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# Effect Of Nanoparticles Based Root Canal Disinfectants On Enterococcus Faecalis - A Systematic Review

Review Article

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#### Abstract

Aim: The main goal of endodontic treatment is to prevent and to eliminate endodontic infection and allow healing of apical periodontitis. Bacteria is the main etiological factor in the development of dentinal caries and its progression to pulp and periapical disease. The complexity of the root canal system with its isthmuses, ramifications, and dentinal tubules make complete debridement of bacteria almost impossible by conventional methods and therefore irrigation is performed with the highest technical standards. Enterococcus faecalis is the bacterial species most frequently recovered from the root filled teeth and is highly associated with the endodontic failures and shows resistance to common intracanal medications. The increasing resistance of pathogenic bacteria to antibiotics is challenging which has led to the search for new and more efficient antibacterial agents. Nanotechnology has proven to be an effective tool for the fight against bacteria.

Objective: To evaluate the effect of nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants on Enterococcus faecalis.

Search Strategy: A search was performed in the electronic database (i.e., PUBMED CENTRAL, Medline and Google Search) using search terms alone and in combination by means of PUBMED search builder upto October 2020.

Selection Criteria: Studies were selected if they met the following criteria: In vitro/ In vivo studies, ex vivo, randomized controlled trials and Experimental studies evaluating the reduction of microbial load and biofilm biomass upon using Nano-particles based root canal disinfectants.

**Data Collection and Analysis:** All the studies included were based on the data extraction and analysis of the studies for quality and publication bias. The data collection form was customized. The primary outcome measure was to evaluate the microbial load when Nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants were used against Enterococcus faecalis.

Main Results: The results showed that there was a significant difference in the reduction of the microbial load when nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants were used against Enterococcus faecalis.

**Conclusion:** Based on this review, it may be concluded that nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants can be used in the reduction of the Enterococcus faecalis microbial load.

Keywords: Antibacterial; Endodontic Infection; Intracanal Medicaments; Irrigants; Periapical Disease; Nanotechnology.

## Introduction

#### Background

The presence of bacteria and their by-products are responsible for various pulpal and periapical diseases. Enterococcus faecalis is the most dominant biofilm forming bacteria found in teeth with periradicular pathologies. It has an intrinsic resistance to irrigant solutions, intracanal medicaments, several antibiotics, and highly alkaline pH. It has the ability to tolerate starvation, harsh environment, and invade deeply into the dentinal tubules. To achieve complete success in root canal treatment, suppression of the biofilm is necessary [1, 2]. Cleaning and shaping of the root canal along with irrigation protocol have been shown to effectively de-

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crease the number of microorganisms in the root canal. However, these procedures are unable to completely eliminate bacteria from lateral canals, isthmuses, and apical deltas. Therefore, the antibacterial protocol is achieved by utilizing intracanal medicaments [3]. Calcium hydroxide and chlorhexidine have been used since long time as effective intracanal medicaments. In endodontics, nanoparticles have been used as irrigants, intracanal medicaments or root canal sealers [4]. Nanoparticles are a class of newer materials which are hypothesized to have antibacterial effects. They cause disruption of the biofilm due to their nano size and structure. The nano size provides increased surface area which can absorb other medicaments and exert antimicrobial effects [5]. Silver nanoparticles are commonly used as they show strong bactericidal potential against Gram - positive, Gram- negative and multidrug- resistant bacteria. Nanoparticles have an ability to interact with bacterial cell wall leading to structural changes and then damaging the tissue protein [5-7]. The advantage of the use of nanotechnology is an increase in the surface- to- volume ratio of the materials, which increases the solubility, chemical activity and antibacterial efficacy of these agents as intracanal medicaments [3, 8]. Advances in nanotechnology have provided new and promising opportunities to kill bacteria, disrupt biofilm, and control dentinal tubule infection [9, 10]. A wide range of nanoparticles with antimicrobial activity have been developed in the recent years. Although these NPs are a potentially effective technology for endodontic disinfection, the prolonged contact time required to achieve effective bacterial killing and the toxicity issues in silver NPs impose significant drawbacks. Newer nanoparticles formulations as well as other technologies (such as photodynamic therapy) have been reported to enhance biofilm elimination [11, 12]. Previously our team has a rich experience in working on various research projects across multiple disciplines [13-27] Now the growing trend in this area motivated us to pursue this project.

