

# Hemostatic agents in periapical surgery: The systematic review

© Z.S. Khabadze<sup>1</sup>, D.A. Nazarova<sup>1</sup>, E.S. Shilyaeva<sup>1</sup>, A.P. Kotelnikova<sup>1</sup>, Yu.A. Bakayev<sup>2</sup>, S.M. Abdulkirimova<sup>2</sup>, Kh.O. Omarova<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education Peoples Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), Medical Institute, Moscow, Russia

<sup>2</sup>National Medical Research Center of Dentistry and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Moscow, Russia

<sup>3</sup>Dagenstan State Medical University, Makhachkala, Russia

## Abstract:

Several agents have been used to secure hemostasis during periapical surgery. Their efficacy, biological response and side effects differ from each other.

*Aim.* of this review article is to assess systematically the available scientific evidence about the clinical response after using hemostatic agents during apical surgery.

*Materials and methods.* The study of publications was produced in the electronic databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed during a systematic review of the literature. Included articles contain information about using hemostatic agents during periapical surgery and their adverse effects. The publication date criterion was selected from January 2006 to September 2021.

*Results.* 55 articles were viewed during the review. After analyzing the literature for inclusion criteria, the total number of publications has become 10.

*Conclusions.* According to literature data, different hemostatic agents are used during periapical surgery, but there weren't any inflammatory reactions while using calcium sulfate.

**Keywords:** hemostatic agents, periapical surgery, ferric sulfate, aluminum chloride, epinephrine, calcium sulfate.

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## INTRODUCTION

Apical surgery is a procedure performed to remove lesions around the apex of a tooth with the main aim of preserving it [15].

For good clinical results and the success of apical surgery, adequate bleeding control is essential, since it improves visualization of the surgical site, minimizes the operating time, and is a requirement for the insertion of most retrograde filling materials [5]. An ideal hemostatic agent for endodontic microsurgery must have a quick hemostatic effect, must be easy to handle, should be biocompatible, and must not undermine natural bony crypt healing and the surrounding tissues [9]. Also biologic stability is an important requirement of local hemostatic agents, because they are placed in direct contact with periapical tissues, including cortical and cancellous bone, soft tissue flap. That's why inappropriate application of local hemostatic agent in such area could result in undesirable local tissue response and systemic complications [16].

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

Publications that met the following selection criteria were included:

- 1) Publication year isn't earlier than 2006.
- 2) Availability of studies proving the properties of each selected material (ferric sulfate, aluminum chloride, epinephrine, calcium sulfate).
- 3) Figuring the topic of the effectiveness of using ferric sulfate, aluminum chloride, epinephrine, calcium sulfate during periapical surgery and their difference.

The review didn't include publications, the title and abstract of which did not meet at least one of the presented inclusion criteria.

### 2. Information Sources

Up-to-date information in English from Google Scholar, PubMed electronic databases has been studied.

### 3. Search and Selection of Studies

A search in English with no time limit was performed by one person. Search terms included "ferric sulfate", "hemostatic agents", "aluminum chloride", "periapical surgery", "epinephrine", "calcium sulfate". The studies were filtered and selected in several stages. Firstly, they were evaluated by titles. Secondly, individual documents at the first stage were additionally assessed by reading the abstracts and full-text articles. The first selection criterion was the selection of publications whose titles included at least one search term. Further, publications which are dated earlier than 2006 were excluded. At the last stage, the content of the full-text versions of the selected articles was examined (Figure 1).

### 4. Risk of Bias Assessment

Cochrane Collaboration data were used to assess the risk of bias, with tests performed at each of the selection stages, according to Higgins et al [30]. The levels of bias were classified as follows: low risk, if all the criteria were met; moderate risk, when only one criterion was missing; high risk, if two or more criteria were missing; and unclear risk, if there were very few details to make a judgement about a certain risk assessment.

## RESULTS

55 articles were reviewed, of which 15 were from the PubMed database, 40 were from Google Scholar. After the selection according to the exclusion criteria, the total number of articles was 10. In the selected articles, the relevant data on the effectiveness and side effects of different hemostatic agents were analyzed (Table 1).

