

ROLE OF CHITOSAN IN MAINTAINANCE OF GINGIVAL AND PERIODONTAL HEALTH

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Abstract: Chitosan and its variations, have been used in a variety of scientific domains. Because of its unique physicochemical, biological, ecological, and physiological characteristics, such as biocompatibility, biodegradability, stability in the natural environment, non-toxicity, high biological activity, affordability, chelating of metal ions, and high sorption properties, chitosan is used in a variety of biomedical and industrial processes. The structure is more intriguing because of the reactivity of the amino and hydroxyl groups, which has a variety of uses in dentistry, biotechnology, biosensing, cosmetics, water treatment, and agriculture. Drug delivery, tissue engineering, wound healing, regenerative medicine, blood anticoagulation, and engineering of bone, tendon, or blood vessels are a few of these uses. The present article includes fresh research-based information about the role of chitosan in maintainance of gingival and periodontal health.

Keywords- Chitosan, Gingiva, Periodontium, Biocompatible material, Polysaccharides

Introduction: The potential of biomaterials developed 50 years ago to promote advancements in the biomedical profession which continues to draw a lot of interest. Numerous naturally occurring polysaccharides provide a wide range of resources that are useful in the biomedical industry. The most sought-after bio-polymer for use in therapeutic interventions these days is chitosan.[1]

In 1811, Braconnot discovered chitin which he extracted from mushrooms and named it fongine; Odier later changed the name to chitin. When Rouget introduced chitin in 1859, he founded the most primary chitin derivative, chitosan. Later Hoppe-Seyler gave it the name chitosan in 1894.[1,2]

Source of Chitosan: It is a linear amino polysaccharide. After cellulose, it is the second most widely used biopolymer. It is created by treating the chitin shells of crustaceans like shrimp with a basic substance like sodium hydroxide, D-glucosamine and N-acetyl-D-glucosamine. The exoskeletons of insects, crustaceans, and fungal cell walls contain it only as a structural element. Chitosan is only present in nature in small levels, whereas chitin is present in nature in huge amounts through a variety of sources. Typically, chitin is treated chemically or enzymatically to produce the chitosan that is employed in industrial or academic applications. Chitosan's cationic nature is fairly unusual because most polysaccharides in an acidic environment are normally neutral or negatively charged.[3]

Structure of Chitosan: Chitosan has hydroxyl groups in C-3 and C-6 as well as amino and amide groups in the C-2 position that are its active areas. Deacetylation causes enzymatic hydrolysis, which converts chitosan into an oligosaccharide with a low molecular weight that is water soluble. Chitosan creates a cationic polymer and is soluble in weak acids. Chitosan that has been chemically altered in the amino or hydroxyl groups yields derivatives that include cationic moieties. With its high viscosity and great capacity to bind water, this material is biocompatible and ideal for application in a variety of forms, including gels, chips, and membranes.[4-8]

Properties of Chitosan: Chitosan is a white odourless powder which is soluble in acetic, nitric, hydrochloric, perchloric, and phosphoric acids. It is insoluble in water and organic solvents. Aqueous acidic solutions with a pH lower than 6.5 can dissolve chitosan. [9-11] Its molecular weight and degree of deacetylation vary. The melting point is roughly 290 °C [27, 28]. The various properties are discussed below.

A. Bio-compatibility: Numerous toxicological studies have been conducted on the safety of chitosan to determine its bio-compatibility and implantation effects in medicinal products. Oral administration of daily doses of 4.5 g chitosan to human volunteers has been done without any negative outcomes being noted. [12,13] When utilised as a barrier membrane material in the regeneration of periodontal tissue, even higher oral doses of up to 6.75 g have been judged safe. Short-term human investigations

lasting up to 12 weeks reportedly found no significant clinical symptoms or indications of an allergic reaction. [14] In the process of in vitro breakdown, chitosan is primarily depolymerized using egg white and human lysozyme.[15-19]

B. Biodegradability: In order to ensure the proper restoration of periodontal tissues, materials utilised as tissue regeneration barrier membranes in clinical practise often need to maintain a specific barrier function for 4-6 weeks.[20] Numerous research assessed the rate of chitosan membrane degradation produced using various ways . After 90 days of shaking in PBS at 40 rpm and 37C, pure chitosan membranes lost 15–40% of their initial weight. [21, 22] In vivo testing revealed that chitosan membranes retained their structure for six weeks. [23]

