

Original Article

Correlation between dental caries and salivary immunoglobulin in adult Indian population: An *in vivo* study

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To evaluate the relationship between dental caries and salivary immunoglobulins (S-Ig) in unstimulated saliva of young adults between the age group of 20 and 30 years from South Canara district, Karnataka with varying caries experience as determined by their Decayed Missing Filled Teeth (DMFT) scores. **Materials and Methods:** The study was conducted on 80 healthy adult subjects with age group between 20 and 30 years. The healthy subjects without any chronic diseases were selected. The patients were divided into four groups according to DMFT status (WHO, 1997) as G-I, DMFT 0, G-II, DMFT 1-5; G-III, DMFT 6-10; and G-IV, as DMFT above 10. Unstimulated saliva samples were collected from each subject and checked for S-IgA and IgG. The obtained data was statistically analyzed using one-way ANOVA and Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference test. **Results:** Correlation of DMFT with S-IgA showed that as the S-IgA levels decreased in the saliva, there was increase in the DMFT levels. With intergroup comparison of S-IgA, there is no significant difference between group I and group II. There was no significant correlation seen between the S-IgA G levels and dental caries experience. **Conclusion:** The S-IgA increases with decrease in caries activity and S-IgG does not show any correlation with dental caries.

Keywords: Dental caries, decayed missing filled teeth, saliva, salivary IgA, salivary IgG

INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is one of the most common microbial infection, but rarely it is a critical disease.¹ Caries is characterized by a localized, transmissible, microbial infectious process that ends up in the destruction of hard dental tissue.² There are many factors which can cause dental caries, among which, poor dental hygiene

and oral care, family history of dental caries, greater concentration of bacteria in oral cavity with acidophilic activity, decreased salivary flow, more cariogenic diet, and reduced level of fluoride in drinking water are the important factors.³

Immunoglobulins (antibodies) are produced by B cells, which are plasma proteins. They are active in the defence against bacterial and viral infections. In the late 19th century, the action of immunoglobulin was first studied by Von Behring and Kitasato. They found that the serum taken from rabbits immune to tetanus toxin could protect nonimmune rabbits from infection.⁴ An immunoglobulin is typically a Y-shaped structure consisting of four polypeptide chains—two heavy chains and two light chains. An antigen-binding site is present in each arm.

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S-IgA and Lysozime as Biomarker of Early Childhood Caries Risk

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Absract—Caries in children under 6 years old (Early Childhood Caries) is still a major oral health problem in many countries. The high prevalence of ECC should be prevented immediately based on the cause of caries. Saliva is one of the factors that play role in dental caries process, also play a role as caries prevention. This article describes the relationship between S-IgA and salivary lysozyme in the incidence of ECC and the development of that protein as one of the caries biomarkers. Several studies reported that S-IgA in caries-free children had higher concentration than in ECC children. Lysozyme concentration in unstimulated saliva are also significantly higher in the caries-free group compared with the ECC group. Determination of lysozyme and S-IgA level in saliva may be helpful in diagnosing caries disease and infections. It is concluded that the development of S-IgA and salivary lysozyme can be used as one of the biomarkers for dental caries detection, risk assessment, diagnosis, prognosis and disease monitoring, and evaluation in ECC.

Keyword—ECC, S-IgA, salivary lysozyme, biomarker

1. INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is still a major oral health problem in many countries including Indonesia. The major caries lesions in infants, toddlers and preschool children are called Early Childhood Caries (ECC). The definition of ECC according to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) is the presence of carious lesions on the surface of deciduous teeth (enamel or not cavity), each lost for cavity or restored teeth in children under 6 years old [1].

ECC epidemiological data from various countries shows varying number. In America, ECC incidence in 1 year old children has high prevalence which is 21% and increase in preschool ages 3 years old by 75% [1,2]. Study in India found that the prevalence of ECC varied by 27.3% [3] to 56.6% [4], while in Northern Thailand, it has higher prevalence which is 68.3% [5].

Necrotic data in 2007 and 2013 found that there was an increase in the caries prevalence in Indonesian children. It was reported that caries prevalence in children age 1-4 years old was 43% [6], and increased

by 3.3% to 10.4% [7]. Prevalence of ECC in children 3 years old and under in Surabaya and Medan was higher than the national data in Surabaya that reported 30.6% [8], while in Medan it was found higher by 37.7% [9].

The high prevalence of ECC in various countries must be prevent immediately based on the caries etiology. Caries occur not because of one event but due to a series of processes over several periods, therefore caries is supposed to be multifactorial disease. There are three main factors that play role in caries disease which are host factors (teeth and saliva), agents (microorganisms) and substrate or diet and added with time factor. Caries will occur when each factor is mutually supportive [10].

Saliva is one of the factor that play role in dental caries process, also play a role as caries prevention [11]. Therefore, it is possible that saliva is used as a biomarker to assess a person's caries risk. Biomarkers serve to detect, risk assessment, diagnosis, prognosis and disease monitoring and health evaluation [12,13]. Biomarkers can be antibodies, antibodies, DNA, RNA, lipids, metabolites and proteins. The change in concentration, structure, function, or action in analysis can be attributed to the onset, development, regression of a particular disorder or the outcome of how the body responds [14]. Biomarkers are screened through quantitative ways to determine specificity, sensitivity and reproducibility [15].

Increased use of saliva as a non-invasive diagnostic tool has been developed recently. Non-invasive methods will avoid patient's discomfort or fear in detecting the disease, because in sampling does not cause any pain. Besides economical, saliva is easily collected, delivered, and stored so that there is a decrease in overall costs for patients and healthcare providers [16].