The effect of Nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants on Enterococcus faecalis is evaluated in the current systematic review.

#### **Structured Question**

Does Nanoparticle based root canal disinfectants have any effect on the reduction of Enterococcus faecalis in the root canal system?

#### **PICOS** Analysis

Population- Inoculated root canals, Extracted teeth with microbial species, Cell culture plates

Intervention- Nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants (Irrigants / Intracanal Medicaments)

Comparison- Treatment with commonly used irrigants/ intracanal medicaments

Outcome- Eradication of Enterococcus faecalis bacterial load

Study Design- All experimental studies, randomized controlled studies, In vitro, In vivo and ex-vivo studies

#### Null Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the reduction of Enterococ-

cus faecalis in the root canal system between nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants and other antimicrobial agents.

### Alternate Hypothesis

There is a significant difference in the reduction of Enterococcus faecalis in the root canal system between nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants and other antimicrobial agents.

# **Materials And Methods**

## Sources Used

For identification of studies included or considered for this review, detailed search strategies were developed for the database searched. The MEDLINE search used the combination of controlled vocabulary and free text terms.

## Searched Databases:

PUBMED PUBMED Advanced Search SCIENCE DIRECT Cochrane Database of Systematic Review Google Scholar

## Language

There were no language restrictions

#### Hand Search

The following journals were hand searched:-

Journal of Research in Medical and Dental Science Journal of Nanomaterials Journal of Conservative Dentistry Iranian Endodontic Journal Indian Journal of Dental Research

## **Inclusion Criteria**

Criteria For Considering Studies In This Review:-

In vitro studies assessing the efficacy of nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants against Enterococcus faecalis.

In vivo studies assessing the efficacy of nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants on reduction of Enterococcus faecalis.

Studies evaluating elimination or reduction of bacteria from root canal system.

Randomized controlled studies

#### **Exclusion Criteria**

The Following Studies Were Excluded:-

Studies evaluating the effect of nanoparticles in bovine & animal studies.

Studies in which comparison between nanoparticle based root canal disinfectant & commonly used disinfectant was not done. Studies in which reduction in Enterococcus faecalis microbial load was not evaluated.

## **Characteristics Of Excluded Studies**

A total of 439 studies were excluded from the electronic search owing to the irrelevance. Animal studies and the studies that showed the effect of nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants against oral microorganisms other than oral origin were excluded. A total of 9 articles have been included [Table 2].

## Results

## **Description of Studies**

The search identified 448 publications out of which 437 were excluded after reviewing the title/ abstract and 2 were excluded after reviewing the full articles. A total of 9 publications that fulfilled all criteria for inclusion were selected.

## **Quality Assessment**

The quality assessment of included trials was undertaken independently as a part of the data extraction process. Four main quality criteria were examined:

- 1. Method of Randomization, recorded as
- a. Yes Adequate as described in the text
- b. No Inadequate as described in the text
- c. Unclear in the text
- 2. Allocation Concealment, recorded as
- a. Yes Adequate as described in the text
- b. No Inadequate as described in the text
- c. Unclear in the text
- 3. Outcome assessors blinded to intervention, recorded as
- a. Yes Adequate as described in the text
- b. No Inadequate as described in the text

c. Unclear in the text

4. Completeness of follow- up (was there a clear explanation for withdrawals and dropouts in each treatment group) assessed as:

- a. Yes Dropouts were explained
- b. No Dropouts were not explained
- c. None- No dropouts or withdrawals

Other methodological criteria examined included:

- 1. Presence or absence of sample size calculation
- 2. Comparability of groups at the start
- 3. Clear inclusion/ exclusion criteria

Presence/absence of estimate of measurement error. The validity and reproducibility of the method of assessment.

