Innovations

Integrative Approaches to Tissue Engineering in Modern Dentistry: A Comprehensive Review of Clinical Innovations and Future Prospects

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Abstract:

In an era where healthcare is rapidly advancing, dentistry too is experiencing a transformative wave, particularly in the domain of tissue engineering. This comprehensive review elucidates the myriad applications of tissue engineering within dentistry, intersecting areas of molecular biology, materials science, and clinical practices. We offer a multi-faceted exploration of the current clinical applications, while also outlining a roadmap for future advancements. A Commitment to Excellence in meeting society's ever-changing needs is emphasized, as is the role of Dynamic Leadership in spearheading these innovations. From periodontal regeneration to the bio fabrication of dental implants, this review serves as an essential resource for clinicians, researchers, and policymakers to seize the exponential opportunities tissue engineering brings to the dental field.

Keywords: *tissue engineering, progenitor stem cells, scaffolds, growth factors, inter-disciplinary dentistry*

Aim:

To provide a comprehensive review that examines the integration of practical applications and innovative techniques in the domain of tissue engineering within dentistry, thereby serving as a pivotal resource for clinicians, researchers, and policymakers.

Objectives:

Map the Landscape: To identify and categorize the range of practical applications of tissue engineering in various specializations within dentistry, such as periodontics, prosthodontics, and orthodontics.

Highlight Innovation: To spotlight cutting-edge techniques and methodologies in tissue engineering that have either been recently introduced or are under active research, focusing on their potential to revolutionize dental care.

Interdisciplinary Synthesis: To synthesize findings from diverse disciplines including molecular biology, materials science, and clinical practices to offer an integrative perspective on tissue engineering in dentistry.

Evaluate Clinical Relevance: To assess the practicality, effectiveness, and limitations of both traditional and innovative tissue engineering techniques in real-world clinical settings.

Future Directions: To outline a roadmap for potential advancements and challenges in the field, thereby aiding Dynamic Leaders in shaping the future of dental healthcare.

Policy Implications: To discuss the regulatory and ethical considerations surrounding the adoption of new tissue engineering techniques in dentistry, aiming to provide a framework for policymakers.

Introduction:

In an age where technological advancement is transforming healthcare, the field of dentistry finds itself at an intersection of tradition and innovation.[1] Tissue engineering, once a concept belonging to the realm of future possibilities [2], is now an actionable discipline with profound implications for dental care.[3] This comprehensive review aims to serve as a pivotal resource, elucidating the confluence of practical applications and innovative techniques in tissue engineering within dentistry.[4]

The significance of this endeavour lies not merely in its academic aspirations but in its potential to influence real-world clinical outcomes.[5] Dentistry is a field that directly impacts the quality of life; therefore, innovations in this sector resonate beyond academic corridors, reaching into the lives of individuals and communities.[6]

Within the scope of this review, we shall traverse diverse terrains—from mapping the landscape of practical applications in various dental specializations [7] to spotlighting cutting-edge techniques that promise to revolutionize the practice.[8]

Methodology:

The present comprehensive review was conducted following a structured approach to ensure rigor and reliability. Our methodology comprised several key steps, as outlined below:

Literature Search:

Databases including PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar were systematically searched using specific keywords such as "tissue engineering," "dentistry," "MSC-derived exosomes," "TMJ," and combinations thereof. The search was limited to articles published in English between the years 2000-2023.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

Studies were included based on their relevance to the objectives of the review, focusing on practical applications and innovative techniques in tissue engineering within dentistry. Exclusion criteria involved studies that were not peer-reviewed, lacked empirical evidence, or were not directly related to the field of dentistry.

Data Extraction:

Relevant data were extracted from the selected articles, including methodology, key findings, and limitations. A total of 35-40 references were ultimately selected for inclusion in this review.

Quality Assessment:

Each selected article underwent a quality assessment to evaluate its scientific rigor, using criteria such as sample size, study design, and statistical analysis.

Synthesis:

The extracted data were synthesized to form a coherent narrative that aligns with the aims and objectives of this review, focusing on practical applications, innovative techniques, future directions, and policy implications.