Saliva proteins that can be used as dental caries biomarkers which serve as immune and nonimmune antimicrobial factors [16]. The main salivary immune factor is secretory IgA (s-IgA) [17], while non-immune factors in saliva include lysozyme, lactoferrin, salivary peroxidase, albumin, lactalbumin, cytochrome, secretory

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Secretory iga sebagai bagian reaksi sistem imunitas mukosa oral akibat aplikasi material kurang tepat

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Abstrak

Kesehatan rongga mulut tergantung pada integritas mukosa. Dalam sistem pertahanan tubuh termasuk kulit, mukosa, saluran nafas merupakan garis pertahanan terdepan terhadap infeksi. Mikroorganisme dan dental material yang masuk dalam rongga mulut merupakan benda asing yang dapat menimbulkan reaksi sistem imun. yang dikordinasi oleh sel limfosit. Reaksi sistem imun berguna untuk mempertahankan keutuhan tubuh terhadap antigen, mengeliminasi komponen tubuh yang sudah tua (homeostatis), dan sebagai fungsi pengawasan dengan menghancurkan atau mematikan sel. Reaksi sistem imun yang terjadi dapat alamiah atau spesifik. Faktor yang penting dalam imunitas rongga mulut adalah integritas mukosa oral dan fungsi komponen salivary. Immunoglobulin A sekretori (sIgA) adalah immunoglobulin yang paling penting dalam saliva, dan memberikan peran perlindungan yang sangat besar bagi mukosa oral dari infeksi.

Kata kunci: sIgA, mukosa oral

Abstract

Oral health depends on the integrity of the mucosa. In the immune system, including skin, mucosa, respiratory tract is a leading of defense against infection. Microorganisms and dental materials in the oral cavity are foreign objects that can cause immune system reactions. The immune system coordinated by lymphocytes. The reaction of the immune system allows you to maintain the integrity of the body to an antigen, eliminating the aged cell (homeostasis), and to control death cell. The reaction of the immune system can occur naturally or specific. An important factor in the immunity of the oral cavity is a function of the integrity of the oral

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PERAN IMUNOGLOBULIN A (S-IgA) DALAM MENGHAMBAT PEMBENTUKAN BIOFILM STREPTOKOKUS MUTANS PADA PERMUKAAN GIGI

(ROLE OF IMMUNOGLOBULIN A (S-IgA) IN INHIBITING BIOFILM FORMATION OF STREPTOCOCCUS MUTANS ON THE TOOTH SURFACES)

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Abstract

Secretory IgA (S-IgA) is an antibody class present in the saliva. It is formed as dimeric IgA by local plasma cells (PC) in the stratum of salivary glands and subsequently transported through secretory epithelia by the polymers. Ig receptor (sIgA), otherwise called mucinase secretory component (SC). On the mucosal surface, S-IgA antibodies together with mucous performed mucosa exclusion of antigen. The article aims to determine the role of S-IgA in improving oral mucosal defense against pathogenic bacteria *Streptococcus mutans*. These bacteria are the major etiology of dental caries, through its ability to adhere to a solid surface. Adhesion is inhibited by S-IgA by interacting with bacterial adhesion protein called Ag III. This ability allow S-IgA to prevent adhesion, hence, prevent the initiation of caries. In conclusion, secretory of S-IgA saliva to Ag III of *Streptococcus mutans* has shown to be able to prevent colonization in human oral cavity.

Key words: antigen III, *Streptococcus mutans*, secretory IgA (S-IgA)

Abstrak

Salivary IgA (S-IgA) adalah salah satu kelas antibodi yang terdapat dalam saliva, yang dihasilkan dalam bentuk dimeric IgA oleh sel plasma lokal (PC) pada stratum glandula saliva dan kemudian ditransporasikan melalui epitel sekretori oleh polimer Ig reseptor (s-IgA), yang disebut juga dengan mucinase komponen sekretori (SC). Pada permukaan mukosa S-IgA berinteraksi dengan mukosa untuk mengeluarkan antigen. Tujuan penelitian artikel ini adalah untuk menjelaskan peran S-IgA dalam menghambat pembentukan biofilm mutans terhadap bakteri patogen *Streptococcus mutans*. Bakteri ini merupakan penyebab utama terjadinya karies gigi, karena kemampuan mereka untuk melekat pada permukaan gigi, yang menggunakan terbutanynta kolonisasi pada permukaan gigi melalui penambatan biofilm. Penikatan *Streptococcus mutans* ini akan dibatasi oleh S-IgA dengan menggunakan protein penikatan bakteri yang disebut Ag III. Hal ini memungkinkan S-IgA untuk mencegah penikatan bakteri pada permukaan, sehingga dapat mencegah inisiasi terjadinya karies gigi. Sebagai kesimpulan, salivary S-IgA saliva terhadap Ag III *Streptococcus mutans* telah terbukti dapat mencegah kolonisasi bakteri tersebut di rongga mulut manusia.

