

Nanosilver gel versus zinc oxide-allium sativum oil paste as obturation materials following partial pulpectomy of primary molars: An in vivo study

*Ahmed S. Abdelmoaty**, *Samy Y. El-Bayoumy*** and *Tamer A. El-Mansy****

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The aim of this study was to evaluate the clinical and radiographic success of nanosilver gel in paste form versus zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil paste as obturation materials following partial pulpectomy in primary molars.

Materials and methods: Forty eight primary molars of forty eight children aged between 4 and 8 years with pulpally involved primary molars requiring root canal procedures were equally divided to 3 groups and treated with nanosilver paste zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil paste and zinc oxide eugenol as obturation materials following partial pulpectomy procedure. The subjects were followed up clinically and radiographically at one week, 6 weeks and 3 months, respectively.

Results: The results showed that the clinical and radiographic success rates of nanosilver gel in paste form and zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil paste over 3 months periods of observation were 100% whereas, for zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil and zinc oxide eugenol paste, the results were 87.5% and 81.25%, respectively.

Conclusion: On the basis of the overall success rates of all the three obturation material, following order of performance can be inferred clinical and radiographic success :- nanosilver paste > zinc oxide *allium sativum* paste > zinc oxide eugenol

*Reseacher in Pedodontics and Oral Health department, Faculty of Dental Medicine (Cairo, Boys), Al Azhar University.

**Professor of Pedodontics and Oral Health department, Faculty of Dental Medicine (Cairo, Boys), Al Azhar University.

*** Lecturer of Pedodontics and Oral Health department, Faculty of Dental Medicine (Cairo, Boys), Al Azhar University.

paste.

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INTRODUCTION

Preserving deciduous teeth near to their shedding time is essential for many aspects such as the child's growth and development, esthetic, functional, psychological, and dental arch integrity aspects.¹ Necrotic pulp is one of the sequelae of dental caries or trauma which may lead to abscess, fistula or sinus formation.² The complex nature of the deciduous root canal system facilitates the spread of pathogenic microbes through lateral and accessory canals, dentinal tubules, apical ramifications, and the possibility of harming the tooth germ of permanent successor, and subsequently, these barriers make total removal of necrotic tissue by instrumentation alone impossible.³ Root canal procedure for non-vital pulp tissue that is irreversibly infected or necrotic due to caries or trauma is partial pulpectomy.

It is generally impossible to achieve neither a total pulpectomy nor a complete negotiation of accessory canals in primary molars that will then become, by force of circumstances, a partial pulpectomy. Therefore, the use of a chemical and pharmacological shaping based on antiseptic and antibiotic properties of endodontic irrigants and medications should be used.⁴ For an ideal root canal filling material, the following properties are required: (1) Resorbability, (2) antiseptic property, (3) noninflammatory and nonirritating to the underlying permanent tooth germ, (4) radiopacity, (5) ease of insertion and removal, (6) cost effective, (7) ability to seal canal properly, (9) ability to set under wet conditions, and (10) nonstaining to the tooth.⁵

At present, the commonly used material for primary root canal fillings is nonreinforced zinc oxide eugenol. However, its usage reported many shortcomings as slow resorption, irritation to periapical tissues, necrosis of bone and cementum, and alteration in the path of eruption of succedaneous teeth led to search

for its substitute.^{6,7}

With the demand for new biocompatible and antimicrobial agents, nano scale material of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) and *allium sativum* oil (garlic oil) may pay more attention in the coming years as alternative filling materials for pulpally involved and treated deciduous teeth. Both materials have a therapeutic effect via its broad spectrum antibacterial effect as well as its less cytotoxic effect without the development of drug resistance.^{8,9}

Nanotechnology is considered to be a breakthrough in the field of medicine. It can be useful in producing advanced biomaterials with unique physical, chemical, and biological properties. This is mainly approached by enhancing surface-to-volume ratio. To control various biological processes, we can use nanomaterials with predefined geometries, surface characteristics, and mechanical strength.¹⁰

The antibacterial effect of AgNPs has been tested in various in vitro studies and in vivo. Micro-organisms are less likely to develop resistance against silver compared with antibiotics. AgNPs interact with multiple targets in the microbial cell, such as cell membrane, enzymes, and plasmids, simultaneously providing the bacteria with the least capacity to gain resistance.¹¹

