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7 - 9 May 2013

at Pullman Pattaya Hotel, Chonburi, Thailand



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sittichai Koontongkaew'.

Prof. Dr. Sittichai Koontongkaew

Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Thammasat University

Conference Chair



30th Anniversary D E F C T

The Dental Faculty Consortium of Thailand



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**Dental Faculty
Consortium
of Thailand
Academic Meeting
and Research
Presentation
(DFCT2013)**



7-9 May, 2013

Pullman Pattaya Hotel, Chonburi, Thailand

The Dental Faculty Consortium of Thailand
Faculty of Dentistry, Thammasat University

Scientific Presentation Program

7 May 2013

- 13.45 – 14.30
KS01 Teaching and Research in 21st century.....26
 Professor Dr. Vicharn Panich
- 14.30 – 15.00
IS02 The Metastatic Niche and Oral Cancer Progression.....28
 Professor Dr. Sittichai Koontongkaew
- 15.15 – 15.45
IS03 Aloe vera: It is not just for skin anymore.....29
 Associate Professor Dr. Pasutha Thunyakitpisal
- 15.45 – 16.15
IS04 Neurophysiology of the Intra-Dental Nerves and Sensory30
 Mechanism of Dentine in Normal and Inflamed Pulp
 Associate Professor Dr. Noppakun Vongsavan

8 May 2013

- 09.00 – 09.30
IS02 Fluoride-Antibacterial Approaches to Improve Caries Control27
 Professor J.M. (Bob) Ten Cate
- 09.30 – 10.00
IS05 Effect of Probiotics on Oral Health31
 Professor Dr. Rawee Teanpaisan
- 10.00 – 10.30
IS06 Development of Thai Herbs for Oral Health32
 Associate Professor Dr. Suwimol Taweechaisupapong
- 10.45 – 11.15
IS07 Writing Case reports in Order to Understand Human Biology.....33
 Dr. Piranit Kantaputra

13.00 – 14.15 Oral Presentation**Session 1 Group 1****Chair Person: Asst.Prof.Dr. Nirada Dhanesuan**

- OP01** ADAM8 Up-regulation in Human Gingival Epithelial Cells37
by *Fusobacterium nucleatum*
*Suttichai Krisanaprakornkit**, *Pattanin Montreekachon*,
Supansa Pata, *Pareena Chotjumlong*, *Anupong Makeudom* and
Watchara Kasinrerak
- OP02** Growth inhibitory effect of *Lactobacillus paracasei* SD1 on38
Candida species: an In vitro study
*Kanokporn Kampoo** and *Rawee Teanpaisan*
- OP03** The antimicrobial efficacy of different pH values of sodium39
hypochlorite on simulated *Enterococcus faecalis* biofilm
Chareerat Jitrong, *Peraya Surapipongpuntr** and *Visaka Limwongse*
- OP04** The effect of Poly (4-styrenesulfonic acid-co-maleic acid)40
sodium salt polyelectrolyte multilayer films coated surface on in
vitro mineralization and bone formation in rat model.
*Prasit Pavasant**, *Thidarat Angwarawong*, *Watchawadee Hoonwichit* and
Pornpen Jittivarangkool
- OP05** The effects of Gelatin/eggshell's hydroxyapatite composite sheet41
on MC3T3-E1 cells for bone tissue engineering
*Nisakorn Pornsomchai**, *Wanwisa Kongsong*, *Nanirat Suttipattarakorn*,
Suphunnarat Boonniyom, *Pongsak Saleedaeng* and
Boontharika Chuenjittakuntaworn

Session 1 Group 2**Chair Person: Asst.Prof.Dr. Kanokporn Bhalang**

- OP06** Xerostomia, Hyposalivation and Oral Microbiota in Hypertensive Patients42
Vimonpun Nonzee, *Somchai Manopatanakul* and *Siribang-on Khovidhunkit**
- OP07** Oral hyperkeratosis in association with bacterial infection: a case report43
*Chanwit Prapinjumrune**, *Jinkyu Sakurai*, *Yusuke Nakajima*,
Norihiko Okada and *Ken Omura*
- OP08** Effectiveness of acemannan in the treatment of oral aphthous ulceration44
*Kanokporn Bhalang** and *Pasutha Thanyakitpisal*
- OP09** Oral health and human papillomavirus colonization in HIV-infected patients.....45
*Piamkamon Vacharotayangul**, *Sorasun Rungsiyanont*,
Aroonwan Lam-Ubol, *Tippawan Pankam*, *Piyanee Rodbamrung* and
Nittaya Phanuphak
- OP10** Daily variation of oral malodour and related factors in46
community-dwelling elderly Thai
*Patcharaphol Samnieng**