Kata kunci: antigen III, *Streptococcus mutans*, sekretori IgA (S-IgA)

PENDAHULUAN

Masalah kesehatan gigi dan mulut terutama karies gigi di Indonesia masih memiliki angka prevalensi yang tinggi, hal ini dapat dilihat dari data RISKESDAS (Riset Kesehatan Dasar) tahun 2013, yang menyatakan bahwa prevalensi karies tertinggi terjadi pada usia produktif. Pada usia 35-44 tahun terdapat prevalensi karies sebesar 30,3% dan pada

usia 45-54 tahun sebesar 31,9%.¹ Karies gigi pada manusia merupakan penyakit infeksi yang menyerang jaringan keras rongga mulut yaitu gigi, yang melibatkan bakteri. *Streptococcus mutans* adalah salah satu bakteri patogen rongga mulut yang merupakan agen etiologi utama karies gigi.² Bakteri ini telah diidentifikasi sebagai agen utama etiologi karies gigi pada manusia dan binatang coba, karena bakteri ini ditemukan pada populasi yang

The role of salivary sIgA as protection for dental caries activity in Indonesian children

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Purpose: The aim of this study is to assess the relationship between the level of sIgA and dental caries experience in healthy children who are 6- to 9-years-old from Indonesia. The case-control study is conducted to determine the protective role of salivary secretory immunoglobulin A (sIgA) levels in the stimulated whole saliva of dental caries-active and caries-free children.

Methods: This research was done by stimulating the whole saliva which had been collected from 6- to 9-years-old children with the index *dmft*-0/1 of 30 children as the caries-active children group and 30 children with *dmft*-0/3 as the low caries-active children group. Saliva samples were collected in sterile vials between 10 am-12 pm due to the circadian rhythm, which is at least one hour after last meal. 1.5 ml of collected salivary sample was centrifuged, and the supernatant was transferred to other tubed and stored immediately to the laboratory at a temperature of -20°C. The estimation of sIgA concentration was done by using ELISA. The differences in the level of sIgA between the two groups with caries were analyzed using the *t*-test afterward.

Results: The total salivary concentration of sIgA was statistically significantly higher in the low caries-active children group than in the caries-active children group.

Conclusion: The total salivary concentration of sIgA was statistically and significantly higher in the low caries-active children group than caries-active children group. There is a negative correlation between sIgA level and dental caries activity of 6- to 9-years-old children.

Keywords: sIgA level, ELISA, dental caries, Indonesia

Introduction

Dental caries is an infectious disease that causes health problems in some developed and developing countries. Based on Republic of Indonesia Basic Health Research in 2018, the *dmft* index in Indonesian children who are 6- to 9-years-old is 92,74%.

The risk of dental caries is controlled by saliva due to the presence of Secretory Immunoglobulin A (sIgA) as an antibacterial substance. Factors that play a role in the development of dental caries are the host response, bacteria in plaque as antigen, quality and quantity of diet, and time. Genetic and environmental factors are considered to contribute to an increased risk of dental caries. A previous research has shown that there is a relationship between the genetic aspect and the immune response to dental caries. Genetic factors have an impact on the introduction of antigen, immune response and dietary patterns. A research on humans and animals proves that genetic differences causes immunomodulatory deviations from antigens in which they play a role in dental caries.

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RESEARCH BRIEF

Salivary Siga and Dental Caries Activity

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This case-control study was conducted to determine the protective role of salivary secretory immunoglobulin A (Siga) levels in the unstimulated whole saliva of dental caries active (Group I) and caries free children (Group II). Thirty children aged 4-8 years were selected. Their DMFT (Decayed Missing Filled teeth for permanent teeth) and dft-1 (decayed, filled teeth for deciduous teeth) scores were determined and the salivary Siga levels were measured using immunoradiometry. Siga levels of all three groups were in the normal range of 4-30 mg/L. The Siga levels for both Group I and II were less than that in Group III (P=0.018 and P=0.0013, respectively).

Keywords: Child, Dental caries, Immunoglobulin A, India.

Dental caries is a multifactorial disease and one of the major contributing factors is saliva [1]. Secretory immunoglobulin A (Siga) is the prominent immunoglobulin in whole saliva and is considered to be the main specific defense mechanism in the oral cavity. Siga helps in prevention of dental caries by inhibition of bacterial adherence, reduction of hydrophobicity, agglutination of bacteria and inactivation of bacterial enzymes and toxins [2-4]. Several studies on the role of Siga in prevention of dental caries showed contradictory results [5-7]. We compared the Siga levels in the unstimulated whole saliva of caries free and caries active children to determine the role of Siga in protection from dental caries.

Methods

Thirty children of both sexes, aged 4-8 years were selected randomly, from those who were enrolled. Their DMFT (decayed missing filled teeth for permanent teeth) and dft-1 (decayed, filled teeth for deciduous teeth) scores were determined and were then divided into three groups. Group I: 10 children with DMFT and/or dft-1 > 5 (Low caries activity), Group II: 10 children with DMFT and/or dft-1 < 5 (high caries activity), and Group III: 10 caries free children. For the children with mixed dentition, the sum total of DMFT and dft-4 was considered [8]. The inclusion criteria for subject recruitment were: co-operative behavior, normal growth and development, and good oral hygiene. The exclusion criteria were: congenital or systemic disease, protein energy malnutrition, obesity, dental abscesses, use of antibiotics in the past 7 days, and oral exposure to food in past two hours of sample collection.

After obtaining an informed consent from the parents or guardians, unstimulated whole salivary samples were collected in sterile vials. All the salivary samples were collected between 10-12 AM in order to prevent any differences in the concentration of the saliva due to the circadian rhythm. Children were asked to pool the saliva in the floor of mouth and spit the collected saliva in an interval of 5 minutes. After collection of 5mL of salivary sample, it was transported immediately to the laboratory at a temperature of -70°C.

