

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Caries-preventive Effect of 1300ppm Fluoride and Carrageenan Containing Toothpaste

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ABSTRACT

Various studies stated that the increase concentration of fluoride in toothpastes leads to the reduction of calcium loss in enamel. **Objective:** The purpose of this study was to test the difference between the effect of 1300ppm fluoride with carrageenan toothpaste and 1000ppm fluoride only toothpaste on roughness and hardness of enamel surface. **Methods:** Enamel specimens were obtained from 30 extracted human premolars. The enamel specimens were randomly assigned to one of the three groups, 1300ppm fluoride with carrageenan toothpaste, 1000ppm fluoride only toothpaste and toothpaste with no fluoride as a negative control. The samples were immersed in 1% citric acid with pH 4 for 150 seconds for demineralization, afterwards exposed to each toothpaste for 6 minutes. **Results:** The results demonstrated that toothpaste with 1300ppm fluoride with carrageenan has two times greater efficacy in triggering remineralization than toothpaste with 1000ppm fluoride only, with regards to surface roughness and hardness recovery in an *in vitro* caries model. **Conclusion:** The results suggested that treatment of enamel with toothpaste containing 1300ppm fluoride with carrageenan has high potential in inducing remineralization on enamel.

ABSTRAK

Efek pencegahan karies pasta gigi dengan kandungan 1300ppm fluoride dan carrageenan. Berbagai studi menyebutkan bahwa peningkatan konsentrasi fluoride dalam pasta gigi dapat mengurangi hilangnya kalsium dalam enamel. **Tujuan:** Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menguji perbedaan antara efek pasta gigi yang mengandung carrageenan dan fluoride 1300ppm dengan pasta gigi yang hanya mengandung fluoride 1000ppm pada permukaan email gigi manusia. **Metode:** Spesimen email diperoleh dari 30 gigi premolar manusia yang telah diekstraksi. Sampel email dibagi secara acak kepada salah satu dari tiga kelompok, pasta gigi dengan carrageenan berfluoride 1300ppm, pasta gigi berfluoride 1000ppm dan kontrol negatif. Sampel direndam dalam asam sitrat 1% dengan pH 4 selama 150 detik untuk demineralisasi. Kemudian masing-masing pasta gigi diaplikasikan selama 6 menit. Demineralisasi dinilai dari segi kekasaran dan kekerasan email. **Hasil:** Pasta gigi dengan carrageenan berfluoride 1300ppm memiliki dua kali lebih besar keberhasilan dalam memicu remineralisasi dibandingkan dengan kelompok 1000ppm. Hal ini berkaitan dengan pemulihan kekasaran dan kekerasan permukaan email gigi dalam model karies *in vitro*. **Simpulan:** Pasta gigi dengan carrageenan berfluoride 1300ppm mempunyai potensi yang tinggi dalam menginduksi remineralisasi pada email gigi.

Key words: carrageenan, enamel, fluoride, hardness, roughness, toothpaste

INTRODUCTION

Fluoride has been a vital agent in caries prevention since the last century. The caries preventive effect of fluoride is mainly attributed to its effects on demineralization and remineralization process of dental hard tissue at the tooth-oral fluids interface.¹

The substitution of hydroxyl ions by fluoride ions in the mineral crystal, forms fluoroapatite which is more resistant to acid attack than hydroxyapatite. Therefore, the loss of mineral is prevented before it can be detected microscopically.¹⁻⁵

Fluoride plays an important role in preventing dental caries, not only by reducing the caries progression rate, but also by inducing the arrest of active lesions. In other words, fluoride has combination of two modes, inhibition of demineralization and stimulation of remineralization. Topically applied fluoride in different concentrations has the capability of reducing dental caries development *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Various clinical studies have shown that introduction of fluoride shifts the balance from demineralization to remineralization. The rapid progression of dental caries may be prevented by high fluoride concentrated toothpaste, which can prevent calcium loss in the enamel.¹⁻⁵ Dental caries occurrence is strongly associated with dynamic process of demineralization and remineralization in the enamel surface. Moreover, the loss and addition of minerals that occurs during the process of demineralization and remineralization affect the roughness and hardness of enamel.

