

Effects of Magnoliae Cortex and Zizyphi Fructus Extract Mixtures on the Progression of Experimental Periodontitis in Beagle Dogs

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I. Introduction

Periodontal disease is an inflammatory process caused by periodontopathic microorganisms in dental plaque. Numerous studies have interested in the use of antimicrobial agents to eradicate or decrease number of putative periodontal pathogenic microorganisms. Another approach has focused on the use of chemotherapeutic agents to modulate the host response.

In the view of general reluctance to use antibiotics for the treatment of chronic infections with such a wide prevalence, interest has been directed largely towards the antiseptics. Most commonly used antiseptics in clinical periodontics are bisbiguanides, phenolic compounds, quaternary ammonium compounds, and etc. While these agents have been used for many years, they have exhibited many drawbacks such as tooth staining,

development of resistant strains and desquamation of oral epithelium¹⁻³).

Systemic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) therapy have been shown to arrest periodontal disease progression in animal models⁴⁻⁷) and clinical trials⁸⁻¹¹). Although relative low dose systemic NSAIDs therapy has been successfully used to slow the rate of periodontal disease progression, its use also involves side effects such as gastrointestinal trouble¹²).

In a previous study, it was suggested that magnolia and honokiol isolated from the stem bark of *Magnolia obovate* Thunb. have a significant antimicrobial activity against periodontopathic bacteria¹³). It was reported that *Zizyphi fructus* extract may prevent glucan production by cariogenic bacteria¹⁴) and prevent production of IL-1 and PGE₂^{15, 16}).

This study focuses on the effect of oral administration of *Magnoliae cortex* and

Zizyphi fructus extract mixtures on the disease progression in beagle dogs with ligature - induced experimental periodontitis.

II. Material and Methods

1. Preparation of magnolia cortex and Zizyphi fructus extracts mixture

Magnoliae cortex(1kg) was extracted with ethanol 2500ml for 2hours on water bath. After filtration, the filter cake was extracted once again. The combined filtrates were concentrated to dried mass, and the ethanol extract(120g) was used for the experiment.Zizyphi fructus(2.5kg) was extracted with ethanol 5000ml for 3hrs on water bath. After filtration, the filter cake was extracted once again. The combined filtrates were concentrated to dried mass, and the ethanolic extract(1.2kg) was used for the experiment. Then the two extracts were mixed and capsuled in 500mg unit.

2. Animals

Six beagle dogs(3 males and 3 females) weighing about 13kg each were employed in this study. During the pretreatment phase, all dogs brought to optimal periodontal health with subgingival scaling and with daily toothbrushing with pumice. Plaque control continued over 14 days until all dogs exhibited no sites which showed bleeding on probing and pocket depths over 3mm.

3. Study design

Fourteen teeth from each animal were used for study: maxillary 2nd, 3rd premolars and 4th premolar and the mandibular 2nd, 3rd, 4th premolars and 1st molar. Pretreatment measures(- 8 weeks) on these teeth included the Plaque index (PI)¹⁷⁾, Gingival index(GI)¹⁸⁾, clinical attachment level(CAL)(using Florida Probe) and gingival crevicular fluid volume(GCF). Subgingival plaque sampling of all experimental teeth was also performed with paper points before all other clinical indexes were taken. Clinical index scores were assessed at the mesiobuccal, midbuccal, distobuccal side of experimental teeth. GCF was also collected at the midbuccal side of maxillary 3rd premolars and mandibular 4th premolars using Periotron 8000 and periopapers. After all the data were collected, wire and silk braded ligatures were then tied around the experimental teeth on each animal, and the dogs were placed on a soft diet chow to induce artificial periodontitis through accumulation of plaque and calculus. Eight weeks after ligation(baseline measurements: 0 week), ligature wire and silk was removed and then plaque samples, PI, GI, CAL and GCF were again obtained. The animals with experimental periodontitis were then randomly divided into 2 groups: 1)As a test group(MZM), 3 beagles were administered Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture; 2) The remaining 3 beagles were used as a negative control group(NC) and as such did not receive any

drugs. 0.5g of Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture was enclosed in a capsule and the drug and placebo for control groups were administered orally, two capsules twice a day. At 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks after initiation of administration, plaque samples, PI, GI, CAL and GCF were obtained again.