The estimation of Siga concentration was done

Review Article
Future Microbiology
Role of secretory immunoglobulin A and secretory component in the protection of mucosal surfaces
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The contribution of secretory immunoglobulin A (sIgA) antibodies in the defense of mucosal epithelia plays an important role in preventing pathogen adhesion to host cells, therefore blocking dissemination and further infection. This mechanism, referred to as immune exclusion, represents the dominant mode of action of the antibody. However, sIgA antibodies combat multiple facets, together confer properties extending from intracellular and serosal neutralization of antigens, activation of non-inflammatory pathways and homeostatic control of the endogenous microbiota. The sum of these features suggests that future opportunities for translational application from research-based knowledge to clinics include the mucosal delivery of bioactive antibodies capable of preserving immunoreactivity in the lung, gastrointestinal tract, the genito-urinary tract for the treatment of infections. This article covers topics dealing with the structure of sIgA, the dissection of its mode of action in epithelium lining different mucosal surfaces and its potential in immunotherapy against infectious pathogens.

Mucosal surfaces comprising the gastrointestinal, respiratory and urogenital mucosae represent a large part of entry (400 m² in humans) [1] for many pathogens and thus have to be efficiently protected. This goal is achieved by a combination of constitutive, innate factors (e.g., mucus, lysozyme, lactoferrin and defensins) and induced, specific immune mechanisms involving cellular and antibody responses [2]. The chief antibody at mucosal surfaces is secretory IgA (sIgA) [3], a multimeric structure made of polymeric IgA (pIgA) produced by activated B cells [4,5] in the mucosal epithelium and of secretory component (SC), which is derived from the polymeric Ig receptor (pIgR) and ensures selective transcytosis of pIgA across the epithelial cells of mucosal membranes [6]. Once in secretions, sIgA binds antigens, thus preventing their adhesion and adsorption to the luminal epithelial surface and facilitating their elimination by peristalsis or mucociliary movements, a phenomenon termed immune exclusion [7].

Original Article

Correlation of total salivary secretory immunoglobulin A (Siga) and mutans specific Siga in children having different caries status

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ABSTRACT
Background: Relation between secretory immunoglobulin A (Siga) and dental caries still imprecise. Studies have been conducted either for total Siga or mutans specific Siga with bizarre results. **Aim:** The aim of this study is to find out the relationship between mutans antigen specific Siga and total salivary Siga and its influence in caries status in children. **Materials and Methods:** A total of 40 children aged between 6-14 years were divided based on their caries index (decayed, missing, filled, extracted tooth) score in high moderate and no caries group and their saliva were analyzed with enzyme linked immunosorbent assay for total Siga and mutans specific Siga. **Results:** High caries group showed high mutans specific Siga, but less total Siga, whereas low caries group showed the reverse. **Conclusion:** The mutans specific Siga and total Siga has a weak, but negative correlation in children potentiating caries inhibitory action of Siga.
KEYWORDS: Antigen, caries, saliva, secretory immunoglobulin A, Streptococcus mutans

Introduction
Salivary secretory immunoglobulin A (Siga) has an immunological control over dental caries and presumably prevents the adherence of cariogenic microorganisms to hard surfaces and may also inhibit the activity of glycosyltransferases [1]. Studies, which evaluated the role of total salivary Siga and caries prevalence or mutans antigen specific Siga and prevalence of caries in children showed variant relationship between them. However, this leads to some confusion. With total salivary Siga, there have been results of positive, negative even no correlation with dental caries status of the children [2]. The same thing can be noticed with mutans specific Siga also. Since total

Siga in saliva can be formed against other common oral pathogens [3] so it can not be conclusive to evaluate its role against specifically in caries protection. On the other hand, it is also true that the amount of total salivary Siga will determine the immunity status of the patient [4]. Again the amount of mutans specific Siga in the same patient will give evidence of protection of salivary Siga against that particular pathogen. However only a few studies have evaluated the interrelation between the total Siga of saliva and mutans specific Siga of saliva in the same patient having different caries status. Hence, aim of this study is to evaluate the interrelation of total salivary Siga and mutans specific Siga in children having different caries status in mixed dentition by enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

Materials and Methods
In this cross-sectional analytical study, 45 children in the age group of 6-14 years were selected with caries index ranging from 0 to 15 (decayed, missing, filled, extracted tooth) based on the criteria that they should not be immune compromised and having a good quality to expectorate.



Evaluation of Total Salivary Secretory Immunoglobulin A and Mutans-specific IgA among Children having Dissimilar Caries Status

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The occurrence of dental caries has become quite a common phenomenon nowadays. The varying levels of salivary secretory Immunoglobulin A (SIgA) usually determine the progression of caries. The present study was aimed to determine the correlation between SIgA and mutans-specific antigen SIgA in children having different caries status. Scanning electron microscopic analysis was also completed to correlate the results.

Materials and methods: This study comprised 60 subjects, who were divided into three groups depending on caries status. In all, saliva was collected to determine the level of SIgA and mutans-specific antigen SIgA using enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). The World Health Organization (WHO) criteria and method were used to evaluate dental caries. Bradford reagent was used to evaluate the levels of protein in the antigen. Furthermore, 20 sections of enamel were randomly obtained to estimate the severity of caries development among groups.

Results: Categorical characteristics among all groups were compared by basic statistical analysis and Chi-squared test. Mean age (years) was found to be 5.24 ± 2.20, 5.5 ± 2.51, and 10.2 ± 2.35 in groups I, II, and III respectively. Mutans-specific IgA level ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) was 34.63 ± 7.46, 28.24 ± 4.52, and 23.56 ± 1.62 in groups I, II, and III respectively. Total SIgA ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) was 142.53 ± 22.4, 195.10 ± 24.70, and 214.5 ± 27.56 in groups I,

II, and III respectively. Caries Index was 6.74 ± 2.16, 2.32 ± 0.86, and 0 ± 0 in groups I, II, and III respectively.

