

Review on biodentine: A boon to pediatric dentistry

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Abstract

Biodentine™, a new bioactive cement soon after its launch has drawn attention of all dental practitioners across the world for its superior characteristics. It is widely recommended for its wide spectrum of clinical applications in Pediatric dentistry. This literature review systematically summarizes the availability, composition, properties of biodentine. In nut shell, biodentine is able to function as a reliable alternative and comprises of a much brighter future outlook compared to the conventional cements which are being employed commonly.

Keywords: Biodentine™, Characteristics, Pediatric dentistry, Composition, Properties.

Introduction

From bygone days, Calcium hydroxide was the most preferred material for preserving the pulp vitality but due to its drawbacks like mild antibacterial properties, poor cohesive strength, greater solubility, and marginal leakage.¹ MTA was introduced in 1990. MTA was considered as a "GOLD STANDARD" material for defects related to dentin due to its excellent properties. But there existed shortcomings even with MTA such as not being cost effective, long setting time,^{1,2} difficult handling properties³ and its inherent tendency to undergo discolouration⁴ which led to the pathway for the creation of a new calcium silicate based biomaterial called as 'BIODENTINE', introduced by Septodont's research group [Saint Maur des Forges, France].⁵ It exhibited the identical excellent biocompatibility like that of MTA which can be placed in direct contact with the pulpal tissue,⁶ high mechanical properties and good sealing ability with dentine.⁷ As it fulfilled all the physiognomies of an ideal restorative material such as having good physical and mechanical properties, technical features of the material from the perspective of the dental professional, acceptability of the material by the patients, and other clinical features that lead to the material's effectiveness, it was rightly called as 'Bioactive Dentine Substitute'⁸ 'Dentine In Capsule'.⁹ Soon after its unveiling, its applications are greatly utilized in the department of Pedodontics, Operative dentistry, Endodontics, and also in Periodontics.

Availability

It is existing in the market in the form of capsules containing powder and as pipettes filled with the liquid.⁹

Composition:⁸⁻¹¹

Powder	Liquid
-Tricalcium silicate- Main core material	-Calcium chloride: Accelerator
-Dicalcium silicate- Second core material	-Hydrosoluble polymer – Water reducing agent
-Calcium carbonate and oxide – Filler	/super –plasticizing agent.
-Iron oxide- Colouring agent	
-Zirconium oxide – Radio –opacifier	

Manipulation

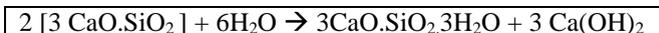
Working time- Upto 6 minutes.⁵

Final setting time – 10 to 12 minutes.⁵

Biodentine can be manipulated by two methods namely the mechanical and the manual method. In mechanical method, both powder and liquid are added and mixed together for 30 seconds in a triturator. In manual method, a mixing pad is taken and both liquid and powder are blend well with spatula for about 30 -45 seconds.⁵

Setting Reaction

When liquid and powder is mixed together, chemical reaction begins where calcium silicate and water reacts thus resulting in hardening of the cement. Therefore, final products of this process are hydrated calcium silicate gel [CSH gel] [CSH= 3CaO.2SiO₂.3H₂O] and calcium hydroxide [Ca(OH)₂].⁷



Properties

Compressive Strength

Grech et al conducted a study which calculated the compressive strength of biodentine in Hank's balanced salt solution to be 67.18 Mpa when immersed which was relatively much more higher than MTA which has 40 Mpa.⁷

Elastic Modulus

Biodentine has 22.0 Mpa very similar to dentine which has 18.5.²⁵

Microhardness

It is a very important property which determines whether the dental material is very hard or brittle for clinical application. The Vickers mean microhardness value was 62.35 [+/- 11.55] HV which is 2.5 times higher than the ProRoot MTA.¹⁷

Flexural Strength

This property is essential in order to estimate whether the material is capable of withstanding high stress or pressure. When compared to dentine which has a flexural strength of 20 Mpa, biodentine is known to have 34 Mpa which was estimated using three point bending test after 2 hours.⁷

Radio Opacity

Biodentine has a radio opacity of 1.50 (+/- 0.10) mm Aluminium due to opacifier.¹⁷ EE

Porosity and Density

Biodentine exhibited lower porosity compared to ProRootMTA, thereby had higher mechanical strength.⁷

Anti-bacterial Activity

MM Zayed et al conducted a study in which the anti bacterial property of dental cements were estimated by the growth of colonies of Streptococcus mutans, where largest zone of inhibition was exhibited by Biodentine.¹⁹ Another study conducted by Nikhil et al showed the biodentine's anti-bacterial activity after addition of 10% doxycycline or 2% Chlorhexidine which was found to be deadly against Enterococcus faecalis and Candida albicans.²⁰

Push-out Bond Strength

After setting time of 24 hours, Biodentine showed a markedly higher push-out bond strength than MTA.²¹

Solubility

Biodentine showed lower solubility compared to MTA since the release of the calcium ions from MTA accelerated its solubility to a greater extent.¹⁷

Inherent Potential to Undergo Discolouration

A study conducted by Camilleri et al found that biodentine do not undergo discolouration when compared to Neo MTA plus, MTA Plus.²²⁻²³ It shows stability of colour and can be used as a substitute for composite restorations in highly esthetic areas as well.

