

## CYTOTOXICITY EVALUATION OF ORTHODONTIC MINISCREWS

## AVALIAÇÃO DA CITOTOXICIDADE DE MINI-IMPLANTES ORTODÔNTICOS

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### RESUMO

O objetivo deste estudo foi determinar a citotoxicidade induzida por mini-implantes ortodônticos conforme recebidos pelo fabricante, após a exposição a fluoretos, e após a exposição ao meio bucal. Oitenta e quatro mini-implantes de fabricantes brasileiros (SIN, INP e Neodent) foram divididos em sete grupos (n = 12): G1 - SIN como recebido do fabricante; G2 - SIN imerso durante quinze dias em NaF 0,05%; G3 - SIN exposto ao meio bucal; G4 - INP como recebido do fabricante; G5 - INP imerso durante quinze dias em NaF 0,05%; G6 - Neodent como recebido do fabricante; G7 - Neodent imerso por quinze dias em NaF 0,05%. Sua citotoxicidade foi avaliada por testes de exposição direta e indireta usando a levedura *S. cerevisiae*. O estresse oxidativo também foi avaliada por meio de teste de coloração de colônias. Os resultados mostraram não haver redução significativa da viabilidade celular sobre a exposição direta ou indireta a mini-implantes.

**Descritores:** Procedimentos de Anclagem Ortodôntica. Aparelhos Ortodônticos. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine the cytotoxicity induced by orthodontic miniscrews as received from manufacturer, after exposure to fluorides, and after exposure to the oral environment. Eighty-four miniscrews from Brazilian manufacturers (SIN, INP, and NEODENT) were divided into seven groups (n=12): G1 – SIN as received from manufacturer; G2 – SIN immersed for fifteen days in NaF 0.05%; G3 – SIN exposed to oral environment; G4 – INP as received from manufacturer; G5 – INP immersed for fifteen days in NaF 0.05%; G6 – Neodent as received from manufacturer; G7 – Neodent immersed for fifteen days in NaF 0.05%. Their cytotoxicity was evaluated by direct and indirect exposure tests using the wild *S. cerevisiae*. Oxidative stress was also evaluated through colony color assay. The results showed non-significant reduction in cell viability on direct or indirect exposure to miniscrews.

**Key words:** Orthodontic Anchorage Procedures. Orthodontic appliances. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

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## Introdução

Miniscrews (MSs) have been widely used as orthodontic anchorage, mainly in noncompliant patients to control reciprocal tooth movement, or in patients who present a reduced number or periodontally compromised teeth<sup>1,2</sup>.

Most MSs are made of a titanium (Ti) grade V alloy that is more fracture-resistant than commercially pure Ti, but has reduced corrosion-resistance, favoring the release of metal ions<sup>3</sup>. Commercially pure Ti can spontaneously form a thin impermeable surface layer of titanium oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) that is highly biocompatible with the human body<sup>4, 5</sup>. In the Ti-6Al-4V alloy, the surface oxide is composed of TiO<sub>2</sub> with small quantities of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, hydroxide groups and water<sup>3, 6</sup>. With the addition of aluminum and vanadium, the oxide is less stable than that of commercially pure Ti, making it more susceptible to corrosion<sup>7</sup>.

Intra-oral corrosion is known to be a complex process that depends on the composition and thermomechanical state of the alloy, as well as on the manufacturing process; surface properties; mechanical aspects and systemic state of the host<sup>3</sup>. The presence of chemicals, such as sodium fluoride-based solutions in the oral cavity can also contribute to corrosion. Sodium fluoride is known to be a potent generator of corrosion in various orthodontic appliances such as brackets, wires and bands<sup>8</sup>. Metal ions released by metal biomaterial corrosion can cause a number of phenomena including transport, metabolization and accumulation of this material in organs, in addition to inducing disturbances varying from allergies to carcinomas<sup>6</sup>.

The aim of this study was to investigate the cytotoxicity induced by orthodontic MSs (SIN- Implant Systems, São Paulo, SP, Brazil; INP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil; and NEODENT Curitiba, PR, Brazil) as received from manufacturer, after exposure to fluorides, and after exposure to the oral environment.

## Metodologia

This study was in accordance with national and international norms of research (09/04788 and 0013/09 registration number).

Eighty-four miniscrews were obtained from three different Brazilian manufacturers: SIN (SIN- Implant Systems, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, Ø1.6mm, 10mm long), INP (INP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, Ø1.6mm, 10mm long) and NEODENT (Neodent, Curitiba, PR, Brazil, Ø1.6mm, 9mm long).

