

# Evaluation of the Antibacterial Effect of MTAD and Sodium Hypochlorite against Endodontic Pathogens

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**Abstract** The purpose of this investigation was to compare the efficacy of Biopure MTAD versus 5.25% NaOCl as irrigant solutions for root canals infected with *E. faecalis* and *Strept. Mutans*. **Materials and Methods:** Forty extracted human single-rooted lower premolar teeth are decoronated at the cemento-enamel junction (CEJ). The roots will instrumented by k-file till size 40 then these teeth will contaminated by bacteria in brain heart infusion for 48 hrs. The samples will divide into 3 groups (MTAD, NaOCl and normal saline). Dentin chips will removed from the canal with sterile low speed hand piece round bur the collected dentin chips will transfer by BHI and culture on the media and the growing colonies will count and record as colonies forming unit (CFU). **Results:** The antibacterial activity of Biopure MTAD was significantly differ from that of 5.25% NaOCl and distilled water. **Conclusion:** Biopure MTAD has the strongest antibacterial effect against *E. faecalis* and *Strept. mutans* than 5.25% NaOCl and distilled water.

**Keywords:** disinfection of root canal, *Enterococcus faecalis*, MTAD

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## 1. Introduction

Root canal morphology is complex and contains numerous ramifications and anatomical irregularities. The microorganisms in root canals not only invade the anatomic irregularities of the root canal system but are also present in the dentinal tubules. Persistent endodontic disease after root canal therapy may be caused by bacteria in dentinal tubules. Current techniques of root canal debridement may leave areas of the root canal system completely untouched by the instruments [1].

It has also been shown that mechanical instrumentation without irrigation reduces but does not predictably eliminate bacteria in the canal. Thus, a root canal irrigant is needed to aid in the debridement of the canals. Various concentrations of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) have been used as root canal irrigants for many decades. The main advantages of NaOCl are its ability to dissolve necrotic tissues and its antibacterial properties against most microorganisms [2].

Biopure MTAD (Dentsply, Tulsa OK) is a mixture of tetracycline isomer (doxycycline) an acid (citric acid), and a detergent (Tween 80). When used as a root canal irrigant, MTAD has been reported to safely remove the smear layer and effectively eliminate *Enterococcus faecalis*. Studies have found *E. faecalis* to be a commonly recovered microbe in failing root canals [3].

The purpose of this investigation was to compare the antimicrobial efficacy of irrigation with Biopure MTAD versus irrigation with 5.25% NaOCl in the root canals infected with *E. faecalis*.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Sample Selection

A total sample of 40 freshly extracted human, single-rooted lower premolar teeth of age 16-25 year were placed in distilled water. The soft tissue remnants and calculus on external root surface were removed mechanically with piezon Master 400 scaler (EMS, Swiss). All specimens were inspected to identify any defect or root fractures and to confirm the complete formation of apices under stereomicroscope (x10 magnification) (Motic, China).

Each tooth was decoronated at the level of cemento-enamel junction (CEJ) using a low-speed, water-cooled, diamond sectioning disc (Brasseler, Germany). Pulp tissue was removed with a barbed broach, then root canal patency was confirmed with No. 10 K-type file (Mani, Inc. Japan).

The working length of each root canal was determined by No-10 K-type file, which inserted inside the root canal under stereomicroscope at (x 10 magnification) until the tip of the file was just visible at the apical foramen and then subtracting (1.0 mm) from the measured length of the file [4].

Root canal irrigation was performed at the beginning of the instrumentation and after each instrument size with (2 ml) of 2.5% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) solution [5].

At the end of the biomechanical preparation, the dentinal smear layer was removed from all specimens using (2 ml) of 17% ethylene diamine tetra-Acetic acid (EDTA) for 1 minute followed by (2 ml) of 5.25% NaOCl solution [4,6].

Finally all teeth inserted in the autoclave to be sterile and killed the remaining micro organism in the dentinal tubules of the root canal.

## 2.2. Isolation of Microorganisms

### 2.2.1. Patient Selection

Four patients with apical periodontitis of single root teeth as diagnosed by radiograph and clinical examination.

### 2.2.2. Preparation of Access Opening

Access cavity prepared initially with sterile turbine round and straight fissure bur until reach to pulp chamber roof. Before perforate the pulp chamber the tooth isolated with cotton roll and sucker tip then we used sterile handpiece large round bur to obtain the access opening.

Size 25, 30 and 35 k-file inserted in the canal as initial enlargement of the canal. Before root canal disinfection with irrigant solution to avoid killing of the microorganisms, a paper point size 25 inserted into the canal for (1) min. Paper point was removed and placed into brain heart infusion broth agar for 30 min..

### 2.2.3. Isolation of (*Enterococcus faecalis*)

A loopful of inoculated brain heart infusion broth agar was spread on the surface of *Enterococcus* selective media using a cotton swab, then these inoculated media were incubated an aerobically using anaerobic jar at 37°C for 48 hrs. *Enterococcus* colonies appeared as reddish – pink color on the surface of the media.

### 2.2.4. Isolation of *Streptococcus mutans*

A loopful of inoculated brain heart infusion broth agar was spread on the surface of Mutans selective media using a cotton swab, then these inoculated media were incubated an aerobically using anaerobic jar at 37°C for 48 hrs. Mutans colonies appeared as bluish color on the surface of the media.

