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Effect of absorbable membranes on sandwich bone augmentation

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Tel.: 443 827 9248 Fax: 410 706 7201 e-mail: sbpark@umich.edu **Key words:** absorbable membrane, acellular dermal matrix, guided bone regeneration, mucogingival pouch flap, sandwich bone augmentation

Abstract

Objectives: This study was conducted to evaluate the effect of barrier membranes on sandwich bone augmentation (SBA) for the treatment of implant dehiscence defects.

Material and methods: Twenty-six implant-associated buccal dehiscence defects in 22 patients were treated according to the SBA concept – mineralized human cancellous allograft (inner layer), mineralized human cortical allograft (outer layer) and coverage with barrier membrane. The defects were randomly assigned to the bovine collagen membrane (BME) group; acellular dermal matrix (ADM) group; and no membrane group.

Measurements at baseline and 6 months re-entry included defect height (DH: from smooth-rough junction to the most apical part of the defect), defect width (DW: at the widest part of the defect), and horizontal defect depth (HDD: at three locations – smooth-rough junction, middle, and most apical portion of the defect). All measurements were taken from a reference stent. Statistical analyses were performed for comparison of intra- and intergroup comparisons.

Results: All implants placed were successfully osseointegrated. DH at baseline for three groups were not significantly different (P=0.858). Mean % DH reductions for ADM, BME, and control groups at 6 months were 73.9 \pm 17.6%, 68.1 \pm 30.1%, and 63.6 \pm 23.9%, respectively, with no significant difference among the groups (P=0.686). Mean horizontal bone gain, however, was significantly greater for membrane groups (1.7 mm for ADM, 1.6 mm for BME) compared with control group (1 mm) (P=0.044). Implant exposure resulted in significant reduction in total height gain (79.1 \pm 14.3% vs. 57 \pm 23.5%, P=0.021).

Conclusions: Within the limit of this study, it is concluded that SBA technique achieved predictable clinical outcomes. The addition of absorbable membranes enhanced bone gain in thickness compared with membrane-treated sites.

generation (GBR) has gained its acceptance
as an integral part of implant dentistry in
augmenting a resorbed alveolar ridge. Retrospective and prospective long-term

studies on survival rates of post-loaded implants survival rates in regenerated bone showed that: (1) survival rates of

Simultaneous and staged guided bone re-

implants in regenerated bone are as high as those reported in native bone; (2) annual radiographic crestal bone loss of implants in regenerated bone is comparable with that in native bone; (3) simultaneous augmentation around exposed implant threads exhibited comparable results with staged bone augmentation (Buser et al. 1996;

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Clin. Oral Impl. Res. 19, 2008; 32–41 doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0501.2007.01408.x Fugazzotto 1997, 2005; Fiorellini et al. 1998; Lorenzoni et al. 1998, 2002; Nevins et al. 1998; Cordioli et al. 1999; Simion et al. 2001; Zitzmann et al. 2001; Hammerle et al. 2002; Christensen et al. 2003; Blanco et al. 2005).

Simultaneous GBR, in particular, became of a great interest as it could reduce treatment time by up to 6 months. Animal and human clinical studies have shown that predictable outcome with GBR depends upon several pre-requisites: wound stabilization via primary stability of the implant and absence of micro-movement of the membrane; space creation and maintenance; prevention of undesirable soft tissue cells; and sufficiently long-healing period (Dahlin et al. 1989, 1991, 1995; Palmer et al. 1994; Hermann & Buser 1996; von Arx & Kurt 1999). Local host factors, such as defect height (DH), defect angle, defect width (DW), arch location, timing of implant placement, and defect morphology, have also been shown to influence GBR outcome (Gelb 1993; Zitzmann et al. 1997, 2001; Vanden Bogaerde 2004; Blanco et al. 2005; Moses et al. 2005). According to the studies described above, non-space making buccal dehiscence defects, commonly encountered in sites edentulous for more than 6 months, have been considered to be one of the most challenging defects.

In order to provide prolonged space maintenance and wound stabilization in nonspace making defects such as buccal dehiscence defects, Wang et al. (2004) has recently introduced the sandwich bone augmentation (SBA) technique. In SBA technique, autogenous bone or fast-resorbing allograft is laid under the second layer of slow-resorbing allograft or xenograft to enhance vital bone-to-implant contact via 'creeping substitution' of the inner layer during the early wound healing period (Goldberg & Stevenson 1987; Lyford et al. 2003). In addition, the second cortical layer provides mechanical support for prolonged space maintenance via 'reverse creeping substitution.'