Conclusion: Immunoglobulin A is dominantly present in saliva and plays a significant role in prevention of dental caries. Hence, dental caries is more likely to develop in subjects with low level of salivary IgA (high caries index).

Clinical significance: A low level of IgA may be associated with a high risk of developing dental caries. This association may possibly be useful in predicting the future caries status. Accordingly, suitable caries-preventive measures can be selected and employed.

Keywords: Bradford reagent, Dental caries, Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay, Immunoglobulin, Scanning electron microscopy.

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INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is defined as an irreversible microbial disease of calcified tissue characterized by demineralization of inorganic and destruction of the organic portion of the tooth. It is a common condition in children. It is characterized by the presence of bacteria, such as *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus aureus*, etc., on the surfaces of teeth, thus leading to destruction and resulting in dental caries.¹ Various studies have reported on the defensive role of salivary SIgA against dental caries in both children and adults. Dental caries is caused by acid production due to degradation of the carbohydrates present in the food by the microorganisms. Thus, the role of salivary SIgA in preventing progression of dental caries

Original Article

Analysis of Salivary IgA, Amylase, Lactoferrin, and Lysozyme Before and After Comprehensive Dental Treatment in Children: A Prospective Study

Abstract

Objective: This study aimed to evaluate the levels of salivary IgA, amylase, lactoferrin, and lysozyme before and after comprehensive dental treatment in children with early childhood caries. **Design:** Thirty children aged 36-40 months, with a deft score ≥ 5 , were selected for the study. Before dental treatment, paraffin-stimulated whole saliva was collected in a sterile graduated cup for a period of 5 min. The saliva samples were quantitatively analyzed for levels of IgA, amylase, lactoferrin, and lysozyme using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Comprehensive dental treatment was carried out in all the children including caries preventive procedures. A second sample of saliva was collected at 3 months following completion of dental treatment. Data obtained was subjected to statistical analysis using Student's *t*-test. **Results:** The mean levels of salivary IgA was significantly reduced from 59.60 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ to 56.42 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ after dental treatment ($P < 0.05$). There was a significant reduction in the levels of salivary amylase from 115.78 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ to 113.33 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ($P < 0.001$). Following dental treatment, salivary lactoferrin and lysozyme levels were significantly reduced from 3.76 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ and 10.62 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ to 3.44 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ and 10.27 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, respectively ($P < 0.001$). **Conclusion:** Levels of salivary IgA, amylase, lactoferrin, and lysozyme were reduced significantly at 3 months following comprehensive dental treatment.

Keywords: Amylase, dental caries, lactoferrin, lysozyme, salivary IgA

Introduction

Dental caries is an infectious multifactorial disease caused by interplay of tooth, diet, and microorganisms. The development of dental caries requires the presence of cariogenic bacteria and fermentable sugar to form acid leading to demineralization of enamel.¹ Cariogenic microorganisms enter the dental biofilm early in life and can subsequently emerge under favorable environmental conditions, to cause disease. Occasionally, children with early childhood caries (ECC) have moderate levels of streptococcal mutans, which are generally acquired from their mothers at an early age.² The various adaptive host defenses in response to these antigens are expressed in saliva and gingival crevicular fluid in the oral cavity.³

Specific immune defense against *S.mutans* is considered to be one of the factors. Protection is provided largely by SIgA antibodies which are generated by the mucosal immune system. The various

non-specific antimicrobial agents in saliva such as immunoglobulin, cytotoxic, lactoperoxidase, lysozyme, and lactoferrin have also shown an interactive effect on the reduction of bacterial growth and metabolism.

The protective mechanism of saliva is necessary for the reduction and prevention of this infectious disease. Saliva has various protective functions due to its physical characteristics and chemical composition. The immune response in the oral cavity is due to the presence of an extensive and specialized mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue.⁴ Antimicrobial proteins in saliva constitute immunoglobulins and nonimmunoglobulins such as lactoferrin, lysozyme, mucin, histatin, and lactoperoxidase. Many of these molecules are present in rather low concentrations in the whole saliva, and it should be considered that their effects are cumulative and/or synergistic, resulting in an efficient molecular defense network of the oral cavity.⁵ These salivary immunoglobulins include IgA, IgM, and IgG.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT

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The assessment of sIgA, histatin-5, and lactoperoxidase levels in saliva of adolescents with dental caries

Agnieszka Gornowicz, et al.

Abstract: Saliva contains a number of protective factors such as mucins, immunoglobulins (IgA, IgM, and IgG), and enzymes (e.g., lysozyme and lactoperoxidase) that play an important role in the maintenance of oral health. The aim of this study was to compare levels of sIgA, histatin-5, and lactoperoxidase in saliva of adolescents with dental caries.

Materials/Methods: Thirty-five adolescents (age 18 years) from high school were examined. Eight subjects with DMFT = 0 (Group I) and 27 adolescents with DMFT ≥ 1 (Group II) were enrolled for this study. Clinical evaluation procedures comprised oral examination (including teeth, periodontium, and oral mucosal status) and collection of saliva samples. Saliva was collected for enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and was used for determination of sIgA, histatin-5, and lactoperoxidase levels.