## 2.3. Contamination of the Root Canal with *E. faecalis* and *S. mutans*

After isolation of *E. faecalis* and *S. mutans* take a colony from the selective media to brain heart infusion broth and by sterile syringe this broth injected in the root canal then incubated an aerobically using anaerobic jar at 37°C for 24 hrs.

Now the irrigant solutions will be used (MTAD, NaOCl 5.25, normal saline) the samples of MTAD irrigated with normal saline in the beginning and the used the MTAD as a final irrigant and left in the canal for 5 min. according to manufacturer's instructions then the canal should be dried by sterile paper points, while the other groups irrigated with 5 ml of NaOCl 5.25 or normal saline and dried the canal by sterile paper point and by using sterile hand piece round bur which inserted inside the root canal and cut the internal wall the canal the dentine chips will be collected and transmitted to BHI broth agar and after 30 min. draw 0.1 ml from this broth agar and add to 0.9 ml (new not contaminated broth agar) and then from this new broth will draw 0.1 ml and add to 0.9 ml to produce 1 ml from this agar inoculate the microorganism on the selective media and incubated at 37°C for 48 hrs, finally check the colonies forming unit CFU.

## 3. Results

**Table 1. demonstrated the descriptive statistics of irrigant solutions which include mean, standard deviation (SD), standard error (SE), minimum and maximum value for (*E. faecalis*)**

material	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% confidence interval for mean		minimum	maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
MTAD	6	4.3333	0.0334	0.0221	-1.5724	11.5724	2.00	7.00
NaOCl	6	11.3333	0.0521	0.0634	5.4151	17.9183	9.00	14.00
Distilled water	6	62.6666	0.0112	0.0202	55.5476	70.4524	60.00	66.00
Total	18	78.3332	0.0967	0.1057	5.3505	47.7606	2.00	66.00

**Table 2. One way ANOVA comparison among the materials revealed a statistically significant difference between groups (p< 0.05)**

	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Between groups	6043.556	2	3021.778	405.910	0.000
Within groups	44.667	6	7.444		
Total	6088.222	8			

**Table 3. Data of antibacterial activity against *E. faecalis* were analyzed by Duncan test as post hoc comparison that revealed a significant difference among their irrigant solutions**

Material	N	Duncan's grouping* mean **		
		A	B	C
MTAD	6	5.0000		
NaOCl	6		11.6667	
Distilled water	6			63.0000
Sig.		1.000	1.000	1.000

\*Different letters mean significant results.

\*\* mean of antibacterial activity.

**Table 4. demonstrated the descriptive statistics of irrigant solutions which include mean, standard deviation (SD), standard error (SE), minimum and maximum value for (*Streptococcus mutans*)**

material	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% confidence interval for mean		minimum	maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
MTAD	6	2.6666	0.0153	0.0133	-1.4612	6.1279	1.00	4.00
NaOCl	6	7.6666	0.0412	0.0255	3.5388	11.1279	6.00	9.00
Distilled water	6	27.6666	0.0111	0.0112	24.4649	30.2018	26.00	28.00
Total	18	37.9998	0.0676	0.0500	3.4770	21.1897	1.00	28.00

**Table 5. One way ANOVA comparison among the materials revealed a statistically significant difference between groups (p< 0.05)**

	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Between groups	1050.000	2	525.000	262.500	0.000
Within groups	12.000	6	2.000		
Total	1062.000	8			

**Table 6. Data of antibacterial activity against *Strept. mutans* were analyzed by Duncan test as post hoc comparison that revealed a significant difference among their irrigant solutions**

Material	N	Duncan's grouping* mean **		
		A	B	C
MTAD	6	2.3333		
NaOCl	6		7.3333	
Distilled water	6			27.3333
Sig.		1.000	1.000	1.000

\*Different letters mean significant results.

\*\* mean of antibacterial activity.

## 4. Discussion

The result from the positive control group showed that irrigation using distilled water is unable to render the root canal system free of bacteria and that the bacteria remained viable throughout the experiment.

MTAD showed a good antibacterial activity more than that of NaOCl against *E. faecalis* and this result in agreement with experiments carried out by [1,3,7] proved that BioPure MTAD possesses superior bactericidal activity compared with NaOCl.

Davis *et al* [8] and Krause *et al.* [9] in 2007 both proved MTAD to be more effective against *E. faecalis* than NaOCl 5.25%. This study also demonstrates that MTAD is effective against arrange of bacteria. Tayet *al.* [10] carried out a similar study that compared MTAD, NaOCl their results confirmed that MTAD was the most effective irrigant in eliminating *E. faecalis*.

Torabinejad *et al.* [11] has compared the effectiveness of MTAD and NaOCl (5.25%) using the ZI technique and discovered their similar antibacterial action against *E. faecalis*.

On the other hand there are others studies in disagreement with our study [2,12], they found the NaOCl more effective than MTAD against *E. faecalis*.

These differences are probably in part explained by methodological differences such as alternative microbial sampling procedures or deviation from the manufacturer's usage recommendations when using BioPure MTAD [3].

The inconsistency in the results may be caused by differences in methodology and variance in strains tested, possibly due to the different concentration of NaOCl, bacterial species and/or slightly different incubation conditions employed [7].

While the results of this study against *S. mutans* was the MTAD had strong antibacterial effect than NaOCl and there is no another study in agreement and / or disagreement with our result.

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