Seven groups (n=12) were delineated: G1 – SIN miniscrews as received from the manufacturer; G2 – SIN miniscrews immersed for fifteen days in NaF 0.05% (Pharmaplus, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil); G3 – SIN miniscrews exposed to the oral environment; G4 – INP miniscrews as received from manufacturer; G5 – INP miniscrews immersed for fifteen days in NaF 0.05% (Pharmaplus, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil); G6 – Neodent miniscrews as received from the manufacturer; G7 – Neodent miniscrews immersed for fifteen days in NaF 0.05% (Pharmaplus, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil).

The miniscrews of Group G3 were obtained from patients undergoing orthodontic treatment for molar distalization at a private clinic. The MSs were placed between the maxillary first molar and maxillary second premolar and had an intraoral lifetime of 6 to 8 months. The MSs were removed only after total molar distalization, with no mechanical damage to the patients. After removal, the MSs were cleaned with distilled water for 10 seconds and sterilized in an autoclave (Cristofoli, Campo Mourão, PR, Brazil).

In the cytotoxicity test performed in this study, the authors used the *S. cerevisiae* strain FF18733 (mat a, ura3-52, his7-3, leu2-1, trp1-289, lys1-1). The cytotoxicity analysis was performed using two types of survival experiments: 1 – Direct exposure of *S. cerevisiae* cells to the MSs in YPD liquid medium; 2 – Indirect exposure to metals released by the MSs in commercial artificial saliva<sup>28</sup>.

For the direct exposure experiments, six miniscrews were used for each group. New inocula were cultivated from the pre-culture in 5 ml YPD, each containing two MS units from the different brands tested. A control culture without MS was also cultivated. These cultures were incubated at 30°C to the exponential phase (~ 10<sup>7</sup> cells/ml). Aliquots from each culture were diluted (in 0.9% sterile saline solution) and 5µl drops from each dilution (from 10<sup>-2</sup> to 10<sup>-5</sup>) were plated in YPD-agar and incubated at 30°C for two days to allow the emergence of small colonies, thus enabling a qualitative approach. For quantitative analyses, 100 µl of final dilutions were plated in YPD-agar (two plates for each dilution) at 30°C, to count colony forming units (CFU/ml) after two days.

In experiments with exposure to saliva, six miniscrews from each group were used. The miniscrews were immersed in 500µl of artificial saliva for time intervals of twenty days (Salivan, Apsen Farmacêutica S.A., São Paulo, SP, Brazil). For each treatment, 500µl of the pre-inoculum was used. These aliquots were centrifuged (2 min to 10.000 rpm) and resuspended at 100% of saliva exposed to the MSs. The cells were treated for 60 minutes, diluted and plated in YPD-agar as described above, for both qualitative and quantitative analyses. A control with unexposed saliva was also cultivated.

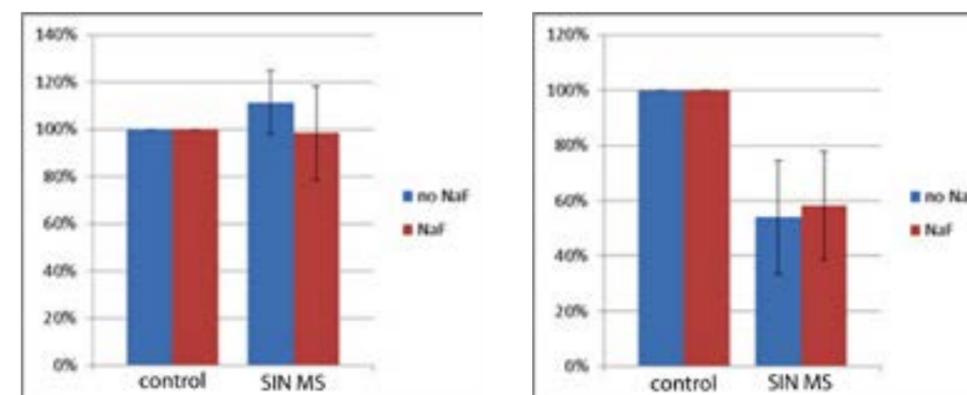
For each test, two mini-implants were placed in contact with the yeast/ saliva, and the experiments performed in triplicate.

To evaluate the induction of respiratory loss in *S. cerevisiae* cells - indicating oxidative stress - the colony color assay was performed on plates from the quantitative analyses. In this test, the colonies were covered with a top layer of agar (0.7%) containing 0.05% of the coloring salt triphenyltetrazolium-chloride (TTC). This test, by means of differential coloring of the *petite* colonies allows the (white) colonies to be distinguished from those that maintain their aerobic metabolism (red).