Allium sativum is commonly known as garlic and is used to treat many infectious diseases due to its potent antimicrobial property because of the presence of allicin produced by enzyme alliinase which is active against a wide spectrum of bacteria.¹² It inhibits various Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria including multidrug resistant strains of *Streptococcus mutans* isolated from human carious teeth.¹³

In the research to find an ideal obturating material or alternate treatment option for tooth requiring pulpectomy, the present *in vivo* study was undertaken to evaluate and compare clinical and radiographic success of nanosilver gel in paste form versus zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil paste as root canal filling

materials for primary tooth.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was a longitudinal prospective, interventional study comprising of forty eight primary non-vital molars in healthy cooperative children with age range (4 – 8 years old) indicated for partial pulpectomy. Children were selected from the Out-patient Clinic of Pedodontics Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Al-Azhar University. Ethical approval from the Institutional Ethical Committee and consent from the parents/guardians were obtained.

Selection criteria for primary molars:

Clinical inclusion criteria: 14

1. Class I or II according to American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)
2. Necrotic pulp tissues which may be asymptomatic or manifested with dull ache pain
3. Pathological tooth mobility
4. Percussion sensitivity
5. Swelling close to involved tooth accompanied with or without fistula

Radiographic characteristics of the root and supporting structures: 15, 16

1. The extension of radiolucency at the furcation area did not exceed the half of the space between the furcation and the permanent successor
2. No internal root resorption
3. External root resorption (Physiologic or pathologic) limited to apical third and with at least two-thirds root intact

Exclusion criteria:

1. Uncooperativeness of child and/or parents or caregiver's behavior
2. Unrestorable tooth
3. Presence of internal root resorption
4. Presence of calcific metamorphosis inside root canals

5. Presence of root resorption exceeding one third of its length

Selected patients were divided into three main groups according to type of different obturation materials as follows:

Group (A): 16 primary molars were received 0.03 mg/mL nanosilver gel with 50 nm average sized particles.

Group (B): 16 primary molars were received paste that was made by mixing zinc oxide powder with A.sativum oil "garlic extract oil".

Group (C): 16 primary molars were received ZOE paste as control group.

Partial pulpectomy procedure:

One-visit partial pulpectomy was adopted in this study for treating primary molars without acute symptoms such as cellulitis or active discharge.¹⁷ First, local anesthetic mepivacaine hydrochloride with levonordefrin 120,000 was administrated (ALEXANDERIA Co. for PHARMACUTICS, Egypt) and rubber dam application. Then, decay was removed, access to the pulp chamber and removal of the pulp chamber roof by # 558 non end cutting bur under air/water coolant. Coronal pulp tissue remnants were removed with sharp, sterile excavator, or large bur in a low speed handpiece. K \square files used for instrumentation of root canals manually up to a # 30 to 35 according to the estimated working length which was 2 mm short of radiographic apex to avoid over instrumentation.¹⁸ Saline and 2.5% Sodium hypochlorite irrigation were used for removal of debris. Dryness was done using paper points size 35 and 40. After placement of the root canal filling material, tooth restored by stainless steel crown and glass ionomer lutting cement. All of these steps were done in all groups and the main difference was in the filling material.

Preparation and placement of nanosilver gel in paste form:

Silver nanoparticles have been prepared by chemical reduction method as reported by Turkevich *et al.*¹⁹ and, Lee and Meisel.²⁰ A

solution of silver nitrate has been used as Ag^{1+} ions precursor. The color of the solution slowly turned into grayish yellow, indicating the reduction of the Ag^{1+} ions to Ag nanoparticles. It is prepared and requested from NanoTech, 6th October, Giza, Egypt. It was loaded to a disposable plastic syringe with 26 Gauge and 5/8 inch needle from “Ameco® medical industries”.

Preparation and placement of zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil paste:

A medium consistency mixture of *allium sativum* oil (CAPpharm, Cairo, Egypt, [registration No.952/94]) with zinc oxide powder [Prevest DentPro®, India] was delivered to root canal using lentulo spirals (MANI Inc.).