Material selection has also been shown to influence the outcome of bone augmentation. Use of an absorbable membrane in combination with a bone filler showed comparable regenerative outcome as a non-resorbable membrane with a bone graft (Gelb 1993; Lundgren et al. 1994;

Zitzmann et al. 1997, 2001; Mellonig et al. 1998a, 1998b; Carpio et al. 2000). Bovine collagen membranes (BME), in particular, have shown successful barrier function in animal and human studies (al-Arrayed et al. 1995; Zitzmann et al. 1997; Hockers et al. 1999; Oh et al. 2003; Moses et al. 2005). They offer many advantages including minimized micromovement from early tissue integration (Sevor et al. 1993), reduced infection, chemotactic function for PDL cells and osteoblasts (Postlethwaite et al. 1978; Marinucci et al. 2001; Takata et al. 2001a, 2001b; Wang et al. 2002), early wound stabilization (Machtei et al. 1994), hemostatic properties (Stein et al. 1985), and no need of second surgery for membrane retrieval. However, due to a short-lasting nature and lack of resistance to collagenolytic enzymes, a citric acid/formaldehyde-treated BME (BioMend Extend™, Zimmer Dental Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA) was introduced to improve its barrier function up to 16-18 weeks. Oh et al. (2003), in an in vivo animal model, showed that the highly cross-linked BME had significantly higher linear bone fill (BF) and bone-implant contact (BIC) around peri-implant dehiscence defects, compared with a regular BME (BioGide®, Osteohealth, Shirley, NY, USA) and control without a membrane. In general, collagen membranes have shown comparable outcomes with the non-resorbable ePTFE membrane in bone regeneration (Sevor et al. 1993; Zitzmann et al. 1997, 2001; Carpio et al. 2000).

Literatures have demonstrated that membrane exposure may occur in 40-60% in case of simultaneous GBR (Becker et al. 1994; Gher et al. 1994; Augthun et al. 1995; Zitzmann et al. 1997). Early disruption of the wound healing from membrane/implant exposure can jeopardize bone regeneration by up to 80% (Jovanovic et al. 1992; Lekholm et al. 1993, 1996; Becker et al. 1994; Lang et al. 1994; Nowzari & Slots 1995; Lorenzoni et al. 1998; Machtei 2001; Tawil et al. 2001; Moses et al. 2005). Premature exposure of membranes led to early retrieval of membrane (Selvig et al. 1992; Tempro & Nalbandian 1993; Simion et al. 1994a, 1994b; De Sanctis et al. 1996), early degradation of absorbable membrane by bacterial collagenase (Zitzmann et al. 1997), subsequent loss of bone graft,

discontinuity between the graft and recipient bed (Donos 2002a, 2002b), and retraction of unattached flap with further exposure.

Recently, acellular dermal matrix (ADM, AlloDerm®; BioHorizon, Birmingham, AL, USA), a bioabsorbable human skin allograft, has gained a popularity as a barrier membrane for GBR as it offers several advantages: (1) it is biocompatible and safe material; (2) primary closure may not be critical (Fowler et al. 2000a, 2000b); (3) no infection occurs upon exposure (Novaes & Souza 2001; Novaes et al. 2002); (4) it acts like autograft thus esthetic and predictable; (5) it enhances gingival thickness by incorporating into the host tissue like autograft (Batista et al. 2001; Henderson et al. 2001; Harris 2002); and (6) it provides adequate barrier function lasting longer than 2 months (Owens & Yukna 2001). ADM has shown great success in socket preservation (Fowler et al. 2000b; Griffin et al. 2004; Luczyszyn et al. 2005) and in reconstruction of minor defects with immediately placed implants (Fowler et al. 2000a, 2000b; Novaes et al. 2002). However, randomized controlled human clinical trials are not available showing its efficacy as a GBR membrane. Furthermore, no human regenerative studies have investigated the amount and pattern of bone thickness gain (TG) through simultaneous GBR.

Therefore, the purpose of this single examiner masked randomized-controlled study was to investigate the effect of two absorbable membranes (ADM, AlloDerm[®]; and a highly cross-linked BME, BioMend Extend[™]) on SBA in augmenting non-space making implant-associated buccal dehiscence defects.