Results: Our results showed that adolescents with very high intensity of dental caries (DMFT ≥ 11) had increased levels of sIgA, histatin-5, and lactoperoxidase compared to adolescents with lower intensity of caries. This increase was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions: We suggest that high intensity of caries is associated with increased levels of some salivary components – sIgA, histatin-5, and lactoperoxidase – that possess strong bactericidal or bacteriostatic effects, resulting in aggregation of oral bacteria and their clearance from the oral cavity.

MeSH Keywords: Dental Caries Severity • Histatins • Lactoperoxidase • Saliva

Full-text PDF: <http://www.medscimonit.com/abstract/doi/10.12659/MSM.990468>

2016 | 3 | 1095 | 6

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The relationship between salivary IgA levels and dental caries in children

Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to find the relationship between salivary IgA (sIgA) levels and dental caries in children. **Materials and Methods:** A total of 40 children in the age group of 6 to 12 years were selected and divided into two groups: Group I with DMFT score 0 and Group II with DMFT score ≥ 3 . The whole unstimulated sIgA levels were estimated using ELISA method. **Results:** Whole sIgA levels were significantly higher in group I with DMFT score 0 as compared with group I with DMFT score 3. **Conclusions:** There was an increase in sIgA levels in caries-free mouth to give protection mechanism against dental caries and the Streptococcus mutans which are active in cariogenic mouth. The sIgA antibodies can play an important role in control of dental caries.

Key words

ELISA, dental caries, DMFT, salivary IgA

Introduction

Dental caries is a multifactorial disease and one of the major contributing factors is saliva. Salivary components, its flow, viscosity, buffering capacity, etc. play a major role in the prevention, initiation, and progression of the disease. It helps in the prevention of the caries by its antibacterial effect.¹

Secretory IgA is the main immunoglobulin in secretions, including saliva. It is the first line of defense of the host against pathogens which invade mucosal surfaces. Salivary IgA (s-IgA) antibodies could help oral immunity by preventing microbial adherence, neutralizing enzymes, toxins, and viruses; or by acting in synergy with other factors such as lysozyme and lactoferrin.²

Studies have also demonstrated a lower incidence of

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A comparative study of salivary buffering capacity, flow rate, resting pH, and salivary Immunoglobulin A in children with rampant caries and caries-resistant children

Abstract

Purpose: This study was conducted to identify various factors in the development of rampant type of dental caries in South Korea children, other than high sucrose intake and poor oral hygiene. This was done by comparing the salivary buffering capacity (BC), flow rate (FR), resting pH and salivary immunoglobulin (IgA) levels in children who are caries resistant (CR) and who have rampant dental caries. Materials and Methods: The study groups, a rampant caries group (RC) with more than five active caries lesions in the early stage and a CR with no caries lesions were selected based on a specific criteria. Unstimulated whole mixed saliva was collected directly from the floor of the mouth for a period of 10 min and the FR was calculated. Resting pH of saliva was measured using color-coded pH paper. BC was measured by calculating the amount of citric acid (pH 5), required to lower the initial pH of saliva down to 3. IgA levels were also estimated by immunoblotting method after forming a precipitate of IgA with specific anti-IgA antibodies. Results: The salivary BC, FR, pH and IgA levels were significantly lower in the RC group when compared to the CR group. Conclusion: This study proved that salivary BC, flow rate, resting pH and levels of IgA in saliva are risk factors in the development of RC in children.

Key words

Buffering capacity, caries, CR, flow rate, immunoglobulin A, rampant caries, salivary diagnostics

Introduction

Dental caries is a unique multifactorial, infectious disease involving internal defense factors such as

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saliva, tooth surface morphology and mineralization, general health, nutritional and hormonal status, and a number of external factors such as diet, microbial flora colonizing the teeth, oral hygiene, and fluoride availability.^{1,2} Rampant dental caries is an extreme form of dental caries where multiple caries lesions appear suddenly; almost all teeth are affected and the disease process reaches the pulp at very rapid pace. Affected children are often in great distress due to multiple pulp exposures, do not eat properly, and become malnourished. There is no evidence that the mechanism

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Review Article

Saliva as a diagnostic tool for oral and systemic diseases

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ABSTRACT

Early disease detection is not only vital to reduce disease severity and prevent complications, but also critical to increase success rates of therapy. Saliva has been studied extensively as a potential diagnostic tool over the last decade due to its easy and non-invasive accessibility along with its abundance of biomarkers, such as genetic material and proteins. This review will update the clinician on recent advances in salivary biomarkers to diagnose autoimmune diseases (Sjogren's syndrome, cystic fibrosis), cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, HIV, oral cancer, and periodontal diseases. Considering their accuracy, efficacy, ease of use and cost effectiveness, salivary diagnostics are now the available in dental offices. It is expected that the advent of sensitive and specific salivary diagnostic tools and the establishment of standard guidelines and protocols following rigorous testing will allow salivary diagnosis to be used as their side-arm for several oral and systemic diseases in the near future.