Session 1 Group 3**Chair Person: Asst.Prof. Dr.Apirum Janhom**

- OP11** Corticotomy-assisted orthodontic tooth movement into recent47
and healed extraction sites
Kaviya Kanokpongsak and Bancha Samruajbenjakun*
- OP12** An evaluation of the selection of extracted tooth in orthodontists48
and a group of Thai people
Chidsanu Changsiripun, Chompunuch Tiyawongmana,
Petchpailin Phusantisampan and Hathaiwan Ngamsukonthapusit*
- OP13** Root resorption after palatal expansion: a pilot study.....49
Syrina Tantidhnazet and Peerapong Santiwong*
- OP14** Associations of periodontitis and oral manifestations with CD450
counts in HIV-pregnant women in Thailand
Pakkaporn Pattrapornnan and Timothy Derouen*
- OP15** Effect of Initial Periodontal Therapy Plus Air Polishing on51
VEGF Level in Gingival Crevicular Fluid in Chronic Periodontitis
Thanasak Rakmanee, Kunasan Yonsakthanakul,
Nithinun Sutam and Chutapa Talungjit*

Session 2 Group 1**Chair Person: Assoc.Prof.Dr. Soisiri Thaweboon**

- OP16** MxA expression induced by α -defensin in healthy human periodontal tissue52
Rangsini Mahanonda, N Sa-Ard-Iam, P Rerkyen,
A Thitithanyanont, K Subbalekha and S Pichyangkul*
- OP17** Structural analysis of reactionary dentin formed in response to53
polymicrobial invasion
Nattida Charadram, Christine Austin, Patrick Trimby,
Mary Simonian, Michael Swain and Neil Hunter*
- OP18** Effect of Zingiber cassumunar-extract on CCL20 production54
in LPS-induced fibroblasts
Kamolparn Pugdee and Sittichai Koontongkaew*
- OP19** Trigona sirindhornea propolis reduces progression of head55
and neck cancer cell lines
Kusumawadee Utispan and Sittichai Koontongkaew*
- OP20** Effect of Eupatorium odoratum leaves extract on the viability56
of primary human gingival fibroblasts
*Paweena Kongkon, Jitrekha Samphantharat, Phonphanit Sivavetpikul,
Siwaporn Nimit and Suwimon Jettanacheawchankit**

Session 2 Group 2**Chair Person: Asst.Prof. Dr.Yosananda Chantravekin**

- OP21** Alveolar ridge preservation with Platelet-rich fibrin compared57
to epithelialized palatal free graft for implant site development:
an experimental study in minipigs.
*Srisurang Suttapreyasri**, *Kantheera Buasod*, *Narit Leepong* and *Prisana Pripatnanont*
- OP22** Inoculation Injuries in Thammasat University Dental Students58
*Yosananda Chantravekin**, *Narissaporn Chaiprakit* and *Siripatra Patchanee*
- OP23** Evaluation of Collagen from Pericoronal Tissue of Impacted Third Molar59
*Sorasun Rungsiyanont**, *Marnisa Sricholpech* and *Siriwan Songwattana*
- OP24** Microbial decontamination of bone particles collected from osseous collector.....60
*Krongporn Kongkrongtong** and *Srisurang Suttapreyasri*
- OP25** Evaluation for obstructive sleep apnea using upright CBCT and61
sleep questionnaire
*Pongsatorn Kangvansurakit**, *Onanong Silkosessak*,
Patita Bhuridej and *Naricha Chirakalwasan*

Session 2 Group 3**Chair Person: Asst.Prof.Dr. Lertrit Sarinnaphakorn**

- OP26** Comparison of Internal Gap between CAD/CAM Zirconia62
MTEC and Lava
*Lertrit Sarinnaphakorn**, *Thitirat Chatchalermpan*,
Patarawin Arannart, *Parichat Triwit* and *Nantawan Krajangta*
- OP27** A novel glass ionomer cement containing MgCO₃ apatite induced63
the increased proliferation and differentiation of human pulp cells in vitro.
*Arunee Laiteerapong**, *Y Lochaiwatana* and *Suchit Poolthong*
- OP28** Satisfaction and Efficacy of a Novel Edible Gel-based Artificial Saliva.....64
*Aroonwan Lamubol**, *Buakhao Hongsachum*, *Worawalun Hirunwidchayarat*,
Worayut Kongkeaw, *Panitnart Kanchanatiwat*, *Rudee Surarit*,
Visit Chavasit, *Piamkamon Vacharotayangul*, *Tanadej Sinthusek* and
Dunyaporn Trachootham
- OP29** Nutri-jelly improves QOL and decreases hospitalization in.....65
H&N cancer patients.
*Dunyaporn Trachootham**, *Wasinee Songkaew*, *Buakhao Hongsachum*,
Jandane Karapoch, *Wantanee Kriangsinyos*, *Chodchoi Wattana*,
Tanadej Sinthusek and *Aroonwan Lam-Ubol*
- OP30** Development of new dental ceramics66
*Pannapa Sinthuprasirt**