C. Tissue Regeneration: Chitosan also aids in tissue regeneration and repair, which is another benefit. In therapeutic settings, chitosan dressings for wound healing are frequently utilised and show promising curative results. [24] Chitosan's effects on the regeneration of periodontal tissue are starting to attract the attention of researchers. According to in vitro tests, chitosan can increase the proliferation of human periodontal ligament cells. Additionally, the submicroscopic structure of the chitosan-cultured cells was similar to that of normal cells. [25] An in vivo experiment revealed that the ligament cells in the chitosan scaffold not only multiplied but also attracted vascular tissue growth. It also revealed that proliferating periodontal ligament cells had alkaline phosphatase and osteopontin protein expression that had been increased. [26-48]

Recent advances

Recent advances are described in figure 1. Because of its antacid and antiulcer qualities, which reduce medication irritability, it is a nontoxic and adsorbable polymer mostly preferred in drug delivery [49,50]. They have cationic nature and capacity which creates porous networks. For bone repair and rebuilding, chitosan is combined with hydroxyapatite and bioactive glass ceramic. [51,52].

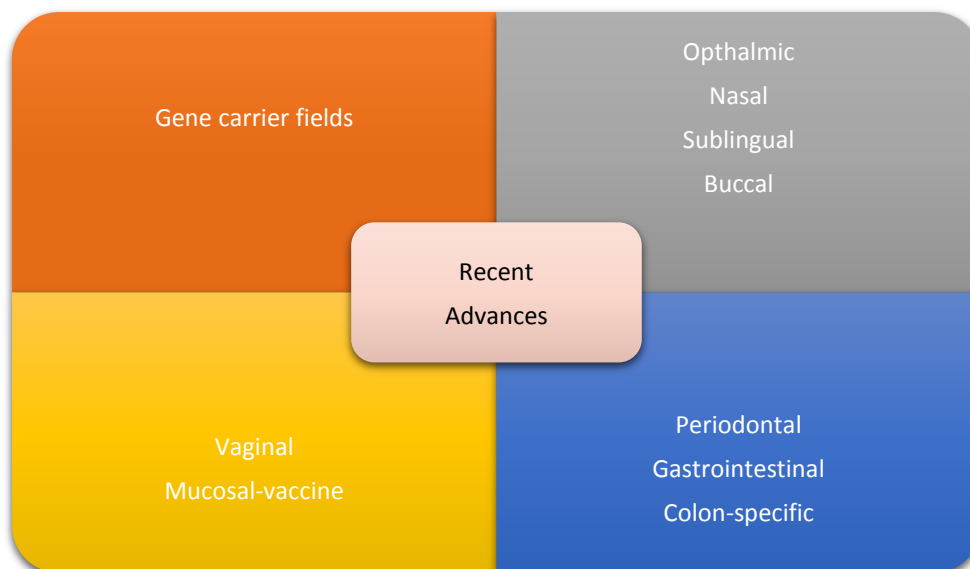


Figure -1 Recent Advances of Chitosan

Chitosan is an effective treatment for infectious disorders, according to studies done in this field. Different systems built on the foundation of chitosan have been presented [53]. These technologies have been demonstrated to decrease pharmacological adverse effects and improve therapeutic efficacy. In light of the COVID-19 and other viruses that are currently causing harm throughout the world, chitosan is also effective as a vaccine system.

Chitosan's effectiveness against bacteria has been confirmed as a medication for the removal of infected teeth's pulp [54]. Chitosan can serve as an effective agent in preventative dentistry. To avoid dental illnesses (caries, periodontitis), dental adhesives, toothpaste with an antibacterial ingredient, chewing gum with an antibacterial ingredient etc. [55]. The optical density method was used to study the hydrogels. It was discovered that the hydrogels have effective antibacterial properties. activities directed against *E. coli*. It is generally applicable in the field of pharmacy and biomedicine [56].