Material and methods

A total of 23 patients, older than 18 years and systemically healthy, were included in the study. All recruited participants required single tooth replacement(s) with a dental implant associated with insufficient horizontal bone width. All sites had been edentulous for longer than 6 months. All subjects completed initial phase of periodontal therapy, if needed, and demonstrated good oral hygiene. Any medical contraindications for implant surgery were

excluded from the study. In addition, heavy smokers with more than 10 cigarettes per day were excluded. All study participants read, understood, and signed the informed consent form. The use of human subjects in this study was reviewed and approved by the Health Science Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the University of Michigan.

Pre-surgical preparation

For the assessment of ridge defects, all subjects were screened with clinical exam (i.e., bone sounding) and radiographic exam, including periapical, panoramic, and tomographic views, using a radiographic guide. A surgical template was fabricated from the master cast by a certified prosthodontist (J. S.). Oral hygiene instruction (OHI) and a thorough periodontal prophylaxis were given 3 weeks before the stage I surgery. OHI was repeated at each follow-up appointment, and prophylaxis was again performed at 3 months post-implantation.

Surgical procedures

Twenty-seven implants with implant-associated buccal dehiscence defects were randomized, by picking a code from a brown bag, into three groups: ADM (nine), BME (nine), and no membrane (nine). The examiner (K. W. L.) was blinded of the groups throughout the study.

Patients rinsed with 0.12% chlorohexidine for 60 s before the surgery, and 2 g amoxicillin or 600 mg clindamycin (if allergic to penicillin) was orally administered immediately before surgery. For flap reflection, the mucogingival pouch flap design was employed (Park & Wang 2005). Initial crestal incision was made 2 mm lingual to the mid-crest away from the defect. Vertical releasing incisions were made along the mucogingival junction, leaving 1-1.5 mm papilla intact if possible. Full-thickness mucoperiosteal flap was reflected. Before implant placement, thorough debridement was carried out. A MTX-surfaced implant (Tapered Screw-Vent®, Zimmer Dental Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA) was placed following the guidance of the surgical template. The smooth-rough junction was 0.5 mm below the crest (Fig. 1b). A masked examiner measured the dehiscence defect dimension using a pre-fabricated reference template (Fig. 1). The site receiving bone grafting was decorticated using 1/2 round bur to facilitate migration of bone marrow cells into the recipient bed. Defects were then augmented according to SBA techni-

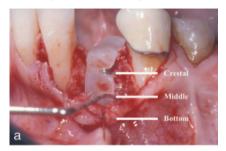




Fig. 1. Defect measurements. (a) Thickness measured at three points of the defect, crestal, middle. bottom. (b) DH, defect height; DW, defect width. (c) Thickness measured at three points of the defect, crestal, middle, bottom. (d) DH; DW.

que (Wang et al. 2004; Fig. 2b and c). Fastresorbing cancellous allograft (Puros® Cancellous, Zimmer Dental Inc., Carlsbad, CA) was laid against the defect. Slowresorbing cortical allograft (Puros® Cortical, Zimmer Dental Inc., Carlsbad, CA) covered the cancellous bone layer for prolonged space maintenance. Thickness of graft was standardized with reference guide preset at 4 mm off the implant surface (Fig. 1a). In membrane groups, membrane covered implant head, extending approximately 5 mm beyond the buccal defect margin (Fig. 2d). For ADM, connective tissue side was placed facing the bone graft. No additional fixation of membranes was employed. The surgical site was then closed with 4-o Vicryl (Ethicon Inc., Sommerville, NJ, USA) with passive tension flap closure.

Post-operative care included oral administrations of 500 mg amoxicillin 3 × daily for 10 days or 300 mg clindamycin 3 × daily for 10 days (if allergic to penicillin), were prescribed. 600 mg ibuprofen every 8 h for 5 days was prescribed for analgesics.

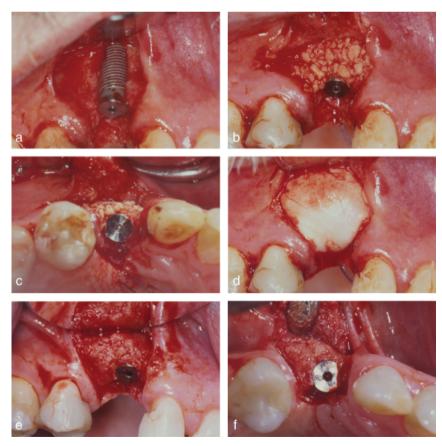


Fig. 2. Buccal dehiscence, graft placement, 6 months clinical re-entry for acellular dermal matrix. (a) Buccal dehiscence. (b) Buccal view of Puros[®] grafting in two layers. (c) Occlusal view of Puros[®] in two layers. (d) AlloDerm-GBR. placement. (e) Buccal view of 6 months re-entry (f) Occlusal view of 6 months re-entry.