By adhering to this structured methodology, we ensured that the review is comprehensive, rigorous, and aligned with the current state of research in the field of tissue engineering in dentistry

Triads of tissue engineering:

Stem cells:

- Progenitor stem cells
- Bone marrow derived (BMSC)
- Adipose tissue derived (ADMSC)

Growth factors:

- Bone Morphogenetic Protein(BMP)
- Insulin like growth factor 1(IGF 1)
- Transforming growth factor beta 1 (TGF BETA 1)
- Tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF ALPHA)
- Interleukin-1

Scaffolds:

- Collagen
- Extracellular matrix (ECM)
- Fibrin
- Polycaprolactone (PCL)/Polyglycolic acid (PGA)

Various clinical application of tissue engineering in dentistry:

Periodontal tissue regeneration:

According to several studies, periodontal ligament contains stem cells which are capable to differentiate into osteoblast and cementoblast in in-vitro and in-vivo conditions. Iwayama T et al. demonstrated that adipose tissue derived multilineage progenitor cells (ADMPCs) were transplanted into alveolar bone defects which lead to periodontal tissue regeneration.[9] Dental pulp cells have the features of Neural Crest cells and have the ability to differentiate into bone mineralized tissue. Ouchi T et al. proved that dental pulp-derived mesenchymal stem cells are used for canine periodontal tissue regeneration. [10] Conditioned medium (CM) from mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) culture includes growth factors, cytokines, and other active substances. Gingival mesenchymal stem cell conditioned medium (GMSC-CM) transplantation significantly periodontal defect regeneration was improved by the transplantation of gingival mesenchymal stem cell conditioned medium (GMSC-CM) in rats and reached the same effect as periodontal ligament stem cells conditioned medium (PDLSC-CM). It was due to the regulation of inflammatory factors by MSC-CM and bone progenitor cells which leads to osteogenic differentiation in the wound region. Therefore, GMSC-CM and PDLSC-CM transplantation likely induces the periodontal regeneration. [11,12]

Regenerative Endodontics:

Iwaya et al., describe the term ‘revascularization’ by physiological tissue formation and regeneration.[13] Depending on the exposure of Dental Pulp Stem Cells to different mixture of growth factors and morphogens, it can develop into odontogenic, osteogenic, chondrogenic, or adipogenic phenotypes.[14]

Regenerative endodontic techniques: [15]

1. Root canal revascularization via blood clotting
2. Postnatal stem cell therapy
3. Pulp implantation
4. Scaffold implantation
5. Injectable scaffold delivery
6. Three – Dimensional cell printing
7. Gene therapy

Tissue engineering should consider the neuro-pulpal interactions of tooth and nerve regeneration because pulpal nerve fibres plays a vital role in angiogenesis, extravasations of immune cells and regulate inflammation to minimize initial damage, maintain pulp tissue, and strengthen pulpal defense mechanism.[16] Angiogenesis was regulated by Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) and will increase the vascular permeability and induces chemotaxis, proliferation and differentiation of human dental pulp cells. During regeneration of pulp, gene therapy stimulates the vascular growth which allows the local stimulation of vascularisation.[17]

Implant dentistry:

Gault et al. proposed that the implant is not tightly bound to the bone thus, surgical procedure for ligaplants (mixture of the periodontal ligament cells and implant biomaterial) will be easier.[18] These ligaplants will induce new bone formation even in large periodontal defects, which diminish the need for bone grafting. Thus, implants with tissue-engineered ligament are definitely going to be a boon to future implant dentistry.[19]

Smart-engineered implant “immune-informed” surfaces will control the initial responses of blood (components) and inflammatory cells that influence the host's response to the device, and ultimately affect the integration of the bone implants. In future, abutment surfaces will allow the dense epithelial barrier formation at the tissue–abutment interface to provide a strong impediment to bacterial penetration, and prevent hard tissue resorption. These next-generation smart biomaterials with designated component and implant material will leads to the improvement of long-term survival and prognosis of implant therapy.[20,21]

Tissue engineering of Temporomandibular joint (TMJ):

According to few studies, TMJ has been treated using tissue engineering methods such as scaffold construction, cellularization procedures, and growth factor delivery. By offering an option to total joint replacement (TJR), it will improve the patient outcome for individuals who had TMJ disorders. [22,23,24]

