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Original Article

Evaluation of the effects of 0.05% sodium hypochlorite and 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate twice daily rinse on periodontal parameters and gingival crevicular fluid HSV1 and CMV levels in patients with chronic periodontitis: a multicentric study



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 28 May 2020
Accepted 5 August 2020
Available online 24 October 2020

Keywords:

Gingival crevicular fluid (GCF)
Herpes simplex virus-1 (HSV-1)
Cytomegalovirus
Periodontitis
Sodium hypochlorite
Chlorhexidine gluconate

ABSTRACT

Background: Mechanical debridement of periodontal pockets remains the mainstay of therapy in all forms of periodontitis. There is 47% greater reduction in plaque amount when sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) is used as an adjunct when compared with water rinsing. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of 0.05% NaOCl and 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate twice daily rinse on periodontal parameters and gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) HSV1 and CMV levels in chronic periodontitis.

Methods: Patients assigned to group A were prescribed 0.05% NaOCl mouthwash for twice daily rinse. Patients in group B were prescribed 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash to be used twice daily. Evaluation of periodontal parameters was done at baseline and after six months following therapy. GCF HSV1 and CMV levels were evaluated using a polymerase chain reaction.

Results: A statistically significant difference was noted in the improvement in periodontal parameters between both groups, when evaluated six months following therapy with greater reduction in group A vis-a-vis group B.

Conclusion: NaOCl when prescribed as a twice daily mouthwash can be recommended as a part of the home care regime in patients with chronic periodontitis. It is more cost-effective, easily available and can be beneficial to the troops in difficult terrains and extremes of climates, where oral healthcare facilities are not easily accessible.

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Introduction

The lesions in periodontal disease are complex with periodontal pathogens residing in inaccessible areas, suggesting that a mechanical approach alone may lead to incomplete elimination of the disease in most of the cases. A 30-year Swedish epidemiologic study had concluded that there was a 8%-44% increase in periodontally healthy individuals with regular periodontal treatment and maintenance care, with concomitant reduction in the percentage of gingivitis and moderate periodontitis.1 The most important goal of periodontal treatment is to eliminate pathogenic microorganisms to achieve a state of good dental health. Mechanical debridement and adjunctive antimicrobial therapy form important components of a comprehensive treatment plan. Mechanotherapy alone may not eliminate a significant portion of periodontal microorganisms, especially in periodontal sites with advanced destruction.² Mechanical plaque control performed in absence of antimicrobials or root planning or periodontal surgery can lead to failure to arrest advanced periodontal disease.3 The global increase in organisms with antibiotic resistance and the rising costs of newer antibiotics have generated interest in using more economic antiseptics to eliminate infections involving areas such as the periodontium. In accordance with J Slots, cases of advanced periodontitis probably have a viral aetiology, which fails to respond to conventional periodontal therapy and maintenance care. Herpesviruses, including Epstein-Barr virus and cytomegalovirus, are associated with aggressive periodontitis, probably causing advanced destruction in presence of periodontopathic bacteria. Herpesvirus have the potential to enhance the destructive potential of resident pathogens, which, may lead to increase in the virulence of herpesviruses. The ample amount of herpesviruses detected in periodontitis leads us to the possibility of redefinition of paradigm of periodontal disease. 4,5 In this study, we have evaluated the effect of 0.05% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) twice/day rinse and compared it with the gold standard 0.12% Chlorhexidine gluconate twice/daily rinse in terms of improvement in periodontal parameters and reduction in gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) HSV-1 and CMV levels, if detected, in patients with chronic periodontitis.

Materials and methods

The patients selected from two different dental centres, were screened by means of a comprehensive periodontal examination, which consisted of plaque index (PI), gingival bleeding index (GBI), probing pocket depth (PD) and clinical attachment level (CAL). GCF samples were collected using paper strip method. After phase one therapy, the patients were grouped into two groups using block randomisation method. Patients in group A were prescribed 0.05% NaOCl mouthwash twice daily rinse for 4 weeks. The mouthwash had to be diluted, and the patients were instructed to dilute it by mixing household bleach with water (5 ml: 250 ml). Patients in group B were

prescribed 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash to be used twice daily for 4 weeks. GCF HSV1 and CMV levels were evaluated using a polymerase chain reaction. The parameters were recorded at baseline and at six months following initiation of therapy in both the groups. All the patients received oral hygiene instructions. The results were analysed using appropriate statistical evaluation. Institutional ethical clearance and patient consent was also obtained before entry into study.