Patient were instructed to rinse with warm salt water for the first 2 weeks, followed by 0.12% chlorohexidine gluconate mouthrinse (Peridex[®], Zila Inc., Pheonix, AZ, USA) twice daily for 1 month. Sutures were removed 2 weeks post-surgery. Post-operative evaluations were provided at 2 weeks, 1 month, 3, and 6 months.

Stage II surgery was performed 6 months after implant placement, using the same flap design as stage I surgery (Fig. 2e and f). Same clinical parameters were recorded at the stage I surgery were taken. Cases with threads exposed were re-grafted with Puros cancellous and BME with additional 6 months healing time before appropriate implant supported prosthetic treatment was provided.

Clinical parameters

The unit of analysis was the implant. Clinical measurements at the time of stage I surgery, included DHDH (from smoothrough junction to most apical point of the defect), DW (widest portion of the defect), and horizontal defect depths (HDD: at three locations - smooth-rough junction, middle, most apical part of the defect) (Fig. 1). HDDs were measured using a I mm thick pre-fabricated acrylic reference stent attached to the implant-healing cap. Grooves were made at three different locations on the buccal portion of the stent once dehiscence was observed. The stent allowed repeated measurements of bone thickness at baseline and 6 months 4 mm away from the implant surface, and also ensured a standardized initial graft thickness of 3 mm (Fig. 1). One masked examiner performed all measurements using a North Carolina Probe. Calibration was conducted before, during, and after the study to ensure adequate intra-examiner reliability. Overall, intra-examainer reproducibility as evaluated by intra-class correlation coefficient, was 0.97 for the blinded examiner (K. W. L.). The measurements were repeated at 6 months re-entry. Membrane/implant exposure was also recorded. Based on the clinical measurement data, the following parameters were evaluated:

× 100%

Percent BF was calculated using hemisphere factor of 1/4 pi (Zitzmann et al.

1997, 1999, 2001):

Surface area of exposed implant = length \times width \times 1/4 pi (= 0.785)

% bone fill

 $= \frac{Exposed \, surface \, area \, at \, baseline \, - Exposed \, surface \, area \, at \, re-entry}{Exposed \, surface \, area \, at \, baseline}$

× 100%

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS Statistical package (SPSS® 13.0 for windows®, SPSS Inc., 2000. Troy, NY, USA). Defect measurements of each group at baseline and 6 months were compared using univariate one-way ANOVA and pair-wise Bonferroni's correction methods. Paired samples t-test was used to compare intra-group pre- and post-treatment DH comparison (Table 2). Independent samples t-test was performed to compare between sites with membrane exposure and sites without membrane exposure at 6 months. The data were presented as mean \pm SD, and the significance level was set at P < 0.05.

Results

Twenty-seven defect sites in 23 patients were included for the study and treated via simultaneous bone grafting with or without a barrier membrane (ADM or BME). The mean age of the patients subjects was ranging from 28 to 71, and there were 10 males and 13 females. All patients except for one were non-smokers. With one defect site, one patient from no membrane group was excluded due to an unforeseen health issue, resulting that 26 implants were included for statistical analysis. Twenty-one 3.7 mm and five 4.7 mm diameter implants were used. Eleven were 10 mm and 15 were 13 mm in length. Ten implants were placed in the maxilla while 16 implants were placed in the mandible. Throughout the research, all patients maintained good oral hygiene with no visible plaque and signs of inflammation or infection.

All implants were successfully osseointegrated at 6 months. Baseline DH and area showed no significant difference among the three groups (Table 1; *P*>0.05). Intra-group