Poster Presentation

Group 1: Oral biology

- PP01** Notch and Basic-Fibroblast-Growth-Factor Signaling in Mineralization of Mesenchymal Stem Cells67
*Thanaphum Osathanon**, *Nunthawan Nowwarote*, *Jeeranan Chamnannidiadha* and *Prasit Pavasant*
- PP02** RPS6 phosphorylation in oral epithelial dysplasia and squamous cell carcinoma68
*Risa Chaisuparat**, *S Rojanawatsirivej* and *S Yodsanga*
- PP03** Mechanical stress-induced IL-1 β expression via ATP/P2X7 receptor-dependent pathway in human periodontal ligament cells69
*Kavita Kanjanamekanant**, *Pimporn Luckprom* and *Prasit Pavasant*
- PP04** Identification of Potential Bacterial Effectors from *Tannerella forsythia* in a Yeast Model70
*Oranart Matangkasombut**, *Peeraporn Punchai*, *Ratiboot Salapan* and *Skorn Mongkolsuk*
- PP05** Antibacterial activity of crofton weed (*Eupatorium adenophorum* Spreng) oil against caries-related bacteria71
K Koolkaew, *J Brahmsakha Na Sakolnakorn* and *Panida Thanyasrisung**
- PP06** Effect of Zingiber cassumunar-extract on CCL20 production in LPS-induced THP-172
*Pantip Henprasert**, *Apisada Chanwattanachote*, *Sasi Chantaramanee* and *Kamolparn Pugdee*
- PP07** Overexpression and Post-translational Modification of Akt2 in Oral Cancer Cells73
*Prakasit Archewa**, *Supansa Pata*, *Chayarop Supanchart*, *Suttichai Krisanaprakornkit* and *Anak Iamaroon*
- PP08** Antibacterial effect of propolis against *Streptococcus mutans* in vitro74
*Sroisiri Thaweboon**, *Boonyanit Thaweboon*, *Rattiporn Kaypetch* and *Thaniya Muadcheingka*
- PP09** Antimicrobial activity of Thai medicinal plant extracts against oral microorganisms75
*Pajaree Kawsud**, *Jindaporn Puripattanavong* and *Rawee Teanpaisan*
- PP10** In vitro inhibition of oral yeasts by vanillin76
*Boonyanit Thaweboon** and *Sroisiri Thaweboon*

- PP11** Aggregation and hydrophobicity properties of selected *Lactobacillus* spp.....77
Benchamat Sophatha and Rawee Teanpaisan*
- PP12** Antifungal and antibiofilm activity of *Artocarpus lakoocha* extract78
against *Candida* spp.
Sukunlaya Senapong, Jindaporn Puripattanavong and Rawee Teanpaisan*
- PP13** Characteristics of *Clinacanthus nutans* Based on Extraction Methods79
Moehamad Orliando Roeslan, Thaweephol Dechatiwongse Na Ayudhya and Sittichai Koontongkaew*
- PP14** Aggregation abilities and cell surface characteristics of oral *Lactobacillus*80
fermentum and *Lactobacillus salivarius*
Kamonchanok Pongpanit, Supatcharin Piwat, Rawee Teanpaisan and Nuchnaree Akkarachaneeyakorn*
- PP15** TLR2 and TLR4 expression in primary human hip and alveolar81
bone cells during an in vitro differentiation
Supalak Phongprasertsakul, Indra Wongyaofa, Jaruma Sakdee, Prasit Pavasant and Nirada Dhanesuan*
- PP16** In vitro Antifungal Effect of Crude Royal Jelly Extract on *Candida albicans*.....82
Peeraphorn Wanapirom, Noppanant Trakiattikul, Thanyaphon Leesomprasong and Duangporn Srisuparbh*
- PP17** *Kaempferia parviflora* extracts promotes proliferation of human83
dental pulp cells, in vitro.
Uthaiwan Arayatrakoollikit and Ariya Rattanathongkam*
- PP18** *Zingiber cassumunar* inhibits iNOS expression through suppression of NF- κ B.....84
Paopa-Nga Monthanapisut, Sittichai Koontongkaew and Orapan Poachamukoon*
- PP19** Cytotoxicity and wound healing property of85
clinacanthus nutans lindau extract on oral cells
Azima Imerbsin and Rudee Surarit*