GCF sample

GCF samples were collected from the gingival sulcus for each subject, in all the three groups, before clinical examination. The selected sites were isolated with cotton rolls, supragingival plaque was removed, tooth was air dried and filter paper strips (periotron paper strips) were left in the sulcus at the depth of 1–2 mm for 30s. Eppendorf tubes containing 150 μl of elution buffer phosphate buffered saline with low concentration detergent such as 0.1% Tween (PBST) (0.05% in phosphate buffered saline) were used to store the strips at $-80~{}^{\circ}\text{C}$ until assayed [Fig. 1].

HSV-1 and CMV assay

The GCF samples were thawed, and DNA was extracted for the assay using an automated nucleic acid extraction system (EasyMag instrument, bioMerieux, USA) following the protocols developed by the manufacturers. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) kits with primers and probes directed towards HSV-1 and CMV were used for molecular detection (Real Star HSV and CMV kits, Altona GmBH, Germany) [Fig. 2]. Each specimen was run in duplicate using the manufacturer's instructions on a Roche 480 II Real Time Thermal Cycler, (Roche Diagnostics USA) [Fig. 4]. We reported as positive only those samples in which >10 copies of HSV or CMV DNA/reaction were detected [Fig. 3].

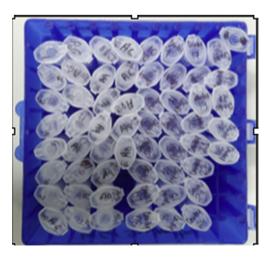


Fig. 1 — Gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) samples collected and stored.



Fig. 2 - HSV kit and CMV kit.



Fig. 3 - PCR set-up.



Fig. 4 - Real-time PCR.

Results

All clinical data was tabulated along with data obtained through assay. The data were statistically analysed [Tables 1—4]. The statistical software SPSS, version 24.0 was used for the analysis. Within the limitations of this study, significant statistical differences were found in two clinical parameters (probing depth and CALs) among the patients on 0.05% NaOCl

mouthwash as compared to patients on 0.12% chlorhexidine mouthwash.

Discussion

Periodontitis is a chronic disease of the periodontium, characterised by the breakdown of tissues and, if not treated leads to tooth loss which can significantly hamper the quality of life.

Table 1 – Comparison of mean between group A and group B.									
Periodontal parameters	Group	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. error mean	t-value	p-value		
PI-0	Group A	30	2.47	0.51	0.09	0.766	0.447		
	Group B	30	2.57	0.50	0.09				
PI-1	Group A	30	1.10	0.48	0.09	0	1		
	Group B	30	1.10	0.55	0.10				
PI-2	Group A	30	0.87	0.43	0.08	0.288	0.774		
	Group B	30	0.83	0.46	0.08				
GBI-0	Group A	30	2.43	0.50	0.09	0.255	0.799		
	Group B	30	2.47	0.51	0.09				
GBI-1	Group A	30	0.83	0.46	0.08	0.479	0.634		
	Group B	30	0.90	0.61	0.11				
GBI-2	Group A	30	0.30	0.47	0.09	1.733	0.088		
	Group B	30	0.53	0.57	0.10				
PD-0	Group A	30	5.67	0.84	0.15	0.444	0.658		
	Group B	30	5.57	0.90	0.16				
PD-1	Group A	30	3.30	0.84	0.15	0.437	0.664		
	Group B	30	3.40	0.93	0.17				
PD-2	Group A	30	2.17	0.38	0.07	2.339	0.023		
	Group B	30	2.50	0.68	0.12				
CAL-0	Group A	30	3.63	0.85	0.16	0.953	0.345		
	Group B	30	3.40	1.04	0.19				
CAL-1	Group A	30	1.33	0.80	0.15	0.29	0.773		
	Group B	30	1.40	0.97	0.18				
CAL-2	Group A	30	0.23	0.43	0.08	2.039	0.046		
	Group B	30	0.53	0.68	0.12				

Significant difference can be seen in group A and B with higher value in group B in PD-2 and CAL-2 as p-value is less than 0.05. But nonsignificant difference in other variables at all time points with p-value greater than 0.05. Bold signifies P < 0.05.