#### **Risk of Bias in Included Studies**

The assessments for the four main methodological quality items are shown in table. The study was assessed to have a "High risk" of bias if it did not record a "Yes" in three or more of the four main categories, "Moderate " if two out of four categories did not record a "Yes", and "Low" if randomization assessor blinding and completeness of follow - up were considered adequate.

## Discussion

## **Interpretation Of Results**

The purpose of this systematic review was to evaluate the efficacy of nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants against Enterococcus faecalis. Eleven in vitro studies fulfilled the criteria for being included in this review.

No in vivo studies are reported in the literature. Thus, this Systematic Review reported only in- vitro studies.

[28] conducted a study where they evaluated antimicrobial efficacy of silver (Ag Np) and gold nanoparticles (Au Np) with and without Nd: YAG laser (L) irradiation against inoculated enterococcus faecalis in infected human root dentin. The result has shown that the application of Nd:YAG laser in combination with silver nanoparticles irrigation had shown significant effects in the reduction of microbial colonies of enterococcus faecalis when compared to other groups. There was no significant difference between Au + Nd: YAG laser & CHX.

[29] conducted a study to evaluate the efficacy of nanosilver (NS) solution as an endodontic irrigation solution of primary teeth against enterococcus faecalis with colony forming unit test and

#### Table 1. Representing the Variables Of Interest.

<b>S.</b> 1	No	Variables of Interest					
1 Elimination of bacteria from the root canal s							
2	2	Reduction in the microbial load					

## Table 2. Representing the characteristics of excluded studies.

S.No	Author	Year	Reason For Exclusion
1	PE Das et al	2020	No comparison was done with other disinfectant
2	Alzahrani et al	2018	No comparison was done with other disinfectant

Table 3. Representing the General Information And Results Of The Included Articles.

S. No	Author	Study Design	Sample size	Antimicrobial agent used	Method of evaluation	Statistical analysis	Interpretation
1	Kushwaha V et al, 2018	In vitro	n= 120	<ol> <li>Group I - (Negative control group) n=20[3ml normal saline]</li> <li>Group II-(2%CHX) n=20</li> <li>Group III- 3 ml of SNP solution n=20</li> <li>Group IV- 3 ml of GNP solution n=20</li> <li>Group V- (SNP + Nd: YAG lasers) n=20</li> <li>Group VI-(GNP + Nd: YAG Lasers n=20</li> </ol>	CFU/ml	One way ANOVA Tukey's Post hoc test	AgNPs & Nd:YAG lasers resulted in significant reduction in micro- bial load when compared to other disinfectants. Au+Nd:YAG laser & CHX showed similar effect.
2	Moradi & Haghgoo et al, 2018	Ex-Vivo	n = 30	<ol> <li>Group A- Nanosilver particles ( n=10)</li> <li>Group B- 2.5% Naoel (n=10)</li> <li>Group C- Saline (n=10)</li> </ol>	CFU/ml	Kolmogorov- smirnov, Welch Dunnett's , T3 test	Sodium hypochlorite showed the highest antimicrobial effective- ness against E. faecalis & showed significant differences. NS solution can also be used as an alternative root canal irrigant as it showed antibacterial activity.
3	Bukhari et al,2018	In vitro study	Extracted teeth with microbial species Sample size not mentioned	Group 1- PBS (negative control) Group 2- 3% H2O2 Group 3- Io-Np (0.5 mg/ml) Group 4- Io-Np (0.5mg/ml) ± 3% H2O2 Group 5- 3% NaOcl Group 6- 2% CHX	SEM coupled energy with dispersive spec- troscopy Confocal laser scanning microscopy	2- tailed un- paired t test -	IO-Np's/ H2O2 was significantly better & shows better antibacterial activity when compare to conven- tional irrigants.
4	Pagonis et al,2010	In vitro Study	n = 32	Group 1- No light/no MB nanoparticle (control) Group 2- MB-loaded nanoparticles Group 3- Light and MB-loaded nano- particle	CFU	Two way analy- sis of variance	MB- loaded nanoparticles may be used as an adjunct in endodontic treatment.
5	Aseel Haidar MJ et al,2019	In Vitro Study	n =55	Group I- 100 ppm silver nanoparti- cles=15 Group II- 2.5 sodium hypochlorite=15 Group III- 2 % Chlorhexidinen=15 Group IV – Normal saline n=10 (control group)	CFU/ml	Shapiro –Wilk test, One –way ANOVA & Games- Howell test	Ag NPs proved to be as effective as NaOCl & CHX in terms of antibacterial action.
6	Pedro IV Gonzalez Luna et al, 2016	An Ex Vivo Study	n =120	Group A- n=30, teeth irrigated with a dispersion of silver of silver nano- particle Group B- n=30, teeth irrigated with a sodium hypochlorite solution (2.25%) Group C- n=30,teeth irrigated with a dispersion of silver nanoparticles + EDTA (17%) Group D-30 teeth with a saline solution	Spectrophoto- meter by measur- ing turbidity	One way ANOVA	There was no significant difference between the bactericidal effect of AgNps & 2.25% NaOCl.
7	Jhamb et al, 2020	In Vitro Study	Culture plates were used	Group I- Silver Nanocure gel, Group 2- Silver Nanocure gel +Cavis- pet gel(1:1) Group 3- Silver Nanocure gel + Aveu – Cal gel(1:1) Group 4- Silver Nanocure gel + Cavis- pet gel + Aveu- cal gel(1:1:1)	Agar diffusion test	Student t- tests	When silver nanoparticles were combined with CaOH & CHX , the antibacterial activity was enhanced.
8	Samiei et al, 2018	In vitro study	n =132	Group 1- Calcium hydroxide with 0.12% CHX paste Group 2- Zinc oxide nanoparticles gel Group 3- Zinc oxide/ silver nanopar- ticle gel Group 4- Normal saline ( control group)	CFU/ml	One Way ANOVA	The mixture of calcium hydrox- ide/ chlorhexidine was effective against E.faccalis & show better antibacterial effect as compared to other groups. Addition of silver nanoparticles to ZnO did not reduce the bacterial count.
9	De Almeida et al, 2018	In Vitro Study	n =72	Group 1 – 0.85% saline n=12 Group 2- 2% Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHX) n=12 Group 3- 5% sodium hypochlorite( NaOCl) n=12 Group 4 – 1% NaOCl n=12 Group 5 - 1% silver nanoparticle solu- tion n=12 Group 6- 26% ZnO Np solution n=12	CFU/ml SEM	Kruskal-Wallis & Dunn post hoc tests	Silver nanoparticles & Zinc oxide nanoparticles were as effective as conventional irrigants in terms of antimicrobial activity.