Group 2: Clinical study

- PP20** In vivo biocompatibility of porous BCP in two different ratios86
*Pongsakorn Praserttham**, *Prisana Pripatnanont*, *Srisurang Suttapreyasri*,
Narit Leepong, *Naruporn Monmaturapoj*
- PP21** Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Study of Occlusal Relationship87
in a Group of Thai Population
Narubhorn Ongprakobkul, *Virunpat Nitipong* and *Jaijam Suwanwela**
- PP22** Tongue lesions: a retrospective study from Faculty of Dentistry,88
Prince of Songkla University
Thanyaluk Saengtummakul, *Tanchanok Bureesri*, *Pawinee Wiriyasatiankun*,
Ravivan Iemsaengchairat, *Sureerat Tanwatana* and *Sompid Kintarak**
- PP23** Reduced LL-37 Levels in GCF of Patients with Aggressive Periodontitis.....89
*Samakorn Kulpawaropas**, *Anupong Makeudom*,
Pattarin Montreekachon, *Sakornrat Khongkhunthian*,
Thanapat Sastraruji and *Suttichai Krisanaprakornkit*
- PP24** One visit subgingival ultrasonic debridement for periodontitis-diabetes patients.....90
*Supanee Damrongkosit**, *Serena Sakulnamanka* and *Narongsak Laosrisin*
- PP25** Laboratory evaluation of alpha-mangostin when used as root canal irrigant.....91
*Ruchadaporn Kaomongkolgit**, *Kusuma Jamdee*, *Jittima Pumklin* and *Prasit Pavasant*
- PP26** Genetic association study of dental caries in a group of Thai population.....92
*Soranun Chantarangsu**
- PP27** Physical factors associated to the occurrence of dental caries in child-patients.....93
*Nathawut Kaewsutha**, *Konvuth Laungrungrong*, *Chavarot Mapaisansin*,
Thananat Boon-In and *Jarinya Chaiwiriya*
- PP28** Acemannan sponges stimulate alveolar bone, cementum, and94
periodontal ligament regeneration in a canine class II furcation defect model
*Pintu-On Chantarawaratit**, *Pasutha Thunyakitpibal*, *Wijit Banlunara*,
Kumpanart Soontornvipart and *Polkit Sangvanich*
- PP29** Openbite severity in a group of Thai skeletal Class III.....95
*Pornnaree Suktongchaikul**, *Phanpaporn Piriyayothin* and *Phawika Rungtamrat*
- PP30** The comparison of bacterial contamination ratio on examination96
gloves from freshly opened boxes versus 14-day opened boxes in a dental clinic
*Chaivut Prunkngarmpun**
- PP31** Success and Failure of endodontic treatment by undergraduate97
dental students
*Wisakarn Boonpaisanseree**, *Pim Kokanutaporn*,
Wannamart Srivichien and *Panit Preeyaphat*

- PP32** Cortical bone thickness of posterior maxilla for orthodontic miniscrews.....98
*K Nimcharoensuk, C Wongwittayapanit,
N Chamnannidiadha and Soontra Panmekiate**
- PP33** Effect of periosteal distraction by a new design of hyrax99
device on bone formation in rabbit's model
Faisal Balabid, Prisana Pripatnanont, Settakorn Pongpanich and
Surapong Vongvatcharanon*
- PP34** Effectiveness of a light sensor for distraction force measurement.....100
Lili Yang, Eduardo Yugo Suzuki and Boonsiva Suzuki*
- Group 3: Dental materials, Techniques** _____
- PP035** In vitro microleakage evaluation of a new two-step self-etch adhesive.....101
Nantawan Krajangta, Tongjai Chotitanmapong,
Thipradi Phattharasophachai and Pear Bangsuwan*
- PP36** Physical properties of GIC containing monocalcium silicate102
compared with MTA
Sirijit Pothiraksanont, Jaruma Sakdee and Punnama Siriphannon*
- PP37** Biocompatibility of monocalcium silicate – glass ionomer cement compound.....103
Wiroj Sangsawatpong, Jaruma Sakdee, Punnama Siriphannon and Suwit Wimonchit*
- PP38** Comparisons of wear resistance on acrylic denture teeth.....104
Hathairat Lekatana, Aphiwat Sedtasuppana, Lam Dorji,
Yosatorn Ruenmarkkeo, Chatchawal Nedpokeaw and Sumet Korgpradit*
- PP39** Shaping Ability of Single-File Nickel-Titanium instruments in105
Reciprocating Motion.
*Paweenthas Wongsuwan and Chinalai Piyachon**
- PP40** Microtensile bond strength of Vertise flow® composite; Use as pits106
and fissures sealant.
Pongsiri Jaikumpun, Keerati Kiattang, Tawan Sangsue and
Tuangrat Lertbusayanukul*
- PP41** Effect of surface treatments on bond strength of repaired107
nanocomposite
*Pavinee Padipatvuthikul Didron**
- PP42** Effect of acidic drinks on erosive resistance of artificial white spot108
enamel lesions infiltrated with resin
*J Pornchottaweesup, Lochaiwatana Y and Suchit Poolthong**

Group 4: Public health, education, etc.

- PP43** Musculoskeletal disorders in clinical dental students, Khon Kaen University.....109
*Suwadee Aerarunchot**, *Konpacha Sianglam*, *Thanapat Sripontong*,
Thanaporn Thonglert, *Chananya Tangsirivoragarn* and *Subin Puasiri*
- PP44** A two-step flow model to stop bottle feeding among pre-schoolers.....110
*Serena S Sakoolnamarka**, *Phatanaphongse Chatiket*,
Orasa Krittayapipong, *Vasavat Soontornvatin*,
Panchaluk Chatkaewboonruang, *Chollathid Sukrakarn*,
Rungwarin Laohakanchanasiri, *Jukkrapun Thongmalee*,
Chayanee Prakongsantikul, *Attaporn La-Aithuk*,
Patamaporn Boonkleing and *Chatchana Dedhome*
- PP45** Evaluation of reliability and validity of Professionalism111
mini-evaluation exercise – Thai version
*Chompunut Auisui**, *Nomjit Vidhyaphum*, *Nantararat Winij* and *Chanchai Hosanguan*
- PP46** The evaluation of graduates of elective in dentistry subject of112
oral surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, Naresuan University
*Siras Sungkapreecha**, *Phiangfah Kongkiatkool*,
Parissara Sortrakul and *Peeraya Warasit*
- PP47** A system for predicting musculoskeletal disorders among dental students.....113
*Bhornasawan Thanathornwong**, *Siriwan Suebnukarn* and *Kan Ouivirach*
- PP48** Health-oriented Electronic Oral Health Record for Health Surveillance.....114
*Mansuang Wongsapai**, *Siriwan Suebnukarn* and *Sunsanee Rajchagool*
- PP49** Study of Health Literacy Level in Food - Venders at Bangluang115
Market, Banglen, Nakhon Pathom
*Pornpon Sampanyawai**, *Jessada Nuchpruang*,
Tossaporn Rodchueajeen and *Piya Siriphant*
- PP50** Health-oriented Electronic Oral Health Record: Evaluation using116
Cognitive Task Analysis
*Kwanwong Boonpitak**, *Pawornwan Rittipakorn*,
Budsara Thongyoi and *Siriwan Suebnukarn*