Table 1. Plaque index

| Week | NC | MZM |
|------|--------------|--------------|
| - 8 | 0.24 ± 0.23 | 0.49 ± 0.27 |
| 0 | 1.75 ± 0.43* | 1.91 ± 0.52* |
| 2 | 1.96 ± 0.43 | 1.49 ± 0.42 |
| 4 | 2.52 ± 0.44 | 1.69 ± 0.52 |
| 6 | 2.08 ± 0.80 | 1.74 ± 0.28 |
| 8 | 2.02 ± 0.33 | 1.74 ± 0.24 |

NC : Negative control, MZM : Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture

*:P<0.05, significant differences in - 8 (before ligation) and 0 weeks(baseline)

No significant difference were found between each time point and baseline in all groups

No significant difference were found between two groups at each time point.

Table 2. Gingival index.

| Week | NC | MZM |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| - 8 | 0.40 ± 0.07 | 0.52 ± 0.22 |
| 0 | 1.20 ± 0.25* | 1.61 ± 0.14* |
| 2 | 1.67 ± 0.33 | 1.63 ± 0.28 |
| 4 | 2.51 ± 0.31 ^{##} | 1.88 ± 0.21 [#] |
| 6 | 2.48 ± 0.32 ^{##} | 1.47 ± 0.27 [#] |
| 8 | 2.63 ± 0.35 ^{##} | 1.36 ± 0.18 ^{##} |

NC : Negative control, MZM : Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture

*significant differences in - 8 (before ligation) and 0 weeks (baseline) (P<0.05)

^{##}significantly different from baseline at each time period (P<0.05)

[#]significantly different between two groups at each time point (P<0.05)

4. Statistical analysis

The data analysis is based on repeated measures over weeks with the 2 groups. The comparisons between pretreatment and baseline measures and between baseline and each time point measures on

Table 3. Clinical attachment level(mm)

| Week | NC | MZM |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| - 8 | 1.61 ± 0.33 | 1.78 ± 0.39 |
| 0 | 2.42 ± 0.46* | 2.63 ± 0.37* |
| 2 | 2.75 ± 0.74 | 2.22 ± 0.14 |
| 4 | 2.79 ± 0.75 | 2.18 ± 0.29 ^{##} |
| 6 | 3.32 ± 0.36 ^{##} | 1.84 ± 0.24 ^{##} |
| 8 | 3.41 ± 0.47 ^{##} | 1.67 ± 0.32 ^{##} |

NC : Negative control, MZM : Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture

*significant differences in - 8 (before ligation) and 0 weeks (baseline) (P<0.05)

^{##}significantly different from baseline at each time period (P<0.05)

[#]significantly different between two groups at each time point.(P<0.05)

Table 4. Gingival crevicular fluid

| Week | NC | MZM |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - 8 | 41.50 ± 12.34 | 57.43 ± 18.31 |
| 0 | 78.88 ± 10.01* | 75.88 ± 11.33* |
| 2 | 73.25 ± 16.58 | 76.00 ± 15.32 |
| 4 | 84.25 ± 20.34 | 64.38 ± 13.52 |
| 6 | 81.00 ± 28.23 ^{##} | 52.50 ± 17.48 ^{##} |
| # | | |

NC : Negative control, MZM : Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture

*significant differences in - 8 (before ligation) and 0 weeks (baseline) (P<0.05)

^{##}significantly different from baseline at each time period (P<0.05)

[#]significantly different between two groups at each time point (P<0.05)

PI, GI, PD and GCF were analyzed with Analysis of Variance(ANOVA). The effects of treatments with each drug on all measures at each time point were analyzed with t - test. Statistical differences were determined at the values of $P < 0.05$.

III. Results

At pretreatment measurements, PI, GI, CAL and GCF were not statistically different among two groups. After 8 weeks with ligature in place and no oral hygiene, all clinical scores begin to increase quickly.