The mean and standard deviation of the colony forming units per mL (CFU/mL) counts from three independent repeats of each treatment were compared with the negative control (yeast without exposure to miniscrews) to verify the occurrence of significant survival differences in a semi-log curve. As already assumed in previous published reports<sup>24,28,29</sup>, a significant difference in yeast survival is considered when there is at least one log of difference (considering the standard deviation) between treatments and negative controls in terms of CFU/ml, which is an accepted indication of cellular toxicity in *S. cerevisiae*,

## RESULTADOS:

In the direct and indirect exposure experiments, the values of CFU/ml in experimental groups indicated some reduction in cell viability compared with the negative control groups, although these differences were not significant (lower than one log of difference in terms of CFU/ml). Results for direct and indirect experiments using SIN miniscrews are expressed in Figures 1 and 2. Similar results were observed for corroded SIN MSs as well as for other manufacturer of MSs.



### Figures Legend

Figure 1: Mean values (%) of *S. cerevisiae* cells CFU/ml count, with and without NaF immersion, for direct exposure. Control indicates negative control group and SIN MS indicate SIN miniscrews as received from manufacturer.

Figure 2: Mean values (%) of *S. cerevisiae* cells CFU/ml count, with and without NaF immersion, for indirect exposure. Control indicates negative control group and SIN MS indicates SIN miniscrews as received from manufacturer.

The colony color assay was applied to verify the frequency of respiratory loss in *S. cerevisiae* cells directly or indirectly exposed to MSs. The results showed that there was apparently no mitochondrial injury induced by reactive oxygen species from MS metals, since the frequencies of *petite* colonies did not differ from the controls in all experiments.

## Discussão

Despite reports that the release of titanium ions from Ti-6Al-4V is not associated with any pathological signs<sup>4, 9, 10</sup>, it is important to evaluate the cytotoxic effect of Ti ions, because they are released in the oral environment after miniscrew insertion and particles of this metal may promote the proliferation of fibroblasts, an important factor in the development of a fibrous capsule surrounding the MSs. In addition, phagocytosis of these particles may cause peri-implant osteolysis<sup>12</sup>. Ti ions may induce a reduction in the number and activity of osteoblasts, macrophages and leukocytes<sup>13</sup>, hindering osteogenesis.

The results of this study suggest that the miniscrews evaluated do not present any cytotoxic effect, in agreement with previous studies<sup>3, 14</sup>. Malkoç et al<sup>14</sup> observed a lack of significant cytotoxicity when mouse osteoblasts and human gingival fibroblasts were exposed to titanium mini-implants. Moreover, an in vivo study was conducted by Morais et al<sup>3</sup> to verify the biodegradation of orthodontic MSs (Ti6-Al4-V) and the presence of concentrations of titanium, aluminum and vanadium in rabbit organs. Small doses of all metals contained in the alloy were detected in the samples; however, the quantities were only slightly significant, thus supporting the premise that no significant cytotoxicity is generated with the use of these devices.

This study makes an important contribution to the literature with reference to evaluating the immersion of miniscrews in fluorides (NaF 0.05%) and their influence on cytotoxicity. This is because fluoride can increase the release of metal ions into the body<sup>15-20</sup>, and orthodontic patients are exposed to this substance when using dentifrices and mouthwashes. The results of this study demonstrated that the exposure of all the miniscrews to NaF for fifteen days did not induce cytotoxicity. These data are in agreement with the study of Qiu et al<sup>20</sup>, who tested the cytotoxic potential of different Ti-Bi alloys exposed to NaF and artificial saliva in murine fibroblasts. They observed a large number of Ti and Bi ions released in artificial saliva with NaF, but no significant deleterious effect to L929 cells and MG63 cells, similar to the effect of pure Ti.

Cytotoxicity induced by harmful agents can be assessed successfully by in vitro experiments using model microorganisms such as the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*<sup>21-26</sup> - a biochemically, genetically and genomically very well described microorganism<sup>27</sup>. The use of *S. cerevisiae* as a model organism offers some advantages, since it is easy and cheap to manipulate, and provides a large amount of quantitative data from well-controlled experiments with short-time results. Previous studies have used this yeast model to evaluate the cytotoxicity induced by different orthodontic materials<sup>28, 29</sup>. However, the results should be extrapolated to clinical practice with caution. The authors suggest that further in vitro studies should be conducted with human fibroblasts, in addition to in vivo studies to evaluate the possible side effects of the metal ions released from mini-implants.

## Considerações Finais

The miniscrews evaluated as received from manufacturer, exposed to fluorides or to the oral environment presented no cytotoxicity to *S. cerevisiae*.

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