## DISCUSSION

Obtaining hemostasis in the surgical crypt during periradicular surgery is essential. It allows for improved visibility and contributes to a dry environment suitable for the placement of moisture-sensitive root-end filling material [4].

Several hemostatic agents has been used in endodontic surgery for many years, like aluminum chloride, ferric sulfate, epinephrine, calcium sulfate. An ideal hemostatic agent for apical surgery should achieve hemostasis within a short period, be easy to manipulate, be biocompatible, not impair or retard healing, and be relatively inexpensive and reliable [13].

### 1. Aluminum chloride

The percentage of the effectiveness in bleeding control was over 90% in the Expasyl group [5].

Expasyl, a paste containing aluminum chloride and kaolin which is commonly used to produce gingival retraction. Expasyl alone or in combination with ferric sulfate appeared to be the most efficient agent, and the

inflammatory tissue reactions were limited to the bone defects, never extending into the surrounding tissues. Though swelling is more pronounced in the Expasyl group [3]. Adverse reactions to Expasyl did not occur if the traces of the paste were eliminated from the bone crypt with rotary instruments.

Expasyl + Stasis® and electro cauterization proved most effective in reducing bleeding ( $P < 0.05$ ), but were accompanied by unfavourable tissue reactions, as indicated by the presence of necrotic bone, inflammatory cells and the absence of bone repair. These adverse tissue reactions did not recover substantially over time [8].

### 2. Ferric sulfate

The percentage of the effectiveness in bleeding control was 60% in the ferric sulfate group [15].

Ferric sulfate is one of the most currently used hemostatic agents in apical surgery. The mechanism of action of ferric sulfate is chemical, producing the coagulation of proteins, so it acts in a similar way to cauterization [13].

When applied on bleeding spot, ferric sulfate immediately forms dark-brownish clot without additional pressure, and the hemostasis could be maintained up to 5 minutes. Therefore, ferric sulfate should be applied in bone cavity to a minimum extent. It is recommended to apply FS only on small bleeding points of cortical bone surface. Also it should be noted that ferric sulfate also interferes soft tissue healing. Ferric sulfate revealed less

