response to the experimental restorative materials. Standardized gaps could be generated *ex-vivo* on tooth/restoration interfaces, simulating a clinical condition appealing for bacterial colonization, and the tested tooth samples should be fixed on intra-oral appliances in order to allow biofilm accumulation on its surface. Additionally to these factors, biofilm could be grown under a high cariogenic challenge simulating the use of antimicrobial-incorporated restorations by caries active patients. It is demanded, afterwards, well designed, long-term and controlled clinical studies. Whether the incorporation of antimicrobial to the restorative material truly inhibits biofilm formation, it may be expected a low demineralization which could be monitored by means of mineral-content sensitive methods such cross-sectional hardness (FAN et al., 2011), transversal microradiography (ELSAKA; HAMOUDA; SWAIN, 2011). Clinical studies evaluating the topical effect of antimicrobial incorporated dentinal adhesives for controlling or preventing dentine root caries need to be conducted for longer periods of time in order to provide better evidences regarding its antimicrobial and/or cariostatic effects.

Considering the multiplicity of factors involved in carious process and the limitations of the data provided by this narrative review of the literature, we restate that the best evidence for dental caries control and treatment is based on diet advise (reduction of frequency of exposure to rapidly fermentable carbohydrates), individual motivation for a frequent and adequate mechanical biofilm removal from tooth surfaces and constant exposure to low-fluoride concentration provided by daily use of fluoridated toothpastes (KIDD, 2011).

Therefore, we conclude from the data of this review of literature that the methods used to evaluate the antimicrobial effects of experimental restorative materials are simplistic since they do not represent the dynamism of conditions found on oral cavity. Therefore, the data provided by those studies should be evaluated with care. Additionally, no contribution or evidence has been found, so far, regarding the role of antimicrobial incorporated into restorative materials on prevention/control of dental caries and on prevention of caries around restorations or whether this is a rational approach to prevent dental caries.

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3 CONCLUSÃO

Conclui-se a partir dos dados desta revisão de literatura que os métodos usados para avaliar o efeito antimicrobiano de materiais restauradores são muito simples e não representam o dinamismo de condições encontradas na cavidade bucal. Por isso, os dados fornecidos por esses estudos precisam ser analisados com cuidado. Em adição, nenhuma contribuição ou evidência tem sido encontrada em relação ao efeito da incorporação de antimicrobianos em materiais restauradores na prevenção/controle de cárie dental e na prevenção de cárie ao redor de restaurações.

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