Preparation and placement of zinc oxide eugenol paste:

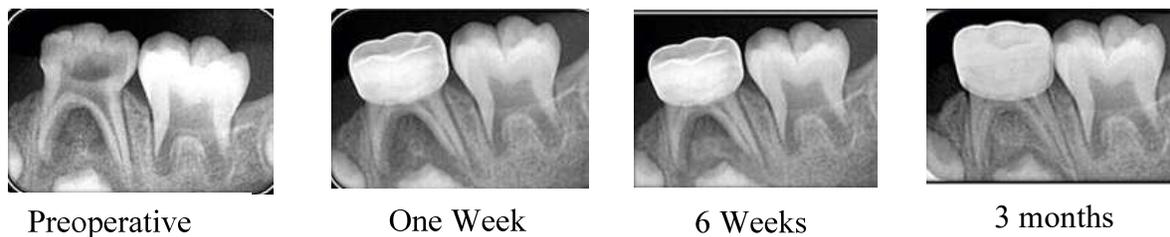
A medium consistency mixture of eugenol oil with zinc oxide powder [Prevest DentPro®, India] was delivered to root canal using lentulo spirals (MANI Inc.).

Clinical and radiographic evaluation:

After treatment, clinical and radiographic evaluations were done at one week, 6 weeks and 3months. The preoperative and follow up radiographs are shown in Figures 1-3. Blinded clinical evaluations were performed by the operator. The radiographic evaluations were carried out by two pediatric dentistry specialists. The interrater agreement was measured using Cohen’s kappa coefficient ($k = 0.94$). This value indicated a strong agreement between the two examiners. The criteria for clinical success were absence of spontaneous pain, absence of tenderness to percussion, No abnormal mobility and absence of swelling and sinus or fistula.^{21, 22} The criteria for radiographic success were no evidence of extensive pathologic root resorption; reduction or no change in pre-operative pathologic inter- radicular or periapical radiolucency and no evidence of development of new post-operative pathologic radiolucency involving succedaneous tooth germ.²³⁻⁶ The treatment was judged to be successful when both clinical and radiographic criteria were fulfilled.

Group (A) “Nanosilver paste”

Figure 1: Radiographic assesment of badly decayed lower left primary molar of 6 years old girl.



Group (B) “Zinc oxide *allium sativum* oil paste”

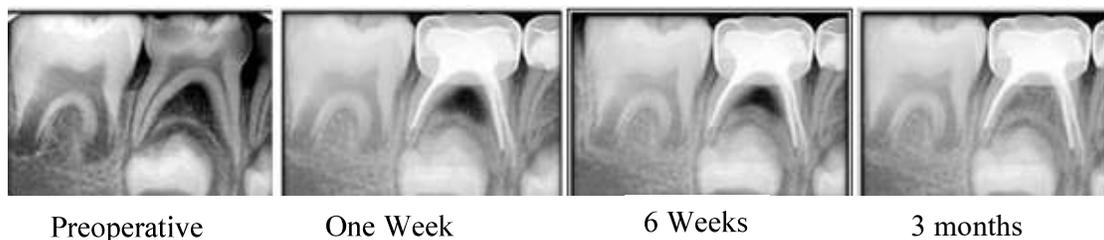


Figure 2: Radiographic assesment of badly decayed lower right primary molar of 7years old boy.

Group (C) "Zinc oxide eugenol paste"



Figure 3: Radiographic assesment of badly decayed lower left primary molar of 5 years old boy.

Statistical testing:

Statistical analysis performed using the Chi-square test. Values of $P \leq 0.05$ were considered significant.

RESULTS:

Distribution of tooth type in the sample is shown in Table 1. Before treatment, the majority of the teeth in three groups presented with pain or tenderness to percussion. Pre and postoperative and followup clinical and radiological examinations at one week, 6weeks, and 3 months are shown in Table 2 and Table3.

Tooth type	Nano silver gel in paste from (Group A)	Zinc Oxide allium sativum Paste (Group B)	Zinc oxide Eugenol Paste (Group C)
	No.	No.	No.
First molar			
➤ Lower	4	5	5
➤ Upper	3	3	2
Second molar			
➤ Lower	6	6	8
➤ Upper	3	2	1

Table 1: Distribution of study sample according to tooth type treated in three groups