After demineralization, enamel roughness increase and enamel hardness decrease. On the contrary, remineralization causes increased enamel hardness and decreased enamel roughness. Therefore, enamel surface roughness and hardness are considered as determinants describing the effects of remineralization and demineralization process on enamel surfaces. Over the counter toothpaste usually content 1000ppm fluoride. This study is important because only few studies had been conducted to test the efficacy of 1300ppm fluoride and additional carraegeenan in toothpaste.⁶⁻¹⁰ In an effort to prevent dental caries, the efficacy of a toothpaste containing carrageenan with 1300ppm fluoride was compared to that of 1000ppm fluoride with carrageenan. An intra-oral experimental caries model was employed, to evaluate the anti-caries effect of the high fluoride concentration toothpaste.

METHODS

This was an *in vitro* experimental study. The specimens were 30 freshly extracted human premolars that were done for orthodontic treatment. All teeth were examined visually to ensure there were no micro cracks and surface defects. Teeth then were embedded in acrylic mold and randomly divided into three groups (Table 1). Baseline data (B) were collected for each sample before any intervention. Then the samples were immersed in 1% citric acid with pH 4 for 150 seconds for demineralization. Data after demineralization (D) were obtained. Further, the samples were exposed to the toothpastes tested for 6 minutes. Remineralization (R) was assessed in terms of enamel hardness and roughness. Enamel surface roughness measurement were made using Mitutoyo SJ 301 surface roughness tester. Knoop test was employed for enamel surface hardness analysis.¹¹⁻¹⁵

Moreover, data were analyzed using SPSS and mean differences between groups were analyzed using ANOVA

test with significance level of 0.05. Mean values and standard deviations were calculated for the different variables.

RESULTS

The roughness values for enamel groups were described in Table 2. After demineralization with 1% citric acid, the G2 group samples (1000ppm fluoride toothpaste), the enamel roughness recovery was 2.02% higher than placebo, while the G3 (toothpaste with 1300ppm fluoride and carrageenan) recovered 4.20% higher compared to placebo. The results demonstrated that G3 toothpaste showed two times greater remineralization potential than G2 toothpaste. The microhardness values for enamel groups were shown in Table 3. Remineralization intervention after demineralization with 1% citric acid, enamel roughness recovery of G2 group after was 87.7%, while that of G3 group recovered the enamel hardness 168.9%, almost two times than G2. These results showed that toothpaste with 1300ppm fluoride has two times greater efficacy than that of 1000ppm fluoride, with regards to surface hardness recovery and fluoride uptake in an *in vitro* caries model.

DISCUSSION

Fluoride toothpastes have been used extensively and their anti-cariogenic properties have been evaluated through laboratory, clinical and epidemiological studies. The aim of the present *in vitro* study was to compare the effect of toothpaste with carrageenan containing fluoride 1300ppm with that of 1000ppm. The best way to simulate the *in vivo* environment is through the use of *in vitro* cycling demineralization/remineralization model, which is equivalent to the dynamics of tooth decay development. In order to get valid results, the *in vitro* studies should use methodologies that simulate what happens in the mouth as well as techniques with results presenting correlation with *in vivo* studies. The present study used a pH cycling model, which simulates the cariogenic process. The 150 seconds acid exposure was aimed to imitate real situation when patient consumes sugar-containing products and fails to remove dental plaque. The 6 minutes soaks of toothpaste treatment simulate the retention period of fluoride in the mouth and the remineralization solution mimics the saliva repair period. Therefore, the results of this study may have some correlation with the clinical situation.¹⁶⁻²⁰ The purpose of microhardness analysis was testing its correlation with remineralization process. Microhardness testing was used to evaluate the resistance against demineralization considering that there is a good correlation between enamel microhardness and mineral loss in carious lesion. At lower pH more enamel are dissolved during demineralization phase, providing additional reactive sites (porosities); and decay process causes reduction in the crystals' size.