PI, plaque index, GI, gingival index, GBI, gingival bleeding index, PD, probing depth, CAL, clinical attachment level 0: Baseline, 1: at 1 month post therapy, 2: at 6 months post therapy.

Periodontal disease is considered to be a major oral health burden as per epidemiological data and affects almost half of the global population.⁶ The etiopathogenesis of periodontal disease is explained by the formation of biofilm inhabited by periodontal pathogens inducing a periodontal inflammatory response. The host response to these pathogens eventually

Table 2 — Paired T-test (overall data).									
Groups	Periodontal parameters	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. error mean	Mean difference	t-value	p-value	
Pair 1	PI-0	60	2.52	0.50	0.07	1.42	16.348	<0.001	
	PI-1	60	1.10	0.51	0.07				
Pair 2	PI-1	60	1.10	0.51	0.07	0.25	3.085	0.003	
	PI-2	60	0.85	0.44	0.06				
Pair 3	PI-0	60	2.52	0.50	0.07	1.67	22.553	< 0.001	
	PI-2	60	0.85	0.44	0.06				
Pair 4	GBI-0	60	2.45	0.50	0.06	1.58	16.504	< 0.001	
	GBI-1	60	0.87	0.54	0.07				
Pair 5	GBI-1	60	0.87	0.54	0.07	0.45	6.523	< 0.001	
	GBI-2	60	0.42	0.53	0.07				
Pair 6	GBI-0	60	2.45	0.50	0.06	2.03	19.643	< 0.001	
	GBI-2	60	0.42	0.53	0.07				
Pair 7	PD-0	60	5.62	0.87	0.11	2.27	22.561	< 0.001	
	PD-1	60	3.35	0.88	0.11				
Pair 8	PD-1	60	3.35	0.88	0.11	1.02	10.533	< 0.001	
	PD-2	60	2.33	0.57	0.07				
Pair 9	PD-0	60	5.62	0.87	0.11	3.28	34.435	< 0.001	
	PD-2	60	2.33	0.57	0.07				
Pair 10	CAL-0	60	3.52	0.95	0.12	2.15	20.315	< 0.001	
	CAL-1	60	1.37	0.88	0.11				
Pair 11	CAL-1	60	1.37	0.88	0.11	0.98	9.892	< 0.001	
	CAL-2	60	0.38	0.58	0.08				
Pair 12	CAL-0	60	3.52	0.95	0.12	3.13	29.139	< 0.001	
	CAL-2	60	0.38	0.58	0.08				

There is significant change in all the four variables viz. PI, GBI, PD and CAL at all the time points with p-value less than 0.01. Bold signifies P< 0.05. PI, plaque index; GBI, GBI, gingival bleeding index; PD, pocket depth; CAL, clinical attachment level.

Table 3 -	Paired T-test (group A).							
Groups	Periodontal parameters	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. error mean	Mean difference	t-value	p-value
Pair 1	PI-0	30	2.47	0.51	0.09	1.37	12.17	<0.001
	PI-1	30	1.10	0.48	0.09			
Pair 2	PI-1	30	1.10	0.48	0.09	0.23	2.04	0.05
	PI-2	30	0.87	0.43	0.08			
Pair 3	PI-0	30	2.47	0.51	0.09	1.60	15.56	< 0.001
	PI-2	30	0.87	0.43	0.08			
Pair 4	GBI-0	30	2.43	0.50	0.09	1.60	12.11	< 0.001
	GBI-1	30	0.83	0.46	0.08			
Pair 5	GBI-1	30	0.83	0.46	0.08	0.53	5.76	< 0.001
	GBI-2	30	0.30	0.47	0.09			
Pair 6	GBI-0	30	2.43	0.50	0.09	2.13	16.00	< 0.001
	GBI-2	30	0.30	0.47	0.09			
Pair 7	PD-0	30	5.67	0.84	0.15	2.37	16.95	< 0.001
	PD-1	30	3.30	0.84	0.15			
Pair 8	PD-1	30	3.30	0.84	0.15	1.13	8.00	< 0.001
	PD-2	30	2.17	0.38	0.07			
Pair 9	PD-0	30	5.67	0.84	0.15	3.50	28.10	< 0.001
	PD-2	30	2.17	0.38	0.07			
Pair 10	CAL-0	30	3.63	0.85	0.16	2.30	16.80	< 0.001
	CAL-1	30	1.33	0.80	0.15			
Pair 11	CAL-1	30	1.33	0.80	0.15	1.10	8.46	< 0.001
	CAL-2	30	0.23	0.43	0.08			
Pair 12	CAL-0	30	3.63	0.85	0.16	3.40	25.72	< 0.001
	CAL-2	30	0.23	0.43	0.08			

