

RESEARCH ARTICLE

ROLE OF CASEIN PHOSPHOPEPTIDE–AMORPHOUS CALCIUM PHOSPHATE (CPP–ACP) IN PREVENTION OF DENTAL CARIES: A REVIEW.

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Manuscript Info	Abstract
Manuscript History Received: 10 May 2017 Final Accepted: 12 June 2017 Published: July 2017 Key words:- CPP-ACP, Dental caries, Caries prevention, Remineralization.	Dental caries is known as a major public health problem worldwide effecting individuals. Effective caries-preventive methods have been developed and refined since the introduction of community water fluoridation in the 1940s. The various topical fluorides which have shown maximum beneficial effect include fluoride varnishes. Among the food groups, dairy products have been recognized as exhibiting anticaries activity i.e milk, milk concentrates and cheeses. Dairy products have been shown to be anticariogenic in animal and human <i>in</i> <i>situ</i> caries models. The bovine milk phosphoprotein, casein, is considered to be largely responsible for this anticariogenic property. The anitcariogenic effect of CPP-ACP has been attributed to the multiphosphoseryl-containing sequences of casein. CPP can stabilize the level of ACP in saliva as it act as reservoir of calcium and stabilizes the level of calcium. We should shift our ways of caries prevention to include products such as CPP-ACP in our prevention schemes for patients through remineralization of enamel and application of minimal invasive approaches in dentistry.
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Introduction:-

Dental caries, otherwise known as tooth decay is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases affecting individual at all ages worldwide and the manifestations of this disease is throughout lifetime and eventually results in increased morbidity. It has been found that 60-70% of schoolchildren all over the world suffer from dental caries, though the prevalence of dental caries is higher in adult's i.e 99%.^{1,2}

Effective caries-preventive methods have been developed and refined since the introduction of community water fluoridation in the 1940s. Despite the mantra that water fluoridation primarily acts topically and has less effect on pit & fissures. In India, as community water fluoridation is not feasible so other alternative strategies need to be adopted to prevent this increasing burden of dental caries. ^{3,4}

The various alternative strategies that have been developed so far for preventing dental caries have proven to be as cariostatic and anticariogenic. The various topical fluorides which have shown maximum beneficial effect include fluoride varnishes. Fluoride varnishes have been developed with the aim of increasing the caries inhibiting properties of fluoride by holding it to tooth surfaces for longer periods of time than other fluoride products.⁵

Despite the use of various professionally applied and individual based topical fluorides, we need to identify the other sources that are cost effective and feasible to the community. One of the readily available sources is the diet that

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every individual consumes for his/her livelihood. Among the food groups, dairy products have been recognized as exhibiting anticaries activity i.e milk, milk concentrates and cheeses. Dairy products have been shown to be anticariogenic in animal and human *in situ* caries models. The anticariogenic effect of milk products was attributed to a direct chemical effect by cheese components. The bovine milk phosphoprotein, casein, is considered to be largely responsible for this anticariogenic property.⁶

Casein is a phosphoprotein in bovine milk and constitute for approximately 80% of its total protein content. Casein phosphopeptide (CPP), which contains the amino acid cluster sequence of -Ser(P)-Ser(P)-Ser(P)-Glu-Glu from casein is tasteless, has low antigenicity and can be purified as CPP-ACP nanocomplexes by selective precipitation, ion exchange.⁷

The most commonly used form of CPP-ACP application is via sugar-free sorbitol or xylitol-based chewing gum. Other vehicles include milk, mouth-rinses, lozenges, and dental cream. The CPP-ACP unlike fluoride can be added to sugar-containing foods and therefore have commercial potential as an additive to foods as well as to toothpastes for the control of dental caries.⁸

Hence the present review was undertaken to assess the role of casein phosphopeptide-amorphous calcium phosphate (CPP-ACP) in prevention of dental caries.

Structure Of CPP-ACP:-

Determination of the dimensions of the CPP-ACP nanocomplex has been extremely difficult. McGann *et al* 9 were able to image the calcium phosphate particles using electron microscopy after complex deproteination of casein micelles through the use of hydrazine solutions.

The "closed complex" model of CPP-ACP complex shows that all the charged residues having a significant interaction with the alkaline calcium phosphate core particle, thus rationalizing the observation that shorter CPP analogues bind less calcium phosphate than the full-length CPP. A method for routine preparation of the closed complex CPP-ACP has been developed recently, involving careful titration of calcium ions, phosphate ions and hydroxide ions at pH 9.0 to produce a high molar ratio of Calcium and phosphate ions to CPP. ¹⁰

This result in the loading of the CPP with calcium, phosphate and hydroxide ions in closed complexes that are very stable and can be purified by filtration and dried. RecaldentTM is an alkaline, stable and highly soluble form of CPP-ACP which has been trademarked and has now been marketed as sugar-free gum and mints and in dental professional products (Tooth MousseTM).