Changes in the mean PI scores over the

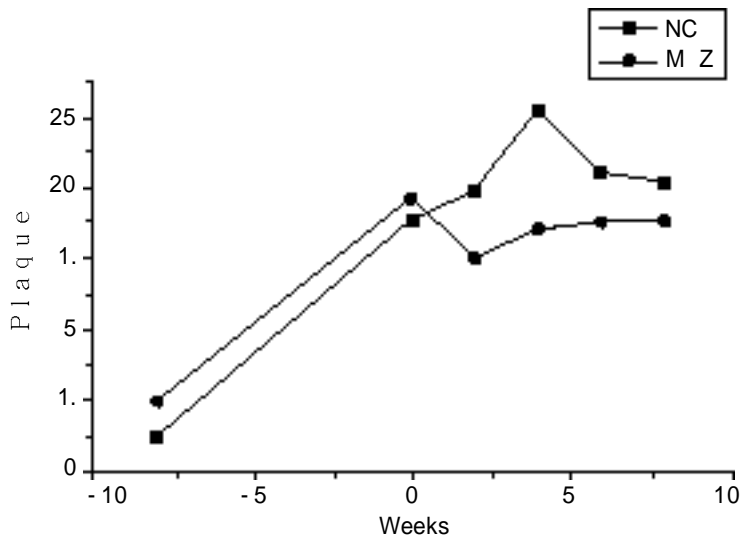


Figure 1. Plaque index

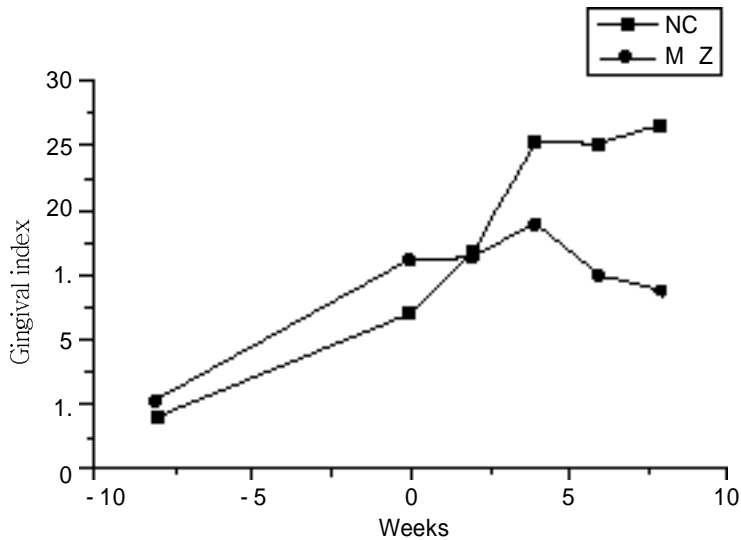


Figure 2. Gingival index

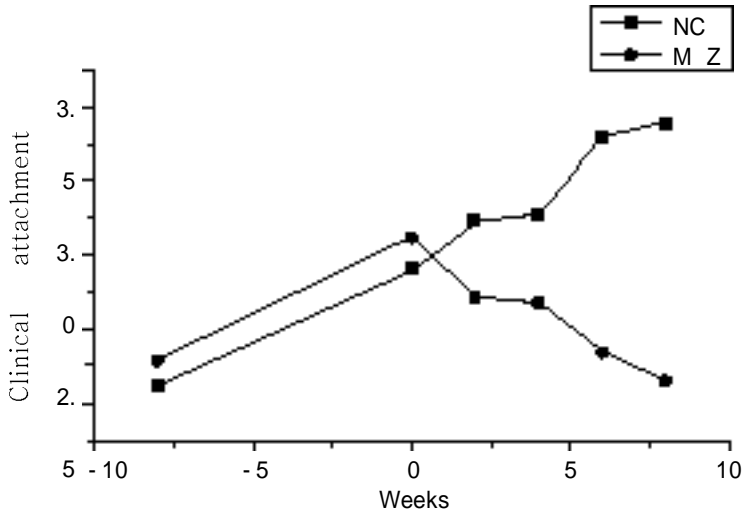


Figure 3. Clinical attachment level

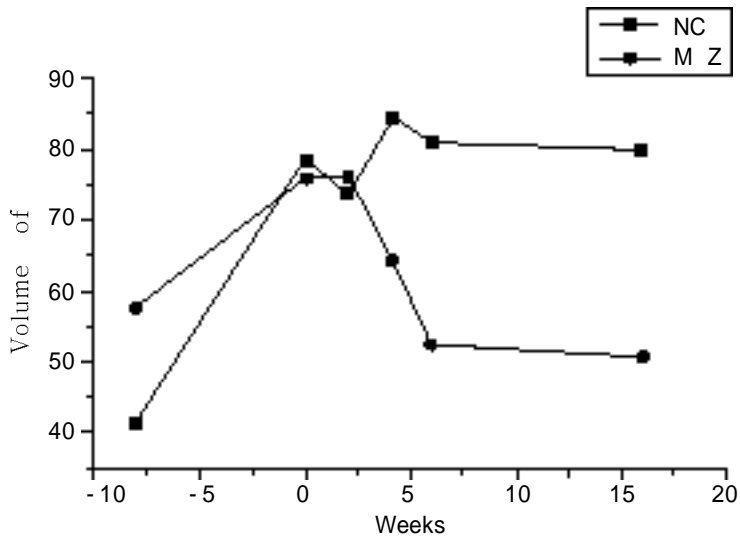


Figure 4. Volume of GCF

course of the study are shown in table 1 and figure 1. After ligatures were removed at baseline, mean PI scores were not reduced and remained high in both groups throughout all examined period. Because the beagle dogs did not receive any oral hygiene procedures, significant plaque and

calculus were deposited. No statistically significant difference was found between two groups.

Changes in the mean GI scores throughout the period of study are demonstrated in table 2 and figure 2. While the mean GI scores of NC(negative control)

group continuously increased throughout all examined period, those of MZM (Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi frutus mixtures) group was dropped after 4 weeks and significantly lower than control group at 6 and 8 weeks.

Table 3 and figure 3 demonstrate the CAL changes throughout all examined period. Over the 8 week medication period, MZM group showed 0.97 mm of mean gain in CAL respectively, while NC group showed 0.99 mm of loss. The mean CAL of MZM group was significantly lower than that of NC group at 4, 6 and 8 weeks.

The GCF levels are demonstrated in table 4 and figure 4. The mean volumes of GCF in NC group showed some fluctuation. However, the mean volumes of GCF in MZM group continuously decreased from baseline to 8 weeks. MZM group showed the significant lower values than NC group at 6 and 8 weeks.

IV. Discussion

In a previous study, magnolol and honokiol, the main component of Magnoliae cortex, showed a significant antimicrobial activity against periodontopathic microorganisms and a relatively low cytotoxic effect on human gingival cells¹³. It was also reported that Zizyphi fructus extract might have some antimicrobial and antiinflammatory effects¹⁴⁻¹⁶. The present study was designed to examine the effect of oral administration of Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixtures on the disease progression in beagle dogs with ligature - induced experimental periodontitis..