Durability as an Interim Posterior Restoration

A Prospective study conducted by Koub et al which analyzed the performance of posterior teeth with biodentine as an interim material and it was found to be durable upto 6 months.²⁴

Setting Time

Biodentine has comparatively short setting time of about 10-12 minutes to MTA, which makes it highly preferable for immediate crown restoration in Pediatric Dentistry.¹²

Marginal Adaptation and Sealing Ability

Biodentine after placement enters the pores which is caused by dissolution of organic tissue in dentinal tubules thus establishing micro mechanical bond and providing excellent anti-bacterial seal.¹⁶

Biocompatibility

Biodentine exhibits excellent property of biocompatibility to other materials.¹⁶

Applications in Pediatric Dentistry

The most unique property of biodentine is that of its importance in both crown and root portion of the tooth. In the crown portion, it is used for pulp capping, pulpotomy, deep cavity treatment involving sandwich technique, temporary restoration and as a dentine substitute.^{12,22,29,30-32} In root, biodentine has been indicated in root canal or furcation perforation, cervical root resorption, apexification, retrograde root end filling and also in implant stabilization as a bone substitute material.³³⁻³⁶ Due to all these vital properties, biodentine finds application in many clinical procedures.

Dentine Substitute

There was a strong evidence that no post-operative complications were established when biodentine was used as an alternative in class 1 and 2 composite restorations.³⁵ Even a clinical study with a 6 month follow-up showed a very strong marginal adaptation and superior surface finish with absence of pain and sensitivity on usage of biodentine.²⁹

These results indicated that biodentine could be used as a dentinal substitute under composite restoration for posterior teeth. A study by Valles Et al suggested that biodentine showed colour stability and results proved that biodentine could be a substitute for light cured restorative materials in esthetically sensitive areas.³⁶ Since biodentine had all the mechanical properties similar to dentine in tooth, it can be used as an ideal dentine substitute material.¹⁰

Pulp Capping

Biodentine is recommended as an effective medicament for pulp capping procedure,⁹ as it has the unique feature in dentine bridge formation and tissue reaction.^{9,10,37} Moreover, it has the ability to begin early mineralization from pulpal cells by releasing TGF- BETA, thereby encouraging pulp healing.⁹

Study conducted by Nowicka et al, with biodentine used as pulp capping material found that it exhibited dentine bridge formation without any inflammatory response.³⁹ Thus, once again proving to be good pulp capping agent.

Pulpotomy

In Pediatric dentistry, when the inflammation is in coronal pulp and also when direct pulp capping is not a recommended treatment option, pulpotomy is the most commonly accepted clinical procedure.⁴⁰ One of the key advantages of using biodentine in pulpotomy is that it required less time and also acts simultaneously as a filling and a dressing material.^{9,38,40}

Thereby, it was found that biodentine has the capacity of maintaining pulp vitality in patients opted for pulpotomy treatment.⁴¹ Villat et al treated second premolar teeth in a 12 year old patient with partial pulpotomy. After a 6 months follow up, they identified a homogenous dentine bridge formation and continuation of root development was witnessed which rendered the material to be far better compared to the other materials.⁴²

Apexification

A study conducted by Cauwell et al found that immature necrotic teeth after proper regenerative endodontic procedure with biodentine can still produce continued root development.⁴³ It was highly recommended due to its property to induce new cementum and periodontal ligament formation.¹⁰

Retrograde Filling Material

Pawar et al published a case report in which biodentine was used as a retrograde material for traumatized maxillary central and lateral incisors with large periapical lesion.¹⁸

After a follow-up for 18 months, it was identified that biodentine caused progression of periapical healing.⁴⁴

Repair of Resorption

In two different case reports published by Nikhil et al and Ali et al, both highlighted the unique property of biodentine in treatment of cervical and apical external root resorption cases after a time period of one year.³³⁻³⁴ However, they identified that on the re-treatment cases, there was equal difficulty in removal of biodentine.¹⁰

Repair of Perforations

Biodentine having a high push out bond strength even after being exposed to vast number of endodontic irrigants makes it obviously a preferred choice.^{9,19} Due to the presence of this excellent property in biodentine, it has become a preferred material of choice in perforation repair.⁹

Conclusion

Biodentine proves to be a most promising material of all due to its exceptional properties of being highly biocompatible, bioactive, shorter span of setting time, being versatile as well as easy of handling. Thereby, overcome the shortcomings of other material like that of MTA, calcium hydroxide and formocresol which are available commercially. Thus, biodentine proves to be a 'GOLD STANDARD' replacing all other materials for treatment of primary and permanent teeth. However, long term clinical studies and trials are required to draw further inferences regarding its scope for applications in various fields of dentistry.

Conflict of Interest: None.

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