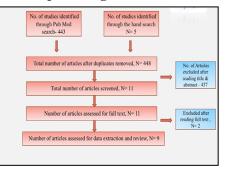
S.No	S to day	Randomi-	Allocation	Assessor	Dropouts
	Study	zation	Concealment	Blinding	Described
1	Kushwaha V et al 2018	No	No	No	No
2	Moradit & Haghgoo et al 2018	No	No	No	No
3	Bukhari et al 2018	No	No	No	No
4	Pagonis et al 2010	No	No	No	No
5	Aseel Haidar MJ	No	No	No	No
5	AL - Haidar et al, 2019	INO			
6	Pedro IV Gonzalez Luna et al, 2016	No	No	No	No
7	Jhamb et al, 2020	No	No	No	No
8	Samiei et al, 2018	No	No	No	No
9	De Almeida et al, 2018	No	No	No	No

#### Table 4. Representing the RISK OF BIAS - MAJOR CRITERIA.

#### Table 5. Representing the RISK OF BIAS - MINOR CRITERIA.

S.No	Storday	Sample	Baseline	I/E Cri-	Method	
5.10	Study	justified	Comparison	teria	Error	
1	Kushwaha V et al 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
2	Moradit & Haghgoo et al 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
3	Bukhari et al 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
4	Pagonis et al 2010	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
5	Aseel Haidar MJ	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
5	AL - Haidar et al, 2019					
6	Pedro IV Gonzalez Luna et al, 2016	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
7	Jhamb et al, 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
8	Samiei et al, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
9	De Almeida et al, 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

#### Figure 1. Representing the Search Flow chart.



found that the sodium hypochlorite showed the highest antimicrobial effectiveness against E. faecalis when compared with normal saline and NS solution.