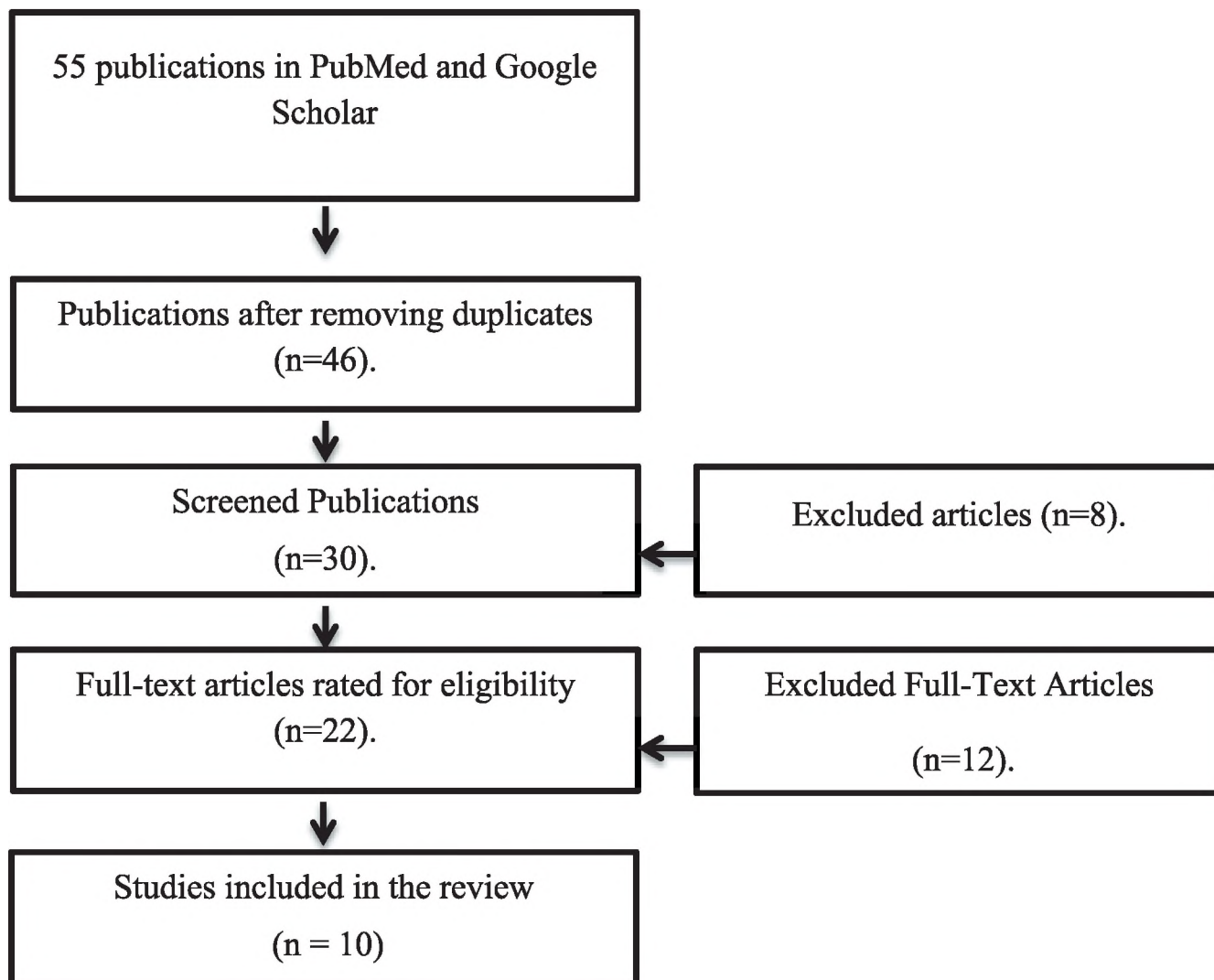


Fig. 1. Article selection process.

Table 1. Characteristics of the studies included in the review.

Author	Publication year	Study	Number	The material
Antonio S. et al [2]	2012	Patients	24	CaS, ferric sulfate
Peñarrocha-Diago M. et al [3]	2012	Patients	96	Vasoconstrictor, aluminium chloride
Azargoon H. et al [4]	2011	Rabbits	12	HemCon, ferric sulfate
Jensen S.S. et al [8]	2010	Bone defects	6	Expasyl, epinephrine
David P.-O. et al [9]	2020	Patients	30	Expasyl, epinephrine
María P.-D. et al [10]	2018	Patients	95	Epinephrine, aluminium chloride
Isabel M.-N. et al [14]	2016	Patients	99	epinephrine, aluminum chloride
Mushtaq F. et al [15]	2020	Patients	120	Vasoconstrictor, aluminum chloride
Liqaa S. F. et al [18]	2017	Patients	300	Collagen sponge, alustat, adrenaline
Mc Goldrick N. et al [19]	2017	Patients	120	Epinephrine, aluminium chloride
Penarrocha D. M. et al [20]	2019	Bone defects	72	CaS, Gelatamp, Hemocor
Peñarrocha-Oltra D. et al [26]	2019	Patients	30	Epinephrine, aluminum chloride

hemostatic efficacy than topically-applied epinephrine [16].

The use of ferric sulfate as necrotizing material with an extremely low PH (0.21) causes very good homeostasis through rapid intravascular coagulation. Nevertheless, the risk of use of ferric sulfate in contact with important anatomic structures such as maxillary sinus, floor of the nose, or mandibular and mental nerve limits its clinical usage. In addition, failure to adequate curettage and irrigation of the surgical site after ferric sulfate application can lead to foreign body reaction, impaired healing, and abscess [11]. The result with using ferric sulfate as hemostatic agent is normal healing with a slight foreign body reaction after curetting the cavity thoroughly and irrigating with saline.