Table 1. Comparison of GBR outcomes among treatment groups

Parameters	Group	Mean \pm SD	<i>P</i> -value	
Defect height (mm)				
Baseline	ADM	6.58 ± 2.79		
	BME	6.23 ± 3.51	0.858	
	Control	5.81 ± 1.86		
6 months	ADM	1.47 ± 1.19		
	BME	1.42 ± 1.35	0.501	
	Control	2.21 ± 1.96		
Defect width (mm)				
Baseline	ADM	3.48 ± 1		
	BME	3.49 ± 0.73	0.326	
	Control	$3.32\ \pm\ 0.8$		
6 months	ADM	1.61 ± 1.6		
	BME	1.5 ± 1.8	0.893	
	Control	1.94 ± 1.18		
Defect area (mm²)				
Baseline	ADM	18.93 \pm 11.8		
	BME	18.3 \pm 12.16	0.561	
	Control	13.82 ± 5.43		
6 months	ADM	2.96 ± 3.53		
	BME	3.25 ± 4.23	0.777	
	Control	4.51 ± 6.15		
Horizontal bone gain (mm)	ADM	1.74 ± 0.38*	0.039 (*0.044	
	BME	1.57 ± 0.76		
	Control	1.02 ± 0.47*		
% reduction defect height	ADM	73.89 ± 17.58	0.686	
	BME	68.14 ± 30.1		
	Control	63.56 ± 23.88		
% bone fill	ADM	78.28 ± 21.8	0.917	
	BME	78.73 ± 28.89		
	Control	73.8 ± 29		

*Pairwise Bonferroni's multiple comparison showing a significant difference at P<0.05. ADM, acellular dermal matrix; BME, bovine collagen membrane; GBR, guided bone regeneration.

[%] defect height reduction

 $^{= \}frac{\text{Defect height at baseline} - \text{Defect height at 6 months}}{\text{Defect height at baseline}}$

comparison showed clinically significant bone height gain at 6 months compared with baseline (Table 2; P < 0.05). Within each treatment group, no significant correlations existed between pre- and post-treatment bone height gain. At 6 months, no significant difference was found among three groups in percent defect height reduction (DHR) and percent bone fill (BF) (Table I; P = 0.686 and P = 0.917). ADM, BME, and control group resulted in DHR of 73.9 ± 17.6%, $68.1 \pm 30.1\%$, and $63.6 \pm 23.9\%$, respectively. BF for ADM, BME, and control group were $78.3 \pm 21.8\%$, $78.7 \pm 28.9\%$, and 73.8 ± 29%, respectively. Mean TG in membrane groups, however, was greater compared with the control group with statistical significance (Tables 1 & 3; 1.7 mm vs. 1 mm; P = 0.012). The mean gains in thickness were in the following order: ADM (1.7 mm) \sim BME (1.6 mm)> control (1 mm), with a statistically significant difference between ADM and control group (P = 0.044). When TG was compared by locations within each defect (crest, middle, bottom), they were significantly different among the locations: bottom> middle > crest (data not shown).

Comparison of graft thickness loss (or bone resorption) showed that membrane groups sustained initial graft thickness better at 6-month re-entry (Table 4). ADM and BME have undergone 1.26 \pm 0.38 and 1.43 \pm 0.76 mm of horizontal thickness loss while control group has undergone 1.98 \pm 0.47 mm, significantly more than ADM group (P = 0.044).

Nine sites experienced either membrane or implant exposure (Table 5). There was significant difference in both reduction in defect height (RDH) and BF between exposed and non-exposed sites, with the difference more than 20%. Within group comparison, significant difference between exposed and non-exposed sites was found only in BME group (P = 0.005 for RDL; P = 0.043 for BF). No significant difference was seen between exposed and non-exposed cases when TG was compared in all groups (P = 0.400).

Discussion

This one-examiner blinded randomized controlled study was to examine the effect of two barrier membranes, human dermal matrix and BME, for the simultaneous guided bone regeneration on implant dehiscence defects in humans. All treatment groups in our study were grafted using the SBA technique (Wang et al. 2004). This technique takes advantage of 'creeping substitution' properties of cancellous allograft for enhanced early mechanical strength and enhanced vital BIC while prolonged me-

chanical support for space maintenance is achieved via 'reverser creeping substitution' of cortical allograft (Goldberg & Stevenson 1987; Bauer & Muschler 2000; Lyford et al. 2003; Wang et al. 2004).

Primary outcome variables were percent RDH, percent BF, and TG. All sites selected in the study were edentulous for greater than 6 months before the implant

Table 2. Intragroup comparison between pre- and post-treatment bone height gain

Groups	Parameters	Mean \pm SD (mm)	<i>P</i> -value	Correlation
ADM	Pre-treatment defect height Post-treatment defect height	6.58 ± 2.79 1.47 ± 1.19	0.002*	0.492
ВМЕ	Pre-treatment defect height Post-treatment defect height	6.23 ± 3.51 1.42 ± 1.35	0.008*	0.392
Control	Pre-treatment defect height Post-treatment defect height	5.81 ± 1.86 2.21 ± 1.96	0.001*	0.215
*Paired sai	mples t-test showing significance at	P<0.05.		

