



Interactions of Glycyrrhizin with the Peri-Implant Microbiome, an Analysis of Molecular Mechanisms using *In Silico* Validation Tools

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Abstract

Dental implants are almost replacing all the tooth supported fixed prosthesis as it involves extra two teeth for replacing a single tooth which are missing. The survival rates of implants are also about 96.4% to 99% over a period of 10 years. The primary concern is the healing period which is quite longer than fixed prosthesis and maintenance is also a major concern for the survival of the implant. It has been observed that patients who have multiple implants, when they lost one implant due to peri implant disease the risk of losing the other implants due to the same cause increases multifold times.

This study is to evaluate whether the use of glycyrrhizin will have any impact on the peri implantitis causing microbes and relate with the medications that can be used in the near future.

Keywords: Peri-implant; *Staphylococcus aureus*; *Tannerella forsythia*; *Bacteroides fragilis*

Introduction

This study is mainly find that the microbes will against certain *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (D7S-1), *Centipeda periodontii* (ATCC 35019), *Campylobacter gracilis* (RM3268), *Fusobacterium nucleatum* (ATCC 25586), *Slackia exigua* (ATCC 700122), *Prevotella intermedia* (ATCC 700821), *Tannerella forsythia* (ATCC 43037), *Staphylococcus aureus* (NCTC8325), *Bacteroides fragilis* (ATCC25285) and their interactions with glycyrrhizin are evaluated using STITCH v.5 and the virulence properties of the interacting proteins were deduced using VICMpred and virulentpred software [1]. The given bacterial strains were included in the STITCH database and analysis was done using a user defined query [2].

Literature Review

Prediction of bacterial protein and metal oxide interactions

STITCH database (Version 5) is an open source platform with an exhaustive collection of data about interactions both physical and functional associations made possible by computational prediction of interactions from primary databases Szklarczyk D, et al. the repertoire of proteins which interacts with *A. actinomycetemcomitans* (D7S-1), *B. fragilis* (ATCC 25285), *C. gracilis* (RM 3268), *F. nucleatum* (ATCC 10953), *P. gingivalis* (ATCC 33277), *T. denticola* (ATCC 35405), *S. exigua* (ATCC700122) and *T. forsythia* (ATCC 43037) [3].

Prediction of subcellular localization of the virulent protein

Subcellular localization of proteins helps in the identification of drug targets and could serve as a potential target for new medicines, cell surface proteins are of great interest as they can be used as novel drug targets [4]. Gneg-mPLoc is an algorithm that assigns a probable localization site to a protein from an amino acid sequence provided [5].

The STITCH v5 tool was used to evaluate the interaction between the microbe and element of interest, the protein target derivatives of the reactions were further processed with algorithms of VICMpred and virulentpred to categorize the outcomes as virulent and avirulent. Glycyrrhizin as a molecule was found to react with proteins involved with cellular metabolism, and cellular processes [6-8]. It is interesting to observe that the element of interest also interacted with virulence factors of the peri-implant pathogens the most common interactions involved enzymes glutaminase, glutamine synthetase, and superoxide group of enzymes which are primarily involved in nitrogen metabolism and, enzymes involved in free radical production [9]. In addition to these predictions, the subcellular localization of the ten virulent factors and epitope analysis was also carried out and most of the proteins targeted were found to be present at the cytoplasm-periplasm compartment [10].

Discussion

A cause and effect relationship between peri-implant biofilms and peri-implant mucositis has been observed, the microflora on initial examination was thought to be similar to that of periodontitis more specifically the red complex bacteria, initial colonization of peri-implant surfaces by bacteria can occur in a matter of 2 weeks and reports state that there is a difference in the total bacterial count between implants affected by the disease compared to that of healthy peri-implant tissue and the microflora is distinct than that of periodontitis [11-14]. More recently due to improved sample processing techniques investigations revealed that the peri-implant biofilm is a complex ecosystem comprised of mixed, rather variable and in most cases dominated by gram negative anaerobic bacteria, based on available evidences the most common species found to be present are *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Tannerella forsythia*, *Treponema denticola*, *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, *Prevotella intermedia*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Campylobacter* species, and *Bacteroides* species, thus these strains were considered for this study. No metal or metal alloy is completely inert *in vivo* because of constant contact with tissues, body fluids which in turn acts as a source for electrochemical interactions and, mechanical loading of

the implant leads to loss of ions by friction and electrochemical exchange, this process is referred to as bio tribocorrosion, it has also been suggested that long standing accumulation of biofilms and mechanical strain causes implant surfaces to deteriorate and the ability to implant surface to re-passivate also tends to reduce as the inflammatory response and mechanical wear persists [15]. Presence of high levels of dissolved titanium was detected in submucosal plaque around implants when compared to intervention free sites, thus indicating an association between Ti dissolution and peri-implantitis [16]. The oxide corrosion products were found in newly formed trabecular bone and peri-implant vasculature and systemically distributed, the oxide particles tend to be cytotoxic having an effect on the cells of immunity and it has been noted that smaller the particle size greater the toxicity, this particle also has an influence on host immunity causing activation of macrophage and consequently IL-1 β release the cascade of events leads to osteoclastogenesis and osteolysis. Other workers have observed peri-implantitis to be present in situations where the microbial threat is removed or under control through frequent supportive measures, there is evidence which proposes that titanium oxide debris causes immune-modulatory changes which bring about degenerative changes in osseous and periodontal tissues, this is because of the fact that immune cells around the implant that is the polymorphonuclear neutrophils, macrophages and monocytes recognize the implant as a foreign body, and release various signalling molecules such as reactive oxygen species, IL-8, TNF α , IL-6, IL-4, IL-10 which in turn affect the osteogenic capacity of the osteoblasts that adhere to that material surface, it has been proposed that surfaces roughness of the implant has a significant immunomodulatory effects and that the macrophages tended to polarise towards a classical M1 phenotype which upon activation are known to secrete high levels of proinflammatory cytokines [17]. However it is interesting to note that TiO₂ has a continuous photocatalytic antimicrobial activity against pathogens, this metal oxide alone or in combination with other metals like silver, copper or zinc is shown to have antimicrobial property and the same has been explored to a lesser extent [18]. In the present study we observe a good number of interactions between TiO₂ and common peri-implant pathogens the target was mostly enzymes involved in cellular nitrogen metabolism which in turn brings about alteration in protein synthesis hindering the ability of bacteria cause virulence, thus it can be taken that titanium modifies peri-implant microbiome and has potential antibacterial activity much light has to be shed on this aspect and the same would be clinically useful in management of peri-implant disease by modifying implant surfaces or and we can deduce that peri-implantitis is a complex disorder which has multifactorial causation, and more experimental exploration on this aspect to be carried out to produce effective treatment outcomes [19].

Conclusion

Peri-implantitis is one of the major concern which influences the success rate of dental implants, however effective the treatment plan be the occurrence of this inflammatory disease is unavoidable at times, from this observation we draw to a conclusion that glycyrrhizin indeed undergoes degenerative changes and has the potential to modify the peri implant micro flora by interacting with the their metabolic processes and could potentially increase the auto immune response that one could expect.

Author Contributions

First author (Karthickraj S) performed the analysis and interpretation and wrote the manuscript. Second author (Sahana Selvaganesh) contributed to conception, data design, analysis, interpretation and critically revised the manuscript. Third author (Thiyaneswaran N) critically reviewed the manuscript. All the authors have discussed results and revised the manuscript.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

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