



Dental Drug Delivery System Used In Periodontitis

James Ding*

Dental Materials Science, Division of Applied Oral Sciences & Community Dental Care, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Abstract

Periodontitis is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects the supporting structures of teeth, including the periodontal ligament, alveolar bone, and gingiva. It is a leading cause of tooth loss worldwide and is associated with various systemic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The traditional treatment of periodontitis involves mechanical debridement, including scaling and root planing, in addition to the use of systemic or local antibiotics. However, the challenges of drug bioavailability, targeting, and sustained release have led to the development of innovative drug delivery systems (DDS). These systems are designed to improve drug concentration at the site of infection while minimizing systemic side effects. This article reviews the various dental drug delivery systems employed in the management of periodontitis, focusing on the mechanisms of action, materials used, and their clinical efficacy.

Keywords: Periodontitis; Dental drug delivery systems; Periodontal disease management; Local drug delivery; Controlled release systems; Drug targeting; Nanoparticles; Biodegradable polymers; Antimicrobial agents

Introduction:

Periodontitis is a prevalent and serious inflammatory disease that affects the gums and structures supporting the teeth. It is primarily caused by bacterial infection, leading to the breakdown of the soft tissue and bone that hold teeth in place. If left untreated, periodontitis can lead to tooth mobility and eventual tooth loss. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 10% of the global population suffers from severe periodontitis, and its prevalence increases with age.

***Corresponding author:** James Ding, Dental Materials Science, Division of Applied Oral Sciences & Community Dental Care, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong E-mail: jamesding21465@gmail.com

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controlled drug release to the site of infection. The key goals of DDS in periodontitis treatment include:

- **Targeted Delivery:** DDS allows higher drug concentrations at the infection site compared to systemic delivery, improving treatment efficacy.
- **Sustained Release:** DDS can offer a prolonged release of therapeutic agents, ensuring continuous antimicrobial activity over a longer duration.
- **Minimized Systemic Side Effects:** By localizing the drug delivery to the periodontal tissue, DDS minimizes the risk of adverse effects that may arise from systemic drug exposure.
- **Targeted Therapy:** DDS can be engineered to specifically target the infected periodontal sites, increasing the specificity and reducing side effects.

Various DDS technologies have been developed to address these goals, including biodegradable polymers, nanoparticles, hydrogels, and liposomes. These DDS platforms are designed to deliver various therapeutic agents, such as antibiotics, antimicrobials, enzymes, and growth factors, directly to the site of infection.

Biodegradable Polymers

Biodegradable polymers are one of the most commonly used materials in DDS. They offer the advantage of releasing the drug over an extended period as they break down within the body. Some of the commonly used biodegradable polymers include poly(lactic acid) (PLA), poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA), and chitosan. These polymers are biocompatible, biodegradable, and have been extensively studied for local drug delivery.

PLGA-based systems are widely used in periodontitis therapy due to their ability to control the release of drugs. These systems can be incorporated into various forms, such as microspheres, films, or scaffolds, and are effective in delivering antibiotics like tetracycline or minocycline directly to the periodontal pocket. Once in place, the polymer degrades over time, releasing the drug in a controlled manner.

Nanoparticles

Nanoparticles have gained significant attention in recent years due to their unique properties, such as small size, high surface area, and ability to cross biological barriers. Nanoparticles can be engineered to deliver a variety of drugs, including antibiotics, anti-inflammatory agents, and growth factors. These particles are often designed to target specific cells or tissues and offer sustained release of the drug.

Nanoparticles can be fabricated from a variety of materials, including lipids, polymers, and ceramics. In the treatment of periodontitis, nanoparticles can be used to encapsulate drugs like chlorhexidine, doxycycline, or minocycline, ensuring high local concentrations at the infection site. Additionally, nanoparticles can be surface-modified to enhance their stability and improve their interactions with the periodontal tissue.

Hydrogels

Hydrogels are water-based polymers that can absorb large amounts of water and maintain their shape and consistency. Hydrogels can be used to create a matrix for drug delivery, as they are highly flexible and can be applied directly to the periodontal tissue. Hydrogels are typically

loaded with antimicrobial agents and can provide both a barrier to protect the tissue and a sustained release of drugs.

One of the advantages of hydrogels is their ability to form in situ, meaning they can be applied as a liquid and will gel at body temperature. This makes them easy to apply to periodontal pockets and ensures good retention of the drug. Hydrogels are also highly biocompatible and can be engineered for controlled release, making them an excellent choice for periodontal therapy.

Liposomes

Liposomes are spherical vesicles made up of lipid bilayers that can encapsulate both hydrophilic and hydrophobic drugs. They can be used to deliver a wide range of therapeutic agents, including antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, and growth factors. Liposomes are especially advantageous in drug delivery due to their ability to fuse with cell membranes, enhancing drug uptake.

In periodontitis treatment, liposomal formulations have been developed to deliver drugs like tetracycline and clindamycin directly to the periodontal tissue. Liposomes can protect the drug from the

approach for the management of periodontitis, providing a more effective, localized, and controlled treatment modality. As research continues to advance, it is likely that DDS will play an increasingly important role in periodontal therapy, offering improved outcomes