Mechanism of Action:-

Calcium-phosphate reservoir (Prevents demineralization and enhancing re-mineralization):

One of the most challenging actions of CPP-ACP is the formation of Calcium- Phospate reservoir. The anitcariogenic effect of CPP-ACP has been attributed to the multiphosphoseryl-containing sequences of casein. These sequences can be released as casein phosphopeptide after enzymatic digestion of casein. The casein phosphopeptide has a remarkable ability to stabilize calcium phosphate in solution as ACP nanocomplexes, thereby allowing the formation of small CPP-ACP clusters. CPP can stabilize the level of ACP in saliva as it act as reservoir of calcium and stabilizes the level of calcium.¹¹

Explanation of this potential has been based on the ability of casein phosphopeptide (CPP) to stabilize calcium phosphate by binding amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP) and thus forming CPP-ACP clusters. These CPP-ACP clusters act as a calcium and phosphate reservoir that attaches itself to dental plaque and tooth surfaces. On acid challenge, the attached CPP-ACP releases calcium and phosphate ions, thus maintaining a supersaturated mineral environment, thereby reducing demineralization and enhancing remineralization.¹²

Furthermore, the nanocomplex of CPP-ACP has been shown to have a synergic effect on fluoridated compounds. This synergic effect must be attributed to the formation of nano-agglomerates of Ca, F and P ions (CPP-ACP/F) which results in greater incorporation of fluoride ions into plaque, together with the increase in the concentration of bioavailable Ca and P ions.¹³

Inhibition of bacterial adhesion:-

The immunolocalisation studies have revealed that CPP-ACP can be incorporated into supragingival dental plaque by binding to the surfaces of bacterial cells to components of the intercellular plaque matrix and to adsorbed macromolecules on the tooth surface. All these interactions may then lead to the formation of a less cariogenic plaque. Rose (2000) demonstrated that CPP-ACP competes with calcium for plaque calcium binding sites and this will reduce the degree of calcium binding between the pellicle and adhering cells and between the cells.¹⁴

Indications of CPP-ACP:-^{15,16,17}

- 1. CPP–ACP can be used to remineralize early carious lesions.
- 2. It has the ability to counteract the action of acids in cases of erosion.
- 3. It has been proposed that CPP–ACP (Tooth-Mousse) has an edge over fluoride tooth paste when it comes to neutralizing acids in the oral cavity.
- 4. CPP-ACP can also block the dentinal tubules and in turn can reduce the sensitivity.
- 5. CPP–ACP alone or its combination with fluoride can be utilized as a prophylactic agent before the bonding of orthodontic brackets.
- 6. Used in cases of molar incisor hypomineralization (MIH). This is done for remineralizing hypoplastic molars and remineralization of white spot lesions (enamel opacities and some cases of mild fluorosis).
- 7. Used in the prevention of dental caries as a cost effective method in high risk population.
- 8. Used in patients with orthodontic appliances for the purpose of caries prevention and prevention/remineralization of white spot lesions.

Mode of delivery of CPP-ACP:-

Chewing gum:-

Sugar free chewing gum containing CPP–ACP paste has shown to promote remineralization of caries *in vivo* and also it increases calcium concentration in saliva. The addition of 10, 18.8, or 56.4 mg of CPP–ACP to either the sorbitol or xylitol based gums showed 63%, 102%, and 152% of increase in enamel remineralization, respectively.¹⁸ The CPP–ACP chewing gum is marketed as GC RecaldentTM (India).

Mouth rinses:-

When CPP–ACP was delivered in the form of mouth rinses (2% w/v and 6% w/v, respectively), it significantly increased plaque levels, inorganic phosphate levels, and the CPP were immunolocalized to the surfaces of bacterial cells, as well as to the intracellular plaque matrix. ¹⁹

Lozenges:-

When CPP–ACP was delivered in the form of lozenges, it showed an increase in remineralization of subsurface caries lesions, which is dose dependent and also increased salivary flow rate. Hence, sugar free lozenge may be a suitable vehicle for delivery of CPP–ACP.²⁰

Topical cream:-

The twice daily application of 10 fold diluted CPP–ACP paste resulted in preventing dentine demineralization. Enamel microabrasion together with prolonged use of CPP–ACP based paste is useful for treating white spot enamel lesions.²¹

Method of application of topical cream:

It can be applied directly with clean finger onto the teeth, smeared over all surfaces, and left in place to slowly dissolve overnight. Any material that is swallowed is completely safe and will contribute toward dietary calcium.