Signs and symptoms	Preoperative			Postoperative								
				1 week			6 weeks			3 months		
	Group (A) (n=16)	Group (B) (n=16)	Group (C) (n=16)	Group (A) (n=16)	Group (B) (n=16)	Group (C) (n=16)	Group (A) (n=16)	Group (B) (n=16)	Group (C) (n=16)	Group (A) (n=16)	Group (B) (n=16)	Group (C) (n=16)
Pain	15 (93.7%)	14 (87.5%)	15 (93.7%)	0 (0%)	2 (12.5%)	3 (18.7%)						
Abscess	7 (43.7%)	9 (56.3%)	5 (31.3%)	0 (0%)	2 (12.5%)	3 (18.7%)						
Mobility	7 (43.7%)	8 (50%)	4 (25%)	0 (0%)	2 (12.5%)	3 (18.7%)						
Pain on percussion	16 (100%)	15 (93.7%)	16 (100%)	0 (0%)	2 (12.5%)	3 (18.7%)						

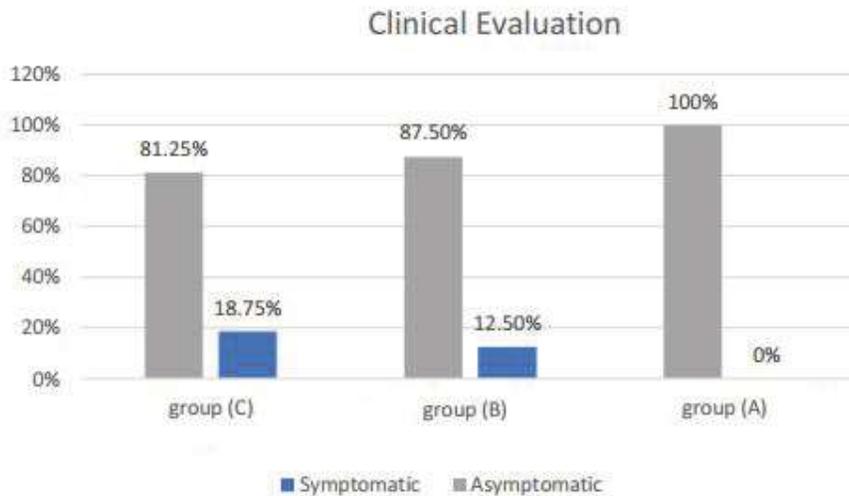
Table 2: Clinical evaluation preoperative and postoperative at one week, 6 weeks and 3 months

Radiographic findings	Preoperative			Postoperative								
				1 week			6 weeks			3 months		
	Group 1 (n=16), n (%)	Group 2 (n=16), n (%)	Group 3 (n=16), n (%)	Group 1 (n=16), n (%)	Group 2 (n=16), n (%)	Group 3 (n=16), n (%)	Group 1 (n=16), n (%)	Group 2 (n=16), n (%)	Group 3 (n=16), n (%)	Group 1 (n=16), n (%)	Group 2 (n=16), n (%)	Group 3 (n=16), n (%)
Interradicular radiolucency present/ same in size after treatment	16 (100)	16 (100)	16 (100)	16 (100)	16 (100)	16 (100)	6 (37.5)	8 (50)	12 (75)	0 (0)	2 (12.5)	4 (25)
Decrease in size after treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 (62.5)	8 (50)	4 (25)	16 (100)	13 (81.25)	9 (56.3)
Increase in size after treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6.25)	3 (18.7)

Table 3: Radiographic evaluation at one week, 6 weeks and 3 months

Postoperative clinical findings:

At one week and 6 weeks clinical evaluation, all teeth of three groups were asymptomatic and revealed excellent clinical signs of success. Meanwhile, at 3 months all teeth of group (A) remained asymptomatic but 2 cases of group (B) failed and responded negatively to the treatment (12.5%) and were extracted due to persistence pain, tenderness and swelling. For group (C), 3 cases were failed clinically and extracted for showing clinical signs of failure. The clinical success difference was found between the three groups at end of 3 months [Graph 1]. The clinical success for three groups had no statistically significant difference was found between the three groups at the end of 3 months [$P > 0.05$] as shown in table 4.