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1. Introduction

Early diagnosis of diseases is crucial to prevent complications that could have a negative impact on a patient's quality of life. For instance, ovarian cancer, the fifth most common cause of cancer and cause of death in females, has a 5-year survival rate of 50% when detected at stage 4 in comparison to 95% if diagnosed at stage 1.¹ Similarly, type 2 diabetes, which affects 7% of the adult population, can be solely controlled by diet and change in lifestyle if the diagnosis is made earlier.² Furthermore, despite the regular screenings and check-ups, many diseases are

undetected until a late phase where morbid symptoms become apparent. To overcome these challenges, researchers are uncovering biomarkers. These biomarkers include genetic material (e.g. DNA, RNA) and protein molecules that reflect the current physiological state of an individual and hence help clinicians to better understand the underlying cause of a disease.³ Over the years, studies have shown that alterations in human genetics can be detected by molecular diagnostics, and anomalies in metabolic acids and proteins present in the patient's body fluids such as blood, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and urine can be used as effective biomarkers for disease diagnosis.⁴ However, many obstacles remain such as lack of

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Review

Compliance with Saliva Collection Protocol in Healthy Volunteers: Strategies for Managing Risk and Errors

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Abstract

Salivary bioscience technologies such as electrophoresis are widely applied for diagnosing systemic health status. Diagnosis using a saliva sample has emerged as a preferred technique since the sample is easy to collect and the method is inexpensive and non-invasive. Salivary diagnostics have even been identified as potential substitutes for serum protein biomarkers. However, the optimal protocol for collecting saliva has not yet been established. In many scientific settings, such as randomized controlled trials, sampling and statistical errors often occur when handling samples from healthy volunteers. These errors can be due to the psychological behavior of the volunteers, subject non-adherence, questionnaire characteristics, collection methods, and/or sample processing. The purpose of the review presented here is to outline the strategies for managing the risk factors and to minimize the sampling errors during saliva collection in healthy volunteers.

Key words: Saliva collection; healthy volunteers; salivary proteomics; psychological stress; sampling errors; risk management

Introduction

Saliva is an important specimen in dental research and in the oral physiology field due to its suitability as a non-invasive diagnostic tool. Saliva has been used to diagnose various autoimmune diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, dental caries, and other oral diseases [1-3]. Saliva volume and biochemical composition differ among individuals; these parameters are influenced by age [4], sex [5], and diet [6]. Age and salivary flow rate directly influence salivary alpha-amylase activity in healthy individuals [4]. Significantly less unstimulated whole saliva has been observed in unmedicated, denture-wearing healthy females compared to their male counterparts [7]. Obtaining saliva is rapid, simple, and painless, making this sample an uncomplicated tool for disease screening [8]. However, sample collection must be appropriately optimized to reduce error [9]. For example, collection technique and collection duration can both affect cortisol and salivary amylase activity measurements [9]. Collection and processing methods also affect the

measured total protein concentration, as well as C-reactive protein and immunoglobulin (IgA) concentrations [8]. Various factors such as assay methods and standards used affect the results obtained by salivary fluid assessment. For instance, saliva samples clarified by centrifugation show lower concentrations of lysozyme than their whole saliva counterparts. In addition, the lysoplate assay method has been shown to yield higher lysozyme concentrations than the turbidimetric assay [10]. Moreover, the rate of saliva secretion varies among healthy individuals. Since the volume differs among individuals, salivary flow rate and other salivary biomarkers differ from individual to individual. This review focuses on the saliva collection procedure, the factors contributing to error, and strategies for error management.

Importance of salivary proteomics in biomedical technology

Research based on saliva proteomics is currently

<http://www.medrxiv.org>

Advanced Review

Salivary gland development and disease

Aaron Mattingly, Jennifer K. Finley and Sarah M. Knox*

Mammalian salivary glands synthesize and secrete saliva via a vast interconnected network of epithelial tubes attached to secretory end units. The extensive morphogenesis required to establish this organ is dependent on interactions between multiple cell types (epithelial, mesenchymal, endothelial, and neuronal) and the engagement of a wide range of signaling pathways. Here we describe critical regulators of salivary gland development and discuss how mutations in these impact human organogenesis. In particular, we explore the genetic contribution of growth factor pathways, nerve-derived factors and extracellular matrix molecules to salivary gland formation in mice and humans. © 2015 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

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FUNCTION AND MORPHOGENESIS—AN OVERVIEW

The salivary glands synthesize and secrete saliva, a viscous fluid essential for digestion, vocalization, taste, remineralization, and overall oral health and well-being.¹ There are multiple salivary glands located in similar positions in mice and humans, including the major salivary glands (1 pair each of submandibular, parotid, and sublingual) that produce 90% of saliva, as well as 600–1000 minor glands. Each of the major glands differs in regards to the composition of saliva produced due to differences in acinar (secretory) cell type.² The parotid gland secretes proteinaceous saliva by serous acini, the sublingual gland, composed almost exclusively of mucous acini, produces mucin-rich saliva, and the submandibular gland produces a mostly mixed saliva from both acinar cell types. Saliva output from these glands is tightly controlled through the parasympathetic and sympathetic branches of the autonomic nervous system.³⁻⁵ In general, parasympathetic and sympathetic nerves control different secretory processes.⁶ Parasympathetic nerves primarily stimulate water secretion, in part, through transmembrane water channels including aquaporin 5

(AQP5)⁷ as well as paracellular pathways^{8,9} by activating acetylcholine muscarinic receptors (CHRM1 and CHRM3) on the acini.^{10,11} Sympathetic nerves, on the other hand, govern the secretion of digestive proteins such as amylase by activating β-adrenergic receptors on the acini.^{12,13} Once secreted, saliva flows through a series of water-impermeable ducts (intercalated, striated, and excretory) that create a hypotonic solution via ion absorption for delivery to the oral cavity.¹⁴