Rita T. Boulos et al. described the case of a 37-year-old lady who had stem cell therapy using the Regentime method and had intermediate/late-stage TMJ degeneration coupled with continuous intractable pain. In spite of the lack of imaging evidence of cartilage repair, full clinical healing was observed after seven months of treatment. MSCs have been shown to be beneficial therapeutically in large-scale clinical trials for TMJ disease. [25] Recent studies have demonstrated the use of stem cells for the regeneration of TMJ disc, reducing symptoms like joint pain and clicking. [26]

Regeneration in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics:

The potential for using extracellular microRNAs to alter the mobility of teeth during orthodontic treatment has been made clear by the recent finding of these molecules in gingival crevicular fluid (GCF).[27] Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC) -derived exosomes (cell-free) have been used in several in vitro and in vivo investigations for periodontal ligament regeneration, oral mucosa healing, pulp regeneration, and bone remodeling in orthodontics. Alveolar cleft regeneration and the formation of new bone have recently been linked to MSCs.[28]

Stem cell-based innovations' potential use in clinical and research orthodontics.[29]

1. The use of stem cells to treat external root resorption.
2. Alveolar bone augmentation facilitating orthodontic tooth movement induction and acceleration.
3. Promoting periodontal structure regeneration while receiving orthodontic treatment.

Tissue engineering of hard and soft tissues of oral cavity:

Enamel regeneration:

The continuously developing mouse incisors are where odontogenic epithelial stem cells (OEpSCs) were initially identified. They can produce all of the epithelial tissues of the tooth, including the enamel-forming ameloblastic layer, and interact reciprocally with the mesenchymal stem/progenitor cells of ectomesenchymal origin. In order to create more stable ameloblast cell lines for enamel tissue engineering, a variety of ameloblast stem cell sources, including cervical loop cells, induced pluripotent stem cells, epithelial rest of Malassez (periodontal ligament cells found around a tooth), and keratinocytes, were combined with particular culture media and growth factors. The ability of Malassez epithelial cells seeded on collagen sponge-like scaffolds, along with tooth pulp, was demonstrated by Shinmura et al.[30]

Dentin regeneration:

For the in-vitro and in-vivo regeneration of pulp-dentin complex, Mandakhbayar et al. examined the efficacy of strontium-free and strontium-doped nanobioactive glass cements. [31] After pulp amputation, induced dental pulp stem cells (also known as pulp progenitor cells) have the ability to develop into odontoblasts, which produce new dentin and capillaries from the remaining root pulp tissue.[32]

Tissue engineering of oral mucosa:

For therapeutic applications, such as the restoration of soft tissue abnormalities in the oral cavity, tissue engineered oral mucosa appears promising. Due to the fact that they take into account the anatomical structure of native oral mucosa, full-thickness engineered oral mucosa provides a more accurate representation of the in vivo condition.[33] The development of spherical cell aggregates, also known as aggregates of cells, is the goal of numerous 3D culturing techniques. These methods include revolving culture jars, dangling drops, and spontaneous cell aggregation as examples.[34]

Tissue engineering of salivary glands

Treatments for radiation-induced xerostomia, Sjögren's disease, and other conditions that cause dry mouth must take into consideration salivary gland regeneration. The successful production of functioning salivary spheroids and cells in 3D culture models for saliva has shown encouraging results in the recovery of irradiation-damaged glands.[35]

Future Directions and Policy Implications:

As the field of tissue engineering in dentistry advances, there are pressing needs to address. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that examine the long-term efficacy and safety of emerging technologies, such as MSC-derived exosomes. Concurrently, policymakers must establish ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks to ensure that these innovations are implemented responsibly. The convergence of academia, clinical practice, and policy will be vital in leveraging the full potential of tissue engineering to transform dental healthcare.

Conclusion:

This comprehensive review highlights the transformative role of tissue engineering in dentistry, focusing on both practical applications and innovative techniques. Cutting-edge approaches like the use of MSC-derived exosomes offer promising avenues for future research and treatment. However, challenges remain, including the need for long-term studies and ethical frameworks. The field presents exponential opportunities, calling for interdisciplinary efforts to shape a regenerative future in dental healthcare.

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