Table 3. Comparison between membrane groups and no membrane group

ADM, acellular dermal matrix; BME, bovine collagen membrane.

Parameters	Groups	N	Mean	<i>P</i> -value
% defect height reduction	Membranes	18	71.02 ± 24.09	0.472
	No membranes	8	63.56 ± 23.88	
% bone fill	Membranes	18	78.51 ± 24.83	0.676
	No membranes	8	73.8 ± 29	
Horizontal bone gain (mm)	Membranes	18	1.66 ± 0.59	0.012
	No membranes	8	$1.02\ \pm\ 0.467$	

Table 4. Graft thickness loss (or bone resorption) at 6 month re-entry

	Initial horizont			<i>P</i> -value
	bone thickness	(mm)at 6 months (mean \pm SD)	loss (mean \pm SD))
ADM	3	1.74 ± 0.38*	1.26 ± 0.38*	
BME	3	1.57 ± 0.76	1.43 ± 0.76	0.039 (*0.044)
Contro	ol3	1.02 ± 0.47*	1.98 ± 0.47*	

*Bonferroni multiple comparison showing a significant difference. ADM, acellular dermal matrix; BME, bovine collagen membrane.

Table 5. GBR outcome comparison between implant exposure vs. no exposure

Exposure			Mean ± SD		P-values
			W	W/O	
Mean % defect height reduction	W	W/O			
ADM (n = 9)	2	7	54.85 ± 3.18	79.33 ± 15.96	0.101
BME (n = 9)	5	4	51.12 ± 29.68	89.43 ± 12.4	0.005
Control $(n=8)$	2	6	73.75 ± 12.37	70.6 ± 8.62	0.834
All groups ($n = 26$)			56.98 ± 23.53	79.13 ± 14.31	0.021
Mean % bone fill					
ADM (n = 9)			54.89 ± 3.19	84.97 ± 19.93	0.083
BME (n = 9)			65.42 ± 33.26	95.37 ± 9.26	0.043
Control $(n=8)$			82.49 ± 14.84	83.49 ± 13.37	0.954
All groups ($n = 26$)			66.87 ± 26.08	87.11 ± 15.76	0.039
Mean thickness gain (mm)					
ADM (n = 9)			$1.5~\pm~0.24$	$1.81\ \pm\ 0.4$	0.486
BME $(n=9)$			1.3 ± 0.85	1.92 ± 0.52	0.107
Control (n = 8)			1.33 ± 0.71	1.03 ± 0.3	0.517
All groups ($n = 26$)			$1.35\ \pm\ 0.66$	1.59 ± 0.54	0.400

placement. Six months re-entries revealed that all bone regenerated showed score of 4 (very dense – resistant to pressure of probe) or 5 (density comparable with healthy bone) on Mattout density scale (Mattout et al. 1995). Membrane groups showed slightly greater RDH and BF compared with no membrane group. Mean percent BF found in our study (78.5 \pm 24.8%) was equivalent to that in long-term delayed implant placement group (LTDIP - more than 6 months after tooth extraction) in a retrospective study by Zitzmann et al. (1999). In their study, LTDIP showed significantly less percent BF (92 + 24% for maxilla and 72 ± 37.6% for mandible) compared with the immediate implant placement (96 + 9.8%) for maxilla; 81 +34.5% for mandible) and the short-term delayed implant placement groups - 6 weeks to 6 months after tooth extraction (100 \pm 0% for maxilla; 86 \pm 25.8% for mandible). It was speculated that lower mean percent BF in LTDIP group was attributed to (1) the absence of well-vascularized spongious matrix, (2) the fact that most of LTDIP showed one-wall or no-wall defects, which does not support the space, and (3) denser bone quality (Zitzmann et al. 1999). In our study, more implants were placed in the mandible, which could have skewed mean percent BF closer to 72% BF found in Zitzmann's study. Both our study and Zitzmann's study showed greater bone regeneration compared with the results from the randomized control trial by Carpio et al. (2000). Low defect reduction (39.6% for collagen membrane and 45.9% for ePTFE) in their study might have resulted from high membrane/implant exposure rate (47.8% for collagen membrane; 45.8% for ePTFE). Another clinical study reported DHR and percent BF (75.2 ± 17.99% and $87.6 \pm 11.48\%$, respectively) in similar types of defects (Nemcovsky & Artzi 2002). The study used MTX surfaced implants same as our study. Greater gain in DH, compare with DHR observed in our study, might be explained by the fact that all implants placed, in their late-implant placement group, were in the maxillary arch.