9 May 2013

09.00 - 09.30

- IS08** Interventions for Treating Oral Lichen Planus.....34
Professor Dr. Kobkan Thongprasom

09.30 - 10.00

- IS09** Force Magnitudes for
Orthodontic Tooth Movement: Clinical Research@CMU.....35
Professor Dr. Dhirawat Jotikasthira

10.00 - 10.30

- IS10** Virtual Reality Dental Simulator36
Associate Professor Dr. Siriwan Suebnukarn

Full Paper

117

- FP01** In vivo biocompatibility of porous BCP in two different ratios.....118
Pongsakorn Praserttham, Prisana Pripatnanont, Srisurang Suttapreyasri,
Narit Leepong, Naruporn Monmaturapoj
- FP02** Antimicrobial activity of Thai medicinal plant extracts against124
oral microorganisms
Pajaree Kawsud, Jindaporn Puripattanavong and Rawee Teanpaisan
- FP03** One visit subgingival ultrasonic debridement for127
periodontitis-diabetes patients
Supanee Damrongkosit, Serena Sakulnamanka and Narongsak Laosrisin
- FP04** Reduced LL-37 Levels in GCF of Patients with Aggressive Periodontitis.....132
Samakorn Kulpawaropas, Anupong Makeudom, Pattanin Montreekachon,
Sakornrat Khongkhunthian, Thanapat Sastraruji and Suttichai Krisanaprakornkit
- FP05** Antifungal and antibiofilm activity of Artocarpus lakoocha138
extract against Candida spp.
Sukunlaya Senapong, Jindaporn Puripattanavong and Rawee Teanpaisan
- FP06** Evaluation for obstructive sleep apnea using upright CBCT142
and sleep questionnaire
Pongsatorn Kangvansurakit, Onanong Silkosessak,
Patita Bhuridej and Naricha Chirakalwasan

- FP07** Overexpression and Post-translational Modification of Akt2 in146
Oral Cancer Cells
Prakasit Archewa, Supansa Pata, Chayarop Supanchart,
Suttichai Krisanaprakornkit and Anak Iamaroon
- FP08** Biocompatibility of monocalcium silicate – glass ionomer cement compound150
Wiroj Sangsawatpong, Jaruma Sakdee,
Punnama Siriphannon and Suwit Wimonchit
- FP09** Root resorption after palatal expansion: a pilot study.....154
Syrina Tantidhnazet and Peerapong Santiwong
- FP10** Microbial decontamination of bone particles collected from osseous collector.....157
Krongporn Kongkrongtong and Srisurang Suttapreyasri
- FP11** Aggregation abilities and cell surface characteristics of oral161
Lactobacillus fermentum and Lactobacillus salivarius
Kamonchanok Pongpanit, Supatcharin Piwat,
Rawee Teanpaisan and Nuchnaree Akkarachaneeyakorn
- FP12** Physical properties of GIC containing monocalcium silicate165
compared with MTA
Sirijit Pothiraksanont, Jaruma Sakdee and Punnama Siriphannon
- FP13** Effect of periosteal distraction by a new design of hyrax169
device on bone formation in rabbit's model
Faisal Balabid, Prisana Pripatnanont, Settakorn Pongpanich and
Surapong Vongvatcharanon
- FP14** TLR2 and TLR4 expression in primary human hip and alveolar174
bone cells during an in vitro differentiation
Supalak Phongprasertsakul, Indra Wongyaofa, Jaruma Sakdee,
Prasit Pavasant and Nirada Dhanesuan
- FP15** Effectiveness of a light sensor for distraction force measurement.....178
Lili Yang, Eduardo Yugo Suzuki and Boonsiva Suzuki
- FP16** Health-oriented Electronic Oral Health Record for Health Surveillance183
Mansuang Wongsapai, Siriwan Suebnukarn and Sunsanee Rajchagool

Biocompatibility of monocalcium silicate – glass ionomer cement compound

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Abstract

Objectives: To investigate *in vitro* biocompatibility of glass ionomer cement containing 30% by weight CaSiO₃ (30%CS-GI) compared to GIC and MTA.