Recent advances of chitosan in drug delivery methods for periodontal diseases

A. Fibers: Fibers are reservoir-type systems. For the sustained release of the medication that has been trapped there, they are inserted in the periodontal pockets and fixed with cyanoacrylate adhesive. Tetracycline is rapidly released from cellulose acetate fibres through the diffusion process. When put into periodontal pockets, fibres containing 20% of chlorhexidine showed a quick and noticeable reduction in periodontal disease signs and symptoms compared to the less effective tetracycline delivery using hollow fibres. As matrices for the delivery of medication to the periodontal pocket, a number of

polymers, including poly (ϵ -caprolactone), polyurethane, polypropylene, cellulose acetate propionate, and ethyl vinyl acetate (EVA), have been studied. In this regard, monolithic EVA fibres were discovered to be successful in regulating the release of encapsulated medication, as shown by several *in vitro* and *in vivo* investigations.[57]

B. Films: Film, produced either by direct milling or solvent casting, has proven a much more popular type of intra-pocket delivery method. Larger films might be put into the site of action by being cut or punched into the proper sizes, or they could be applied inside the cavity to the gingival or cheek mucosa surface. Drugs are dispersed throughout the polymer in films, which are matrix delivery systems, and are released through drug diffusion, matrix breakdown, or matrix erosion. A taurine-enriched film made of the innovative natural polymer chitosan also uses it as a polymeric matrix (antioxidant agent).[58]

Chitosan's ability to heal wounds is enhanced by taurine, which may be helpful for tissue repair in degenerative illnesses like periodontitis. Additionally, Perugini et al. used a novel chitosan/PLGA film delivery system to transport ipriflavone to the periodontium. Comparing monolayer films made of PLGA micromatrices filled with ipriflavone to multilayer films made of chitosan/PLGA/chitosan (three layers). *In vitro* tests showed that the composite micromatrical films are an appropriate dosage form to extend the release of ipriflavone for 20 days. In a different investigation, a two-layered film made of biodegradable PCL and mucoadhesive chitosan was created.

C. Injectable System: Particularly appealing are injectable methods for the antibiotics are delivered into the periodontal tissue pocket. The application is quick and simple to use taken done using a syringe and without discomfort. Thus, the cost of the treatment is significantly decreased compared to gadgets that require more time to install and secured. An injectable delivery device is also included. These platforms enable simple therapeutic agent administration employing a syringe. They also reduce costs.

D. Gels: On the basis of hydroxyethyl cellulose, corbopol 974 and polycarbophil, mucoadhesive, MTZ-containing gel systems have been created. Using a blunt cannula and syringe, gel is injected sublingually. The gel has a negligible impact on the number of anaerobic microorganisms. This can be because there aren't many bacteria that are MTZ-susceptible or because there are bacterial biofilms present.

Controlled release DOX gel administered locally may partially offset smoking's detrimental effects on periodontal repair after nonsurgical treatment [59]. The first involved loading tetracycline base into the halloysite, a microtubular exception covered with chitosan to further slow drug release. To make sure that distribution to the periodontal pocket was simple, the syringeability of this formulation at various temperatures was assessed. The first involved loading tetracycline base into the halloysite, a microtubular exception covered with chitosan to further slow drug release. To guarantee simple administration to the periodontal pocket, the syringeability of this formulation at various temperatures was assessed. To investigate how the thermoresponsivity changed over time, a stability study was conducted [60].

E. Injectable Gels: Gel or semisolid formulations can indeed have some benefits. Gels can be made and delivered more readily, despite the included drug's substantially rapid release. Chitosan has demonstrated potential in the treatment of chronic periodontitis in a gel form with or without 15% metronidazole. The ability of a bioadhesive semisolid, polymeric system to easily flow through a cannula into a periodontal pocket, where it hardens in place to supply the therapeutic substance for an extended period, makes it a useful intra-pocket delivery vehicle. These systems display a pseudoplastic flow and thermoresponsive behavior, transitioning from a liquid to a gel between 34 and 37 degrees Celsius.

F. Strips and Compacts: The evaluation of acrylic strips loaded with amoxicillin-clavulanic acid is published in a later study.[60] The first 24 hours saw the release of the most potent antibacterial agent, and the following 9 days saw the release of therapeutic levels of medicines. Even three weeks following the acrylic strip removal, the effect was maintained. N-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate was employed to create tissue adhesive implants because it can trap drugs and release them gradually when added to the design of a biodegradable local drug delivery device.

Conclusion: Chitosan is currently being studied and used widely in a variety of fields related to biotechnology, medicine, pharmacy, and industry because of its accessibility, renewability as a raw material, and special qualities..Better performing polymer-based biomaterials will undoubtedly be in great demand in the upcoming years. Large-scale

distribution of chitosan-based biomaterials could serve as a sustainable and renewable resource for future scientific advancements.

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