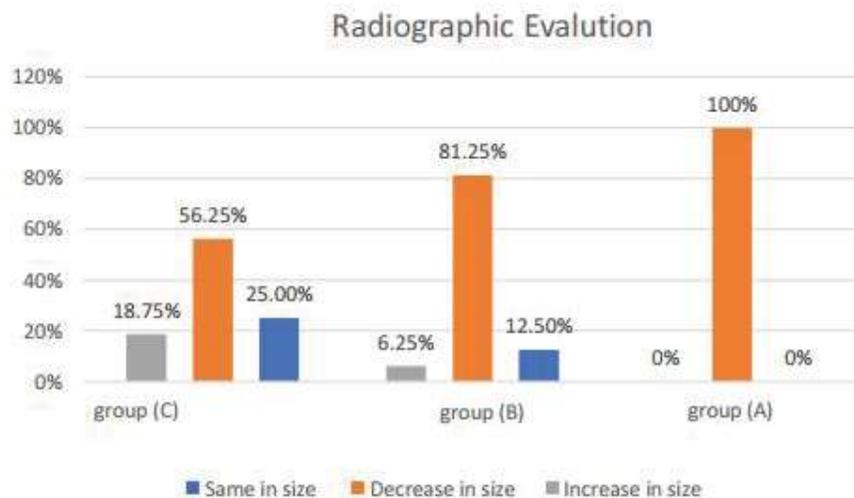
Graph1: Clinical success of three group groups at 3 months

Character	Group (A)	Group (B)	Group (C)
Sub. No.	16	16	16
Success cases	16	14	13
Percentage Success cases	100%	87.5%	81.25%
Failed cases percentage	0 (0%)	2 (12.5%)	3 (18.75%)
P value	0.003	0.012	0.029
	A:B= 0.015; A:C= 0.032; B:C= 0.302 A:B:C= 0.305		

Table 4: Showing overall success and failure of clinical and radiographic evaluations

Postoperative radiographic findings:

At the end of 3 months, radiographic success for group (A) was (100%) as bone radiolucency decrease in size of all treated teeth. Meanwhile, radiographic success for group (B) and group (C) were 87.5% and 81.25%, respectively. Bone radiolucency reduction were notices in 13 cases (81.25) and 9 cases (56.25%) while, 1 case (6.25%) and 3 cases (18.75%) were shown increase in bone radiolucency for group (B) and group (C), respectively and the rest as 2 cases (12.5%) in group (B) and 4 cases of group (C) remained the same in size. One case of group (B) remain the same in size but show clinical failure thus, it was considered a radiographic failure [Graph 2]. Radiographic findings at end of 3 months showed statistical significance difference between group (A) versus group (B) and between group (A) and group (B); [$P < 0.05$]. However, no statistical significance between the three groups [$P > 0.05$] as shown in Graph 2 and table 4.



Graph 2: Radiographic success of three groups at 3 months

DISCUSSION

Up to the available data, the use *A. sativum* oil and nanosilver gel in endodontic treatment of primary teeth is limited especially the *in vivo* studies. These *in vivo* studies were conducted to evaluate allium sativum oil as intracanal irrigant material compared to conventional sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) in primary teeth.²⁷ The *in vivo* study regarding nanosilver paste was conducted to study its antimicrobial efficacy as intracanal medicament in permanent incisors in adult compared to conventional use of calcium hydroxide [Ca(OH)₂].²⁸ Thus, the current study was conducted to evaluate the use of *A. sativum* and nanosilver as filling materials after partial pulpectomy procedure in primary molars.

The clinical and radiographic success rates of pulpectomy in primary teeth demonstrate variety among different studies. This variation might be attributed to the differences in study design in terms of; (a) inclusion and exclusion criteria; (b) follow-up periods; (c) pulpectomy technique, including mechanical instrumentation, irrigants and their concentration, and the filling material used for obturation; and (d) pulpectomy method (i.e., one versus two visits method). All of these variables have to be taken into consideration when comparing the current study results with other studies. However, it is useful to mention some of studies for comparison.

The clinical and radiographic result of the zinc oxide eugenol (control group) in the current study was (81.25%) after 3 months, which slightly lower than the results of a study performed by Trairatvorakul and Chunlasikaiwan. They reported 96% and 93% clinical and radiographic success rates at 6 and 12 months, respectively, out of 27 infected primary molars.²⁹ However, these results were nearly similar to the clinical and radiographic success of ZOE group which varies from 85% to 100% in one-visit pulpectomy for 20 infected primary molars.³⁰ On the other hand, the results of ZOE in this study were slightly higher than the study that conducted by Mortazavi & Mesbahi which reported a 78.5%

overall success rate of 52 necrotic primary teeth pulpectomized with ZOE.²⁴

CONCLUSION

Within the limits of the present *in vivo* study, it is concluded that nanosilver gel in paste form and zinc oxide allium sativum oil paste can be used effectively as partial pulpectomy agents in deciduous teeth.

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