Dentifrices:-

The addition of 2% CPP–ACP to the 1100 ppm fluoride dentifrice increase enamel subsurface remineralization by 156% relative to that produced by 1100 ppm fluoride alone dentifrice and also the incorporation of CPP–ACP into 250–500 ppm/900 ppm of fluoride was shown to be effective in increasing enamel remineralization. The increased concentration of calcium, phosphate, and fluoride ions at the tooth surface would drive diffusion into the enamel, producing higher activities of the ions in the subsurface lesion, resulting in higher levels of remineralization and fluoride incorporation into mineral phase.²²

Sprays:-

Hay and Thomson observed moistening and lubrication action with the CPP and calcium phosphate complex mouth rinse when used as an atomized spray in the mouth.²³

Energy drinks:-

Adding CPP–ACP to energy drinks reduces their erosive capacity with no change in flavor when added in proportion of over 0.09% CPP–ACP, and it is an important constituent of tooth friendly soft drink.²⁴

Discussion:-

CPP–ACP is a milk product which helps in remineralization and prevents dental caries. Casein phosphorpeptide can deliver amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP) and can also help the ACP to bind with the dental enamel. Casein phosphopeptide can also decrease the count of Strept. Mutans as it has got the ability to integrate in the pellicle.²⁵

Caries preventive properties of the CPP-ACP also addressed by Wang J *et al* ²⁶ they clinically evaluated the remineralization potential of casein phosphopeptide amorphous calcium phosphate nanocomplexes for enamel decalcification in orthodontics. After using CPP-ACP for six months they found that CPP-ACP can effectively improve the demineralized enamel lesions during orthodontic treatment, so it has some remineralization potential for enamel decalcification in orthodontics.

One further trial also adds to the weight of evidence supporting the longer-term use of CPP-ACP in patients. In this trial, conducted by authors significant improvements were noted in both groups, but the number of white spot lesions that had completely disappeared after 12 months was significantly greater in the CPP-ACP group (63% versus 25%, respectively; p<0.05).²⁷

Remineralization potential of CPP-ACP paste has been confirmed by many another clinical trial by Bailey DL *et al*, ²⁸ Iijima *et al*, ²⁹ Reynolds *et al*, ²² Akin M *et al*. ³⁰ Mechanism behind this is that CPP-ACP has been shown to localize and stabilize calcium and phosphate ions at the tooth surface in a bioavailable form that can promote remineralization of enamel subsurface lesions in situ, restoring the white opaque appearance of the lesions to translucency.

A study by Akin M *et al* 30 evaluated that use of CPP-ACP can be more beneficial than fluoride rinse for postorthodontic WSL lesions. This in contrast with the study by Llena C *et al* 31 in which they found that CPP-ACP is not superior to fluoride varnish in prevention of early carious lesions.

Bröchner *et al*, ³²Beerens *et al*, ³³Aljehani *et al*, ³⁴ to investigate caries preventive effects of these products have observed only on carious lesions on smooth surfaces after orthodontic treatment, and their results are generally inconclusive. However, the one study by Altenburger *et al* ³⁵ to differentiate between pit-and-fissure WSLs and those on smooth surfaces found that a CPP-ACP formulation produced significantly higher remineralisation than did a toothpaste containing 1450 ppm fluoride.

Llena C *et al* ³¹ found little evidence for a substantial effect of the CPP-ACP and fluoride treatments on pit and fissure caries which may be due to difficulty in penetrating deep into the anatomy of these lesions. This support the recommendation by Beauchamp *et al* ³⁶ that caries prevention on the occlusal surface is best approached through the early preventive use of fissure sealants where possible.

Problems with current evidence:-

Topical CPP-ACP paste has been shown to be an effective remineralising agent for the treatment of natural and post-orthodontic WSLs however, the current evidence regarding its clinical efficacy is highly conflicting as shown by Beerens MW *et al*, ³³Andersson A *et al*.²⁷

The combined use of CPP-ACP and fluoride has been reported to exhibit a synergistic anticariogenic effect. This synergistic phenomenon has been attributed to the formation of fluoridated CPP-ACFP complexes which co-localise bioavailable calcium, phosphate and fluoride species on the tooth surfacehowever other researchers argue that insufficient evidence currently exists to confirm this co-adjuvant effect.^{37,38}

The remarkable discrepancies in the literature regarding the clinical relevance of CPP-ACP have been attributed to variations in study-design, duration of clinical trials, method of application, differences in the activity and severity of lesions, and the possible pathological dissimilarities between orthodontic and non-orthodontic WSLs. The development of CPP-ACP technology is relatively recent and it is currently acknowledged that further clinical studies are required before definitive recommendations for its use can be made.

Conclusion:-

Based on the previous literature and the proven efficacy of CPP-ACP products through clinical and laboratory studies, it seems that we should shift our ways of caries prevention to include products such as CPP-ACP in our prevention schemes for patients through remineralization of enamel and application of minimal invasive approaches in dentistry.

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