Methods: Partial set specimens of 30%CS-GI, GIC and MTA were immersed in complete DMEM for 72 hours. Each extract was collected and serial diluted 1:1 with DMEM into 4 concentrations. All concentrations of extracts were co-cultured with human periodontal ligament fibroblast cell for 24 hours. The cytotoxic level and cellular morphology was assessed by MTT assay and phase contrast microscope. Data were compared by one-way ANOVA.

Results: Cells exposed to undiluted extracts from GIC was round-shaped and were significantly lesser in number than those from 30%CS-GI and MTA. Most of the cells exposed to undiluted extracts from 30%CS-GI and MTA were spindle-shaped like normal cell morphology. Cells exposed to diluted extracts (1:1, 1:2 and 1:4) showed higher level of cell viability and normal cell morphology.

Conclusion: The addition of 30% monocalcium silicate into GIC can improve its biocompatibility.

Keywords :

calcium silicate, glass ionomer cement, MTA cement, biocompatibility

Introduction

Iatrogenic root canal perforation lowers the success rate of root canal treatment [1]. Creating a good seal between root canal space and periradicular tissue is an essential goal to achieve good prognosis. Hence, repair materials should have good sealing ability. Because the materials close contact with the tissues including periodontal ligament and alveolar bone for long period of time, they should be non-irritant and biocompatible.

Mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) has been a material of choice for perforation repair because of its sealing ability and biocompatibility [2-5]. MTA was able to induce new cemental tissue on its surface when applied to root defects in canines [6,7] Nonetheless, MTA is relatively expensive, difficult to handle and long setting time [8].

Glass ionomer cement (GIC) has been used as restorative dental material more than 30 years [9]. Breault *et al* [10] recommended GIC as endodontic perforation repair material due to its leakage resistance properties and biocompatibility [11, 12]. Alhadainy & Himel [11] found that GIC provided a better seal than amalgam or cavite. Koulaouzidou *et al* [12] demonstrated that both GIC and MTA were biocompatible materials to fibroblastic cell lines. However, some previously published papers showed that GIC was more cytotoxic than MTA [3,13,14]. Therefore, the simplest way to improve the

biological properties of GIC is adding a new material that could improve bioactivity and biocompatibility to GIC.

Recently, scientists found that adding some bioactive ceramics such as Bioglass[®] [15], calcium aluminate [16] and hydroxyapatite [17] into GIC could improve its biological and mechanical properties. Another bioactive glass ceramics is monocalcium silicate (CaSiO₃), which was found to rapidly activate the formation of hydroxyapatite layer on its surface. The formation rate was faster than that on some other bioactive glass ceramics [18,19]. Thus, adding CaSiO₃ to GIC might potentially improve biological properties as well.

The aim of this study is to investigate the *in vitro* cytotoxicity of glass ionomer cement containing 30% by weight CaSiO₃.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture

The protocol of the study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Faculty of Dentistry, Srinakarinwirot University. Human periodontal ligament (PDL) fibroblast cells were donated from Ms. Ratchaporn Srichan (Head of Tissue Culture section, Research Institute, Faculty of dentistry, Mahidol University, Thailand). Three cryogenic vials storing frozen human PDL fibroblast cells from 3 unidentified persons were thawed and transferred into tissue culture flasks (Nunc, Thermo Scientific, Denmark) containing culture medium. The culture medium was Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM) (Gibco, Grand Island, NY) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Hyclone, Thermo Scientific, Logan, UT, USA) and 1% antibiotic/antimycotic solution (10,000 U penicillin, 10 µg streptomycin, 25 µg amphotericin B per mL). Cells were maintained at 37°C, 5% CO₂ and 100% humidity in an incubator. After a confluent monolayer was obtained, cells were trypsinized and subcultured. The PDL fibroblast cells from 4th-7th passage were used in this study.

Preparation of beta-monocalcium silicate (β-CaSiO₃) powder

Beta-monocalcium silicate powder was prepared by a coprecipitation method as described by Siriphannon *et al* [20]. Briefly, Ca(NO₃)₂·4H₂O and Si(OC₂H₅)₄ (TEOS) were dissolved in 500 ml of ethanol under continuous stirring. The precipitate was obtained by the addition of 0.33 mol/l NaOH solutions into the above solution. The precipitated gel was filtered, washed twice with distilled water, dried in an oven at 100°C overnight, and calcined at 500°C for 2 hours. The calcined powder was fired at 900°C for 2 hours to obtain beta-monocalcium silicate, low temperature crystalline phase. The resultant powder was ground and sieved through 230-mesh sieve before further use.

Preparation of test materials

Ketac Molar (3M-ESPE Dental, Seefeld, Germany) was chosen as the baseline reference and white ProRoot MTA (Densply Tulsa, OK, USA) was served as control. Ketac Molar and CaSiO₃ powder were mixed to 7:3 by weight ratio. Ketac Molar liquid was used to wet the mixed powders; the powder/liquid ratio was 3:1 for Ketac Molar powder and 2.5:1 for CaSiO₃ powder. Ketac Molar and white ProRoot MTA were prepared according to manufacturers' directions. The details were shown in table 1.