To inhibit alveolar bone loss resulting from periodontal disease progression in human, some kinds of NSAIDs have been introduced⁸⁻¹¹. Waite et al.⁸) compared the periodontal status of a group of 22 subjects who had been taking a variety of NSAIDs for at least 1 year to that of an equal number of control subjects. Their observations showed that reduced gingival index scores and probing pocket depths were associated with NSAIDs therapy and there was also a trend towards a reduced loss of attachment. But, the side effect of NSAIDs use such as gastric disturbances has deterred with its wide use for treatment of only periodontitis.

Many investigators have sought some new drug from natural extracts that would replace the previously used agents, such as antibiotics and antiinflammatory drugs. Among them, sanguinaria - containing products have received extensive attention. Clinically meaningful and statistically lower gingival bleeding on probing scores were obtained with combined use of sanguinaria and zinc chloride containing tooth paste and oral rinse⁹). In this study, the mixture of Magnolia cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract showed significant effect on reducing gingival inflammation, clinical attachment level and gingival crevicular fluid level. These results might be due to the antimicrobial effect against periodontopathic microorganisms of magnolol and honokiol¹³) and anti - inflammatory effect of Magnolia cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract by inhibition of PGE₂ production^{15,16}).

Taken together, these results indicated that the oral administration of mixture of

Magnolia cortex and Zizyphi fructus extracts would be highly effective to slowing the destruction of periodontal tissue in beagles with periodontitis, and that this mixture might be potentially useful as a drug for prevention and treatment of periodontitis.

V. Conclusion

In this study, mixture of extracts of Magnoliae cortex and Zizyphi fructus was employed to test the effect of disease progression in beagle dogs with ligature induced experimental periodontitis. This study implied that the oral administration of mixture of Magnolia cortex and Zizyphi fructus extract mixture should be highly effective in slowing destruction of periodontal tissue in beagles with periodontitis, and that this mixture might be a potentially useful as a drug for prevention and treatment of periodontitis.

VI. Reference

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