Table 1. Toothpastes used in the study

Group	Toothpaste	Active Ingredients
G1	Control (no carrageenan & fluoride)	Calcium Carbonate , Sorbitol, Water, Silica, Propylene Glycol, PEG-8, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Flavour, Xanthan Gum, Glycerin, Sodium Saccharin, Methylparaben, Ethylparaben, Butylparaben, o-Cymen-5-ol (IPMP), Xylitol, Tocopheryl Acetate (Vit E Acetate), Retinyl Palmitate (Vit A Palmitate), Sodium Ascorbyl Phosphate (Vit C)
G2	Ciptadent (with carrageenan & 1000ppm fluoride)	Calcium Carbonate, Sorbitol, Water, Silica, Propylene Glycol, PEG-8, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Flavour, Sodium Monofluorophosphate 0.76%, Xanthan Gum, Carrageenan, Glycerin, Sodium Saccharin, Methylparaben, Ethylparaben, Butylparaben, o-Cymen-5-ol (IPMP), Xylitol, Sodium Fluoride 0.01%, Tocopheryl Acetate (Vit E Acetate), Retinyl Palmitate (Vit A Palmitate), Sodium Ascorbyl Phosphate (Vit C)
G3	Ciptadent (with carrageenan & 1300ppm fluoride)	Calcium Carbonate , Sorbitol, Water, Silica, Propylene Glycol, PEG-8, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Flavour, Sodium Monofluorophosphate 0.76%, Xanthan Gum, Carrageenan, Glycerin, Sodium Saccharin, Methylparaben, Ethylparaben, Butylparaben, o-Cymen-5-ol (IPMP), Xylitol, Sodium Fluoride 0.06%, Tocopheryl Acetate (Vit E Acetate), Retinyl Palmitate (Vit A Palmitate), Sodium Ascorbyl Phosphate (VitC)

Table 2. Enamel surface roughness parameter mean±standard error

Toothpaste	B	D	R	dR	dD	%
G1 (N=10)	0.0337 ± 0.0074	0.0360 ± 0.0077	0.0850 ± 0.0207	0.0023 ± 0.0001	0.0490 ± 0.0050	-
G2 (N=10)	0.0353 ± 0.0005	0.0403 ± 0.0006	0.0663 ± 0.0017	0.0050 ± 0.0003	0.0260 ± 0.0008	2.02
G3 (N=10)	0.0353 ± 0.0004	0.0447 ± 0.0004	0.0570 ± 0.0003	0.0093 ± 0.0005	0.0123 ± 0.0001	4.20
<i>p</i>	NS	**	**	*	***	

baseline (B), after demineralization (D), after remineralization (R), changes after remineralization (dR), changes after demineralization (dD) and percentage changes comparing to placebo/G1 (%); NS (not significant), *: $p < 0.05$, **: $p < 0.01$, ***: $p < 0.001$

Table 3. Enamel surface hardness parameter mean±standard error

Toothpaste	B	D	R	dR	dD	%
G1 (N=10)	348 ± 21.971	297 ± 8.343	310 ± 6.663	51 ± 24.042	14 ± 6.237	29.8
G2 (N=10)	355 ± 20.277	296 ± 22.012	346 ± 13.985	59 ± 22.446	50 ± 17.008	87.7
G3 (N=10)	346 ± 24.598	303 ± 13.189	362 ± 13.256	43 ± 19.771	59 ± 19.103	168.9
<i>p</i>	NS	NS	***	NS	***	

baseline (B), after demineralization (D), after remineralization (R), changes after remineralization (dR), changes after demineralization (dD) and percentage enamel hardness recovery (remineralization) after demineralization (%); NS (not significant), *: $p < 0.05$, **: $p < 0.01$, ***: $p < 0.001$

The enamel surface hardness and roughness analysis demonstrated higher resistance to demineralization of toothpaste containing 1300ppm than the 1000ppm toothpaste and placebo. Moreover, carrageenan might increase the efficacy of the toothpaste. Carrageenan which is polysaccharides extracted from red seaweed, stabilizes the toothpaste. Carrageenan is the only agent capable to stabilize toothpaste without modifying the system texture due to its high specificity. Specific interaction between carrageenan and the surface of abrasive disperses and stabilizes the solids, preventing hardening, caking and drying out. Other binders that

are now available in the market have one or some of the properties of carrageenan, however they do not the same combination as carrageenan. This makes carrageenan is unique in the dentifrice industry.²⁰⁻²³

CONCLUSION

This *in vitro* study demonstrated that the use of a toothpaste with carrageenan and 1300ppm fluoride was able to sustain enamel roughness and hardness two times better than that of 1000ppm. These showed that

toothpaste with carrageenan and 1300ppm fluoride has a potential cariostatic effect.

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