In order to produce the volume of saliva required for daily living (0.5–1 L in humans), yet be constrained to the craniofacial complex, salivary glands need to maximize space and surface area.¹⁵ To achieve this, mouse and human salivary glands establish an interconnected network of secretory acini and ducts through the process of epithelial branching morphogenesis (Figure 1(a) and (b)). Although this process has been described for all salivary glands, the ability to culture the mouse embryonic submandibular gland (SG) *ex vivo* has resulted in the vast majority of our knowledge being derived from this organ and as such, this review will focus on its development. SG formation is initiated by the thickening of the oral epithelium that invaginates into a condensed mesenchyme containing an endothelial plexus (6–8 weeks in humans and embryonic day (E) 11.5 in mice).¹⁷⁻¹⁹ This single epithelial bud then undergoes rounds of branching morphogenesis, defined by multiple cycles of cleft formation, expansion of end buds (pre-acini),

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Enzyme Immunoassay and Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay

Stephanie D. Gan¹ and Kruti R. Patel²

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INTRODUCTION

Enzyme immunoassay (EIA) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) are both widely used as diagnostic tools in medicine and as quality control measures in various industries; they are also used as analytical tools in biomedical research for the detection and quantification of specific antigens or antibodies in a given sample. These two procedures share similar basic principles and are derived from the radioimmunoassay (RIA). RIA was first described by Berson and Yalow (Yalow and Berson, 1960), for which Yalow was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1977, to measure endogenous plasma insulin. RIA was then developed into a novel technique to detect and measure biological molecules present in very small quantities, paving the way for the analysis and detection of countless other biological molecules, including hormones, peptides, and proteins. Because of the safety concern regarding its use of radioactivity, RIA assays were modified by replacing the radioisotope with an enzyme, thus creating the modern-day EIA and ELISA.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

EIA/ELISA uses the basic immunology concept of an antigen binding to its specific antibody, which allows detection of very small quantities of antigens such as proteins, peptides, hormones, or antibody in a fluid sample. EIA and ELISA utilize enzyme-labeled antigens and antibodies to detect the biological molecules, the most commonly used enzymes being alkaline phosphatase (EC 3.1.3.1) and glucose oxidase (E.C. 1.1.3.4). The antigen in fluid phase is immobilized, usually in 96-well microtiter plates. The antigen is allowed to bind to a specific antibody, which is itself subsequently detected by a secondary, enzyme-coupled antibody. A chromogenic substrate for the enzyme yields a visible color change or fluorescence, indicating the presence of antigen. Quantitative or qualitative measures can be assessed based on such colorimetric reading. Fluorogenic substrates have higher sensitivity and can accurately measure levels of antigen concentrations in the sample. The general procedure for ELISA is outlined in Figure 1.

Various types of ELISAs have been employed with modification to the basic steps described in Figure 1. The key step in

WHAT ENZYME-LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT ASSAY (ELISA) DOES

- ELISA is a biochemical assay that uses antibodies and an enzyme-mediated color change to detect the presence of either antigen (proteins, peptides, hormones, etc.) or antibody in a given sample.
- Both "indirect" and "sandwich" ELISAs allow detection of antigen or antibody at very low concentrations.
- The competitive method detects compositional differences in complex antigen mixtures with high sensitivity, even when the specific detecting antibody is present in relatively small amounts.
- Multiple and portable ELISA is a ready-to-use, low-cost lab kit that is ideal for large population screening in low-resource settings.

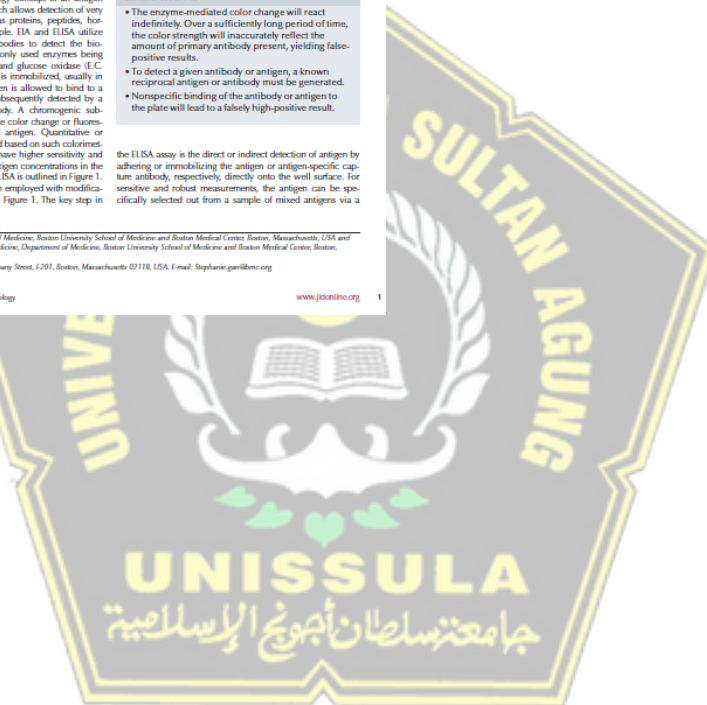
LIMITATIONS

- The enzyme-mediated color change will react indefinitely. Over a sufficiently long period of time, the color strength will inaccurately reflect the amount of primary antibody present, yielding false-positive results.
- To detect a given antibody or antigen, a known reciprocal antigen or antibody must be generated.
- Nonspecific binding of the antibody or antigen to the plate will lead to a falsely high-positive result.

the ELISA assay is the direct or indirect detection of antigen by adhering or immobilizing the antigen or antigen-specific capture antibody, respectively, directly onto the well surface. For sensitive and robust measurements, the antigen can be specifically selected out from a sample of mixed antigens via a

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