[30], tested the efficacy of iron oxide nanoparticles against E. faecalis and compared with 3%  $H_2O_2$ , Io-Np's, Io-Np's + 3%  $H_2O_2$ , 3% NaoCl and 2% CHX. It has shown that the IO-NP's/  $H_2O_2$ was significantly better & shows better antibacterial activity when compared to conventional irrigants.

In a study conducted by [31] used MB- loaded PLGA (Poly lacticco-glycolic acid) nanoparticles for evaluation of in vitro against E. faecalis. It has also shown that the photodynamic effects of the nanoparticles play an important role against E. faecalis. Hence, concluded that the utilization of PLGA nanoparticles with photodynamic therapy can be used as an adjunct in antimicrobial endodontic treatment.

Aseel Haidar MJ AL- Haidar conducted a study wherein he investigated the antibacterial effect of silver nanoparticles, sodium hypochlorite & chlorhexidine in reducing the bacterial infection of the root canals by colony forming unit. AgNP's proved to be as effective as NaOCl & CHX in terms of antibacterial action.

[32] conducted a study to determine the bactericidal effect of silver nanoparticles as a final irrigation used in endodontics when compared with the sodium hypochlorite solution, silver nanoparticles + EDTA and saline solution.Silver nanoparticles as an en-

dodontic irrigant can be used against E.faecalis as it shows same effect with 2.25% NaOCl.

In a study conducted by [33] he compared the antibacterial effects of silver nanoparticle gel alone & in combination of silver nanoparticle gel with various medicaments by using agar diffusion test. It has found that when silver nanoparticles were combined with CaOH & CHX, the antibacterial activity was enhanced.

[34], compared the antibacterial effects of two gels containing Zinc oxide & Zinc oxide ( Silver nanoparticles & a mixture of calcium hydroxide , 0.12 % CHX as an intracanal medicament in root canals which was contaminated with E. faecalis. It has shown that the mixture of calcium hydroxide / CHX was effective against E.faecalis & show better antibacterial effect as compared to other groups. Addition of silver nanoparticles to ZnO did not reduce the bacterial count.

[35] compared the efficacy of silver & zinc oxide nanoparticles with conventional endodontic irrigants against E. faecalis biofilm in root canals tested by using colony forming unit analysis & SEM and found that the 1% AgNp + 26% ZnO nanoparticles were as effective as conventional endodontic irrigants against E. faecalis. Our institution is passionate about high quality evidence based research and has excelled in various fields [17, 36-45].

Out of 11 studies included in this systematic review, 4 studies showed that nanoparticles based disinfectants were better in eradicating Enterococcus faecalis as compared to the commonly used disinfectants. 1 study showed that there is no significant difference between nanoparticle based disinfectant and commonly used disinfectants. 4 studies showed that the combination of nanoparticles with other agents was effective and showed a significant difference. Studies by Samiei et.al, Moradi & Haghgoo et.al showed that commonly used disinfectants were better than the nanoparticles.

#### Meta- analysis

Mostly systematic reviews will perform meta analysis, which involves the statistical pooling of data from individual studies when the studies are similar. A meta - analysis can yield a more precise overall estimate of the treatment effect. However, meta- analysis may not be appropriate in many situations. Owing to the heterogeneity among the studies, we could not perform a meta- analysis to summarize the data of included articles. Hence, only descriptive evaluation of data has been provided.

#### **Quality of Evidence**

All the studies included in this review have a level of evidence 5. All are in vitro studies, thus the level of evidence is low.

### Implications for practice

Nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants can be used as an antimicrobial agent either solely or in combination with other disinfectants for root canal treatment.

#### Implications for Research

In future, research should be aimed at utilizing this nanoparticles

based root canal disinfectants in animal and human populations to exert its associations with other products.

# Conclusion

Nanoparticles based root canal disinfectants can be considered as an alternative disinfectant or can be combined with other disinfectants to exert antimicrobial effect. However, no clinical trials exist on the topic; randomized controlled trials need to be performed to extrapolate the results to the clinical scenario.

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