### 3. Epinephrine

Epinephrine has been recommended as effective local hemostatic agent in endodontic surgery [15]. Epinephrine produces vasoconstriction by stimulation of  $\alpha$ -adrenergic receptors. Adverse local tissue reaction are because of its strong vasoconstrictive effect, also epinephrine has been associated with local tissue ischemia and subsequent tissue necrosis on gingiva, bone tissues, and sensory nerve. Epinephrine strongly stimulates cardiac function by increasing both cardiac output and pulse rate when it is bound to  $\beta_1$ -receptor. Thus, epinephrine is closely related to alteration of cardiovascular function when it enters systemic circulation [16].

Collagen sponges saturated with epinephrine provided excellent bleeding control without changes in blood pressure or heart rate [13].

The healing percentages after 12 months was 91.4% in the group treated with dressings impregnated with anesthetic solution and vasoconstrictor [5].

Spongostan + epinephrine showed only a moderate haemostatic effect, but elicited also only mild adverse tissue reactions [8].

### 4. Calcium sulfate

The percentage of the effectiveness in bleeding control was 100% in the calcium sulfate group [15].

The advantages of using calcium sulfate are excellent biocompatibility, resorbability and inexpensive price. It is recommended for application when the size of the periapical bony crypt is large. Calcium sulfate is

reported to be positively related to growth factor release (BMP-2, BMP-7, TGF- $\beta$ , and PDGF), angiogenesis and fibroblast migration, which could enhance bone healing [16]. Calcium sulfate remained around the apex after the completion of surgery, there would not have been any complications due to its biocompatibility and its resorbability [31].

### CONCLUSION

Hemostasis control is an essential element in endodontic surgery, ensuring a proper environment for retrograde filling; it affords better visibility of the surgical field improves ergonomics and contributes to lessen postsurgical bleeding and swelling.

Several hemostatic agents, like calcium sulfate, ferric sulfate, epinephrine, aluminium chloride, are used during periapical surgery. They have different structure, mechanism of action, local and body reactions. That's why, their effectiveness, side effects and percentage of success in bleeding control differ from each other.

The percentage of effectiveness is the highest in calcium sulfate group. Due to the lack of biologically negative effects, its biocompatibility and good clinical response, calcium sulfate could be used as hemostatic agent in periradicular surgery.

There was also good effectiveness using aluminium chloride and epinephrine. However, the postoperative swelling was more significantly observed in patients with aluminum chloride. Epinephrine have demonstrated good hemostatic efficacy without foreign body reactions if it doesn't enter systemic circulation.

The ferric sulfate group's effectiveness was lower than in other groups. Also the tissue damage produced when the superficial bone layer was not removed and its relation to the prognosis must be considered during using this hemostatic agent in apical surgery.

The hemostatic agents that have obtained the best results are ferric sulfate, calcium sulfate, aluminum chloride and epinephrine.

### SUMMARY

Hemostatic agents which achieve good hemostasis without foreign body reactions are calcium sulfate and epinephrine. Ferric sulfate and aluminium chloride are also have good hemostatic effect, however, their usage can lead to foreign body reaction and postoperative swelling.

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## AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Zurab Khabadze<sup>1</sup> – Candidate of Medical Sciences, Associate Professor of Department of Therapeutic Dentistry, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7257-5503.

Daria Nazarova<sup>1</sup> – student.

Ekaterina Shilyaeva<sup>1</sup> – student.

Alexandra Kotelnikova<sup>1</sup> – student.

Yusup Bakayev<sup>2</sup> – resident student.

Saida Abdulkherimova<sup>2</sup> – resident student.

Khadizhat Omarova<sup>3</sup> – Ph.D, Head of the Department of Propaedeutic and Preventive Dentistry.

<sup>1</sup>“Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia” (RUDN University), Moscow, Russia

<sup>2</sup>National Medical Research Center of Dentistry and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Moscow, Russia

<sup>3</sup>Dagestan State Medical University, Makhachkala, Russia.

**Coordinates for communication with authors:**

Zurab Khabadze, E-mail: dr.zura@mail.ru