There is significant change in all the four variables viz. PI, GBI, PD and CAL at all the time points with p-value less than 0.01. Bold signifies P< 0.05. PI, plaque index; GBI: Gingival bleeding index; PD, pocket depth; CAL, clinical attachment level.

Table 4	– Paired T-test (group B).							
Groups	Periodontal parameters	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. error mean	Mean difference	t-value	p-value
Pair 1	PI-0	30	2.57	0.50	0.09	1.47	11.00	<0.001
	PI-1	30	1.10	0.55	0.10			
Pair 2	PI-1	30	1.10	0.55	0.10	0.27	2.28	0.03
	PI-2	30	0.83	0.46	0.08			
Pair 3	PI-0	30	2.57	0.50	0.09	1.73	16.28	< 0.001
	PI-2	30	0.83	0.46	0.08			
Pair 4	GBI-0	30	2.47	0.51	0.09	1.57	11.09	< 0.001
	GBI-1	30	0.90	0.61	0.11			
Pair 5	GBI-1	30	0.90	0.61	0.11	0.37	3.61	0.001
	GBI-2	30	0.53	0.57	0.10			
Pair 6	GBI-0	30	2.47	0.51	0.09	1.93	12.20	< 0.001
	GBI-2	30	0.53	0.57	0.10			
Pair 7	PD-0	30	5.57	0.90	0.16	2.17	14.99	< 0.001
	PD-1	30	3.40	0.93	0.17			
Pair 8	PD-1	30	3.40	0.93	0.17	0.90	6.92	< 0.001
	PD-2	30	2.50	0.68	0.12			
Pair 9	PD-0	30	5.57	0.90	0.16	3.07	22.71	< 0.001
	PD-2	30	2.50	0.68	0.12			
Pair 10	CAL-0	30	3.40	1.04	0.19	2.00	12.58	< 0.001
	CAL-1	30	1.40	0.97	0.18			
Pair 11	CAL-1	30	1.40	0.97	0.18	0.87	5.79	< 0.001
	CAL-2	30	0.53	0.68	0.12			
Pair 12	CAL-0	30	3.40	1.04	0.19	2.87	18.25	< 0.001
	CAL-2	30	0.53	0.68	0.12			

There is significant change in all the four variables viz. PI, GBI, PD and CAL at all the time points with p-value less than 0.01. Bold signifies P< 0.05. PI, plaque index; GBI: Gingival bleeding index; PD, pocket depth; CAL, clinical attachment level.

leads to bone loss and periodontal tissue destruction, which are the characteristic signs of periodontal disease. The bacterial aetiology however, is unable to explain various aspects of periodontitis, especially in cases where the amount of periodontal damage is inconsistent with the amount of local factors. Latest microbiological studies on periodontal disease have led researchers to believe that human viruses probably play a significant role in the pathogenesis of periodontitis. 4,5,8–12