Six-month re-entry showed no significant difference in mean percent DHR and mean percent BF among treatment groups. This suggests that SBA without barrier could support bone regeneration around the implant. Furthermore, carefully re-

flected periosteum might have provided barrier function and served as a reservoir for nutrition and growth factors for bone regeneration (Linde et al. 1993). Jovanovic et al. (1995) supported osteoconductive properties of the periosteum as membrane alone group exhibited equivalent or greater height gain in augmenting buccal dehiscence defects in animals, compared with the standard ePTFE membrane. In a similar animal study, Mellonig et al. (1998a, 1998b) further speculated that use of a nonrigid membrane without any bone graft may in fact hinder bone regeneration as they lack the regenerative potential residing in the periosteum. On the contrary, others suggested that the presence or absence of the periosteum does not influence bone regeneration (Melcher 1969, 1976; Melcher & Accursi 1971; Reid et al. 1981). They speculated that a thin layer of osteogenic cambium with progenitor cells in the periosteum were damaged upon flap elevation. Weng et al. (2000) further supported the low osteogenic potential of the periosteum, in a non-human primate model, by histological observations that the newly regenerated bone exclusively deposited on the old bone. No bone formation was observed on the flap side. Therefore, they concluded that periosteum did not contribute to the new bone formation. On the contrary, our study showed that the control group gained comparable height as the membrane groups, with no difference noted in the clinical appearance of the regenerated hard tissue among all three groups. This finding agrees with potential barrier function of periosteum.

Although no difference was seen in DH and area reduction among all treatment groups, use of membranes gained 1.5 to two times thicker buccal bone compared with control (P = 0.012; 1.7 \pm 0.6 mm for membrane groups; 1 ± 0.5 mm for control). It can be speculated that, in spite of its barrier function, periosteum alone might not be rigid enough to stabilize the graft against movable overlying flap, muscle attachment, and shallow vestibules. Bone thickness gained in our study has clinical relevance in implant therapy. Although exposed threads were not associated with mucosal problems and progressive bone resorption in a 5-year retrospective study (Lekholm et al. 1996),

stable vertical dimension supported by adequate thickness of bone is considered essential for appropriate esthetics. Spray et al. (2000), from analysis of 3061 implants, found that a mean facial bone thickness of 1.7 mm at stage I surgery in non-regenerated bone was associated with high survival rate at uncovering surgery. When initial bone thickness approached 1.8-2 mm, the vertical bone level remained stable. In the absence of membrane exposure, simultaneous GBR with SBA technique in our study achieved 1.8-1.9 mm at uncovering surgery. The difference between these two studies was that Spray et al. (2000) measured 'initial facial bone thickness' at stage I surgery while the comparable thickness reported in our study was 'final facial bone thickness' measured at stage II surgery. This indicates that facial bone thickness achieved via GBR in our study might remain stable for longer duration than that found in Spray's article. However, no long-term prospective studies have evaluated the stability of facial bone level in relationship with the bone thickness gained via simultaneous GBR. Furthermore, according to previous studies, the outcomes of GBR procedures, in terms of alveolar dimensions, undergo to dimensional modifications also after 6 months (Simion et al. 2001; Chiapasco et al. 2004). The evaluation period of the present study could be not sufficient to determine the entity of the graft remodelling.

Loss of horizontal bone thickness, or bone resorption, was further calculated at 6 months re-entry (Table 4). Bone resorption was greatest for control group followed by BME and ADM groups with a significant difference between ADM and control group (P = 0.044). Bone resorption reached 43% of initial graft thickness with membrane compared with 66% without membrane. Animal and human studies have shown that presence of a membrane led to a less bone resorption for block graft (Rasmusson et al. 1999; Antoun et al. 2001; Donos et al. 2002a, 2002b, 2002c). However, greater loss could be expected in our study since less graft stability is expected during wound healing due to the nature of the particulate graft used. Standardization of the initial graft thickness, although attempted in our study, could not be guaranteed as graft shape changes upon flap closure. Other factors such as flap

tension, depth of vestibule, muscle attachment, and compression after surgery, may significantly influence the initial graft thickness. Furthermore, upon membrane or implant exposure, premature graft loss through the incompletely closed wound can be significant and immeasurable. Therefore, horizontal thickness loss in our study does not purely represent bone resorption process.

