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The Difference in Anti-Bacterial Activity Between Basil Leaf (Occinum Sanctum) Essential Oil and Chlorhexidine Gluconate Towards Enterococcus Faecalis

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: Chlorhexidine gluconate is a commonly used irrigation agent for root canal treatments. However, it is ineffective towards Enterococcus faecalis because these bacteria possess the ability to enter deeper layer of tissue beyond dentinal tubules. The increase of bacterial resistancy towards synthetic agents has encouraged a few researches to investigate the anti-bacterial properties of herbs as irrigation agents for root canal, one of which is basil. Basil (Occinum sanctum), is a herbal plant with a characteristic aroma that is commonly used as an appetizer. It possesses anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and antiviral properties. Essential oil obtained from basil possesses high levels of eugenol, which plays a major role in its anti-bacterial property. Basil essential oil is effective towards gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Objective: This research was carried out to investigate the presence anti-bacterial property in basil leaf essential oil compared to chlorhexidine gluconate towards the growth of Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212. Materials and methods: Initial procedures were to extract the essential oil from basil leaves through distillation. Results from phytochemical tests show that basil contains phenol, flavonoid, triterpenoid saponin, tannin with negative results on steroids. Bacterial tests in this research adapted the microdilution method by measuring Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) basil leaf essential oil towards Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212 compared to chlorhexidine gluconate. Result: Results from this research showed that the MIC value for basil leaf essential oil was 31.25 ppm while the value for chlorhexidine gluconate was 0.49 ppm. Discussion: Therefore, it can be concluded that essential oil from basil leaves possess anti-bacterial effects but are lower than that of chlorhexidine gluconate towards Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212.

Keywords: Occinum sanctum, Anti-bacterial activity, Enterococcus faecalis

INTRODUCTION

The success of endodontic therapies highly depend on the eradication of infection-
causing microorganisms from the root canal. Enterococcus faecalis is one such gram-positive coccal bacteria that is present in the root canal due to failures in endodontic therapies. They are also present in necrotic pulp tissue.

Ideal root canal medications should possess properties such as bio-compatibility, easy to clean, does not cause tooth discolouration nor interfere with the process of obturation. 3 The increase of bacterial resistancy towards synthetic agents have encouraged a few researches to investigate the anti-bacterial properties of herbs as irrigation agents for root canal. Over time, there has been an increase in usage of medicine from natural sources. According to World Health Organization, plants are potential sources to the discovery of new medicine. 4 Medicine obtained from plants are also safer compared to medicine synthesized synthetically. An example of such products is basil essential oil, as it poses high antimicrobial ability, bio-compatible, anti-inflammatory, and anti-oxidant.

Basil posses anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral effects. 5 This said anti-bacterial effect is from the eugenol which is the main component in essential oils found in basil leaves. 5, 6 The content eugenol plays a big role in anti-bacterial properties of basil. Mann et al (2000) stated that essential oils found in basil leaves are effective towards both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. 5

Groups of active compounds found in basil leaves were obtained through distillation to form essential oils. Phytochemical tests were carried out on basil leaf essential oil to ascertain contents of compounds. Phytochemicals in plants, among others, contain alkaloid, saponin, flavonoid and terpenoid. 4

This research was carried out to investigate the presence anti-bacterial property in basil leaf essential oil towards the growth of Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research object was anti-bacterial activity towards the growth of Enterococcus faecalis in liquid media. The sample used is essential oil from basil leaves. Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212 was used as bacteria in this research.

The variable of this research is the anti-bacterial activity of basil leaf essential oil towards the growth of Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212. The data collection method adapted was the true experiment method. Forms of data used were quantitative and were collected by measuring or calculating with an Elisa Reader to measure the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of basil leaf essential oil towards Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials and tools that were used in this experiment were essential oil obtained from basil leaves, Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212 bacteria, liquid agar media, microplate and an Elisa reader. The method used to extract essential oil from basil leaves was distillation.
Phytochemical tests were carried out to investigate the various groups of compounds found in basil leaf essential oil. The phytochemical tests carried out encompassed alkaloid, saponin, polyphenol, flavonoid, tannin and terpenoid tests. the anti-bacterial activity (MIC) test was carried out using the micro-dilution method, in which its optical density was measured with an Elisa reader. The results were rated by concentration ppm.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Phytochemical tests carried out on the basil leaf essential oils produced positive results to the presence of phenolic, flavonoid, saponin, terpenoid and tannin (Table 1). Results from the MIC test for basil leaf essential oil was 31.25 ppm while the value for chlorhexidine gluconate was 0.49 ppm (Table 2). The mechanism of flavonoid causes damage to the permeability of bacterial cell wall so that the cell membrane is undermined, followed by the discharge of intracellular substance and hamper bacterial motility.7,8,9

A few researches have shown that terpenoid is able to hamper bacteria growth by interfering with the formation of cell wall or cell membrane, causing them to not form completely or not being formed altogether.10 Saponin on the other hand, works to damage cell cytoplasm by decreasing surface tension to increase permeability or leakage and causes intracellular substance to leak out.11 The anti-bacterial mechanism of phenol stems from its ability to poison protoplasm, damage and puncture cell walls and coagulate bacterial cell proteins. Large molecules of phenols are able to deactivate essential enzymes in bacterial cells even in low concentrations. All in all, it causes damage to bacterial cells, denatures proteins, deactivates enzymes and causes cell leakage. Tannin works as an anti-bacterial agent by obstructing reverse transcriptase enzyme and DNA topoisomerase and ultimately causes bacterial cells to not form.11

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CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion, it can be concluded that basil leaf essential oil possesses anti-bacterial activity towards the growth of Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212. However, the MIC value of 31.25 ppm obtained from basil leaf essential oil was lower than that of chlorhexidine gluconate which has a MIC value of 0.48 ppm.

REFERENCES