Table 1 - The powder-liquid ratios of all groups

Groups	Materials	P:L (by weight)
GIC	Ketac Molar	3:1
30%CS-GI	30% CaSiO ₃	2.5:1
	70% Ketac Molar	3:1
MTA	White ProRoot MTA	3.3:1

Preparation of extracts

All groups of cement were mixed as previously described under aseptic condition. After mixing, a total of 0.2 g of cements was placed into a well of 24-well tissue culture plates. The GIC and 30%CS-GI specimens were kept in an incubator at 37 °C and 100% relative humidity for 30 minutes, whereas the MTA specimens were kept for 4 hours in the same condition. After incubating, the discs were exposed to ultraviolet light for 30 minutes to sterile. One milliliter of complete DMEM was poured into each well containing each specimen and incubated in the incubator for 72 hours. After incubating, each extract was transferred into a centrifugal vial for centrifugation for 5 minutes. The supernatant was collected and serially diluted 1:1 with DMEM to achieve a total of 4 concentrations of each extracts. A series of extracts of different concentrations were made to observe a possible dose-response relationship.

Cell viability test

Human PDL fibroblast cells were seeded into 96-well plates at 20,000 cells/well and incubated for 24 hours to allow attachment. Then, 100 µL of extract was placed into the tissue culture well. Cells with 100 µL culture medium served as a control. The experiment was repeated three times of each cell line.

After an incubation period of 24 hours, cell viability was evaluated by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay. Reduced MTT was measured spectrophotometrically at 570 nm in a micro-titer plate reader (BIO-TEK Instrument Inc, Winooski, VT). The OD value of test wells and control wells were calculated by using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ cell viability} =$$

Cell morphology

The images of PDL fibroblast cells treated with different concentration of three material groups were examined by using phase contrast microscope (Nikon TS-100-F, Nikon, Tokyo, Japan)

Statistical analysis

The results were expressed as means ± standard deviation. Experimental data were analysed by one-way ANOVA at significant level of $p < 0.05$. Post hoc tests were done with Scheffé's test.

Results

MTT assays

The percentages of viable cells are shown in Figure 1. The percentage of cell viability exposed to undiluted extracts from GIC was 51.29%, which was significantly lesser than those from 30%CS-GI and MTA (90.48% and 94.4%, respectively).

The percentages of cell viability exposed to 1:1, 1:2 and 1:4 diluted extracts were not significantly different amongst all three groups. The cell viability was likely to depend on extract concentration; the lower concentration, the higher level of cell viability.

Cell morphology

The morphology of PDL fibroblast cells exposed to various concentrations of extracts from three groups are shown in Figure 2. Most of the cells exposed to undiluted extracts from GIC were round with fewer cytoplasmic extensions, whereas those from 30%CS-GI and MTA were generally spindle-shaped like normal cell morphology.

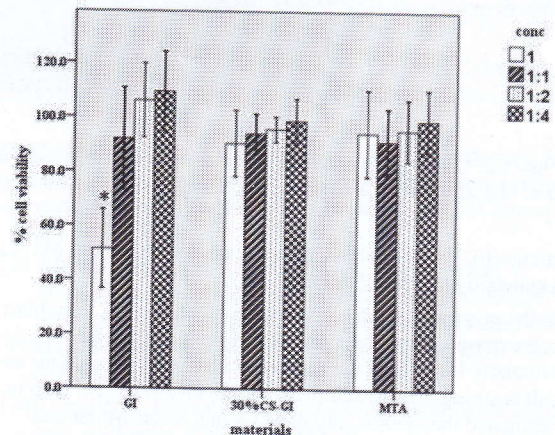


Figure 1 - The percentage of cell viability exposed to 4 concentrations of extracts from all groups

Discussion

After perforation repair, the repair material can release some leachable compounds into surrounding tissue and may cause harmful effects to periradicular tissue. In the present study, we simulated this condition by using the extraction of partially set specimens and evaluated the *in vitro* cytotoxicity by using MTT assay. The specimen preparation followed ISO 10993-12:2007 standard [21], and the test protocol followed ISO 10993-5:2009 for *in vitro* cytotoxicity test [22]. However, we used human periodontal ligament fibroblast cell instead of immortalized fibroblast cells to simulate the *in vivo* situation. In addition, we also assessed cell morphology because the alteration of cellular morphology could depict the physiological state of the cells.

Ketac Molar was chosen to represent the GIC groups due to its good biological properties comparing with other commercial GICs [23]. Sengun *et al* [24], who used dentin barrier test for examining the cytotoxicity of conventional and resin-modified GIC, showed that Ketac Molar had better pulp cell viability.

