



ISSN NO. 2320-5407

ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56203

Title: Minimally Invasive and Preventive Approaches in Contemporary Dental Caries Management

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Date: 14.02.26

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- The paper addresses a highly relevant and contemporary topic in cariology, emphasizing minimally invasive and preventive dental strategies.
- It provides a comprehensive overview of current clinical evidence, including preventive measures, microinvasive techniques, and restorative approaches.
- The literature review synthesizes various minimally invasive techniques, such as resin infiltration, silver diamine fluoride, ART, and the Hall Technique, offering valuable insights for practitioners.
- The discussion of future directions and emerging trends reflects a forward-looking perspective, potentially guiding research and clinical practice improvements.
- The manuscript's structure is clear, with well-organized sections that facilitate understanding of complex concepts.
- References are current and relevant, indicating thorough literature engagement.

Weaknesses of the Study

- The manuscript is a review article and does not specify a systematic methodology or search strategy to ensure comprehensive coverage of the literature, which might limit reproducibility.
- No explicit inclusion or exclusion criteria for the studies cited are provided, affecting the transparency of evidence synthesis.
- The paper lacks detailed critical appraisal or discussion of conflicting evidence, which could benefit a balanced perspective.
- There is limited discussion regarding the quality and levels of evidence underpinning each minimally invasive technique.
- The manuscript does not discuss potential bias in the selection or interpretation of studies.
- The potential economic and systemic barriers are mentioned but not explored in depth or supported with specific data.
- No mention of ethical approval or patient consent procedures, especially for clinical data or illustrations, is provided.
- The paper contains minor language and typographical issues, such as inconsistent formatting and occasional grammatical awkwardness.

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Reviewer Comments

- *Title and Abstract:* The title clearly reflects the scope and focus of the review. The abstract effectively summarizes the main themes but could be enhanced with specific mention of the type of studies reviewed and key findings.
- *Introduction and Objectives:* The introduction provides a solid background on the shift from traditional to minimally invasive methods but would benefit from explicitly stating the review's specific objectives and scope.
- *Methodology and Statistical Analysis:* As a narrative review, the methodology is not systematically described. Clarifying search strategies, databases used, and inclusion criteria would strengthen reproducibility. No statistical analysis is applicable here but clarity on evidence grading could improve rigor.
- *Results and Discussion:* The synthesis covers various techniques thoroughly. Nevertheless, discussing the comparative effectiveness and limitations of each approach in more detail would provide depth. Incorporating qualitative appraisal of studies could enhance credibility.
- *Conclusion and Implications:* The conclusions are aligned with current trends and emphasize the importance of personalized, minimally invasive dentistry. Future research directions are appropriately outlined.
- *Ethical Clearance:* The review does not involve primary data collection; ethical approval is generally not required. However, acknowledgment of any ethical considerations, especially if patient data or images are included, should be stated.
- *Language and Presentation:* Overall, the language is clear, but some grammatical errors and inconsistent formatting are present. Proofreading for clarity and uniformity would improve readability.
- *Tables, Figures, References:* The included table summarizes evidence effectively. Additional figures or diagrams could enhance understanding. References are relevant and current but should follow a consistent citation style.

Additional Note: Based on a preliminary check, the content appears original and not previously published online. However, a comprehensive plagiarism check should be conducted prior to final acceptance.