When the effect of early implant exposure on bone regeneration was considered, different patterns were observed in the different treatment groups. Exposure resulted in significantly reduced bone regeneration down to 57% DHR in our study. This compromised bone regeneration has been suggested to be attributed to (1) the bacterial contamination and subsequent inflammation of sub- and peri-membranous soft tissue (Mombelli et al. 1993; Schmid et al. 1994; Nowzari & Slots 1995), and (2) early degradation of collagen membrane by bacterial collagenases (Donos et al. 2002d). Donos et al. (2002d) further reported that premature exposure can lead to extensive resorption of bone graft and discontinuity between graft and the host bone. It was reported that the extent of the detrimental effect from early exposure of membrane is much more significant in GBR as opposed to GTR (Machtei 2001). In case of simultaneous GBR, non-exposed group yielded almost six times more new bone formation compared with exposed group. The amount of bone regeneration reported by literature ranged from 21% to 76.4% in exposure groups (Lekholm et al. 1993; Zitzmann et al. 1997; Lorenzoni et al. 1998; Machtei 2001; Moses et al. 2005). In our study, BMEs upon exposure underwent early degradation within 3-4 weeks after surgery is considered to be critical membrane retention period for accommodating uninterrupted osteogenic cell migrations and mitotic activity (Bunyaratavej & Wang 2001). Subsequent loss of particulated graft through unattached flap, along with shrinkage of overlying tissue, might have significantly affected the outcome. This negative impact, however, appeared to be diminished in ADM group. Four of six cases in ADM group that experienced premature exposure of ADM were epithelialized over 1 month period without implant exposure. None of them underwent degradation or infection upon exposure as seen in other studies (Novaes & Souza 2001; Novaes et al. 2002). This might have been due to a polarized matrix nature, providing scaffold for both epithelial cell migration and angiogenic cells (Livesey et al. 1995; Cummings et al. 2005). Future studies are needed to validate this speculation.

In conclusion, SBA technique, with or without use of membrane, showed predictable outcomes in guided bone augmentation in this study. Both absorbable membrane-treated groups and no membrane group were capable of resolving dehiscence DH to a similar extent. The main effect of membrane, however, was the greater gain in bone thickness compared with sites without a barrier.

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augmentation technique for gaining bone height as well as width. The usage of absorbable membranes enhanced clinical outcomes.

要旨

目的:本研究は、インプラントの裂開型欠 損の治療に用いる、サンドイッチ式骨増生 術 (SBA)に対するバリヤー・メンブレンの 効果を評価した。

材料と方法:患者22名においてインプラ ントに関連する頬側裂開型欠損26箇所を、 石灰化したヒト海綿骨同種移植片(内層)、 石灰化したヒト皮質骨同種移植片 (外層) とバリヤー・メンブレンによる被覆という SBA の概念に基づいて治療した。欠損部は、 牛コラーゲン・メンブレン群 (BME)、無 細胞性皮膚マトリクス群 (ADM)およびメ ンブレン無使用郡に無作為に割り付けた。 ベースライン時と6ヶ月後の二次手術時に、 欠損の高さ(DH:滑沢面と粗面の境界から 欠損の最も根尖側までの距離)、欠損の幅 (DW:欠損の最も幅が広い部分) および水 平的欠損の寸法(HDD:滑沢面と粗面の境 界、欠損の中央部と最も根尖側の3箇所の 寸法)を測定した。すべての測定は、ステ ントを基準にして行った。統計学的分析に よって、群内および群間の比較を行った。 結果:全てのインプラントは、成功裏に骨 性結合を達成した。ベースライン時の欠損 の高径には3群間に有意差はなかった (p=0.858)。ADM 群、BME 群および対照 群の平均欠損高径の減少率は6ヶ月後の時 点で、各々73.9±17.6%、68.1±30.1%およ び 63.6±23.9%であり、群間に有意差はな かった (p=0.686)。 水平的骨の獲得量の平 均は、メンブレン使用の2群(ADM 群が 1.7mm、BME 群が 1.6mm) が対照群 (1.0mm) よりも有意に優れていた。(p =0.044)。インプラントの露出は、総高径 の獲得量に有意な減少をもたらした(79.1 $\pm 14.3\%$ 対 57.0 $\pm 23.5\%$ 、 p = 0.021)。

結論:本研究の制約内において、骨増生サ ンドイッチ法は予知性のある臨床的結果を もたらしたと結論される。吸収性メンブレ ンの使用は、メンブレン使用部位と比較し て、骨の厚みの獲得量が増加した。

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