MTA is universally acknowledged to be biocompatible to PDL cell cultures [3-5, 12]. Additionally, MTA could induced BMP2 expression and calcification in human PDL cell [25] and was able to form new cementum over its surface in *in vivo*

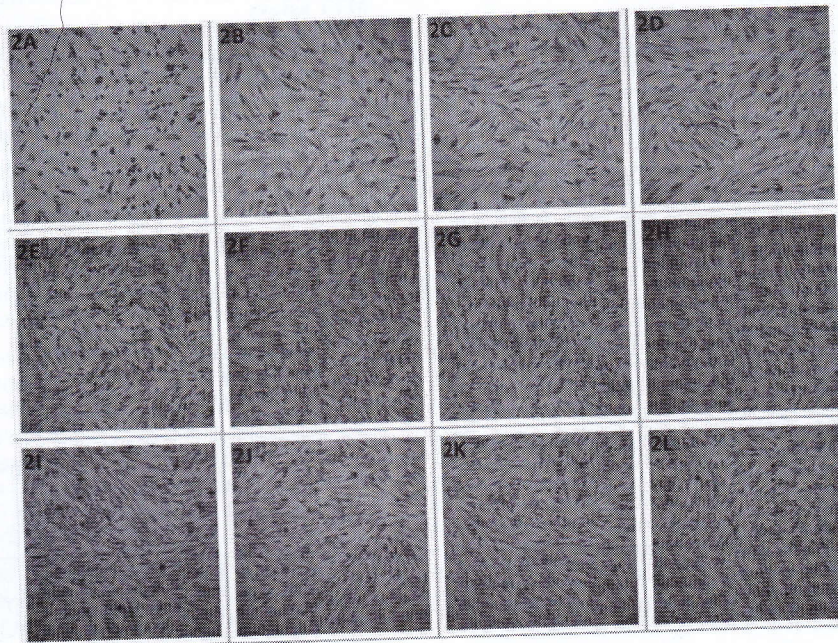


Figure 2 – From left to right, the cell morphology treated with undiluted, 1:1, 1:2 and 1:4 diluted concentration, respectively, from GIC (2A-2D), 30%CS-GI (2E-2H), and MTA(2I-2L) extracts

studies [6,7]. All of above reasons, we decided to use MTA as a standard control in this study.

In the present study, the percentage of viable PDL fibroblast cell exposed to undiluted extracts from Ketac Molar was significantly lower than the test group and MTA group. Our result is strongly consistent with Vajrabhaya *et al* [14] who investigated the cytotoxicity of MTA and Ketac Molar and demonstrated that the inhibition of PDL cell proliferation by the extracts of Ketac Molar was significantly greater than that of MTA. Abdullah *et al* [13] also reported that SaOs-2 osteosarcoma cell was round morphology and not able to adhere to GIC's surface but there was an increase in cell number adhering to MTA's surface.

An explanation for our result could come from the leachable compounds of MTA and GIC. The hydration reaction of MTA formed calcium silicate hydrate gel (C-S-H) and calcium hydroxide [26]. When immersed it in solution, calcium ions from calcium hydroxide and C-S-H could release to the solution [27]. The released calcium ions stimulated the osteogenic differentiation of human PDL cells [25] and reacted to phosphate group in the solution to form hydroxyapatite [28,29]. The presence of cementum on the surface of MTA has proven this explanation [6,7].

GIC is hardened by acid-base reaction of calcium fluoroaluminosilicate powder and polyacrylic acid solution [30]. Therefore, Al^{3+} , F^- , Si^- and unpolymerized acid are mainly leachable compounds that might affect the cells and tissues. Many previous studies have expressed of the toxicity of the released components. Savarino *et al* [31] reported that the release of fluoride and aluminium ions in early setting reaction combined with acidity make the GIC toxic. Consiglio *et al* [32] also found that released fluoride ions and acidic pH of GIC inhibited protein synthesis of human gingival fibroblast.

The cytotoxic level of 30%CS-GIC was similar to that of MTA. $CaSiO_3$ has been proven as one of bioactive glass ceramics because of its hydroxyapatite formation capacity. The β - $CaSiO_3$ was able to form hydroxyapatite within 1 day and

could rapidly released calcium ion and silicon ions to simulated body fluid solution within 5 days [20]. Li *et al* [33], who incorporated PHBV polymer with $CaSiO_3$ bioactive glass for bioactive porous composite scaffold, reported that pH of $CaSiO_3$ powder was slightly basal pH and could neutralize the acidic by-products from PHBV polymer and stabilize the pH of the simulated body fluid solution between 7.2-7.7. For all of these reasons, adding $CaSiO_3$ to GIC could reduce the toxicity of GIC.

In the present study, the percentages of viable cell exposed to any diluted extracts from GIC, 30%CS-GIC and MTA were not significantly different. Moreover, the cytotoxic level was prone to adversely proportional to the concentration, which associated with the amount of leachable compound. The higher amount of toxic leachants, the more acidic pH of the solution, which lead to the cell damage and death.

Base on adding $CaSiO_3$ to GIC, this compound not only possesses biocompatibility, but also hypothetically possesses bioactivity. For future study, it is important to examine the bioactivity of the $CaSiO_3$ -GIC compound.

Conclusion

In this study, the adding 30% by weight $CaSiO_3$ to GIC can improve biological properties of GIC.

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