NaOCl is a chlorine-releasing agent and destroys microorganisms by oxidation of proteins, nucleotides and lipids. NaOCl at 0.5% was used effectively to manage infections in soldiers injured during World War I, before antibiotics. It is a highly efficient proteolytic and antimicrobial agent and is commonly used as irrigation solution for endodontic therapy. 13 Jorgen Slots has been a pioneer in recommending antiviral therapy targeting viruses as periodontal pathogens and had introduced the concept of low cost periodontal therapy using NaOCl twicedaily rinses or povidone iodine irrigation.8 The most likely explanation of the excellent results obtained with this low-cost therapy is probably related to the absence of supragingival plaque, which can affect the subgingival ecology. The mouthwash reduces periodontal pathogen counts in pockets up to 5 mm in depth.¹⁴ The other possibility is that the subgingival irrigation with bleach suppresses periodontal herpesviruses, leading to a decreased subgingival bacterial counts and elimination of clinical signs of disease. The significant reduction of fusobacteria, an important periodontal pathogen, after irrigation with NaOCl might be due its antibacterial effect or due to its role in herpesvirus suppression. 4,14-16

In this study, we have evaluated the effect of 0.05% NaOCl twice/day rinse and compared it with the gold standard 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate twice/daily rinse in terms of improvement in periodontal parameters and reduction in GCF HSV-1 and CMV levels, if detected, in patients with chronic periodontitis. Earlier studies have reported significant reduction in supragingival biofilm formation, gingival inflammation and bleeding with oral rinsing with various concentrations of NaOCl twice/weekly. 15,17-21 One study comparing NaOCl with hydrogen peroxide concluded that both the agents reduced plaque accumulation, but the effects of NaOCl persisted for 24 h. 15 It has been reported in literature that by controlling the concentration of NaOCl used, it maybe possible to have a beneficial effect on the periodontium, by causing eliminating the soft tissue wall of the pocket without affecting the healing.13 In contrast, chlorhexidine gluconate in even low concentrations can interfere with healing due its ability to reduce the production of gingival proteins and being toxic to the fibroblasts in gingiva.7

A study carried out to investigate the persistence of antimicrobial action and plaque inhibitory properties of 3 Acidifed sodium chlorite mouthrinses with chlorhexidine 0.12% concluded that the chlorhexidine gluconate mouth rinse as and adjunct to mechanotherapy resulted in slightly greater reduction of probing than mechanotherapy alone. ²² Another study comparing 0.2% NaOCl mouthwash and 0.2% chlorhexidine gluconate concluded that NaOCl mouthwash as an adjunct to mechanotherapy is as effective as chlorhexidine gluconate mouthwash for the treatment of gingivitis. Owing to enhanced safety due to less side effects such as staining, NaOCl can be used as a routine mouthwash. ²³

In our study, we found that there was a statistically significant difference in periodontal parameters between both groups, when evaluated six months following therapy with greater reduction in group A (NaOCl) as compared to group B (chlorhexidine gluconate)(p < 0.05){Table 3}. There was a marked change in all the four variables viz. PI, GBI, PD and CAL

from baseline to one and six months after therapy in both the groups (p-value < 0.01) {Tables 1-4}. Previous reported literature on both NaOCl and chlorhexidine gluconate in the management of periodontitis have reported similar outcomes and both agents have been used worldwide as adjuncts to mechanotherapy. We agree the results of these earlier studies as both the groups showed improvement in clinical parameters following therapy. But in our study, NaOCl group showed a significant reduction in probing depth and an improvement in CALs as compared to the chlorhexidine gluconate group. We had tested the GCF samples for presence of viruses (HSV-1 and CMV) using a molecular analysis. HSV-1 was detected in 4 samples each at baseline evaluation in both the groups. None of the samples in either of the groups showed presence of HSV-1 at the time of assessment at one month and at six months after therapy. CMV was not detected in any of the baseline or post-therapy samples in both the groups.

Conclusion

NaOCl mouthwash is recommended to be included in the protocol for management of periodontal disease in the Armed forces to offer the possibility of enhanced control of destructive periodontal disease reducing the rate of tooth loss improving form, function, esthetics and overall quality of life. It will be beneficial to troops stationed in remote areas to help control periodontal disease, during the maintenance phase in absence of regular recall visits to the dental centre.

Disclosure of competing interest

The authors have none to declare.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on Armed Forces Medical Research Committee Project No. 4851/2017 granted and funded by office of the Directorate General Armed Forces Medical Services and Defence Research Development Organization, Government of India.

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