Effectiveness of Sealer Combination Zinc Oxide (ZnO) with Red Pine (*Pinus densiflora*) on Viscosity and Solubility (Laboratory Experimental)

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**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Failure of endodontic treatment is caused by 60% of poor obturation. Sealers have an important role in the obturation process, that is filling the root canals and the space between the dentin and the core material. Sealers must have low viscosity so that they can flow easily and fill the entire root canal space so can form a good seal and have physical properties that are not easily soluble to oral fluids to prevent sealer degradation which can cause gaps during filling and become a medium for bacterial proliferation. Red pine extract is a natural ingredient that contain flavonoid and phenolic acid that are effective in reducing the viscosity and solubility of the sealer combination ZnO with red pine.

**Purpose:** To determine the effectiveness of sealer combination ZnO with red pine in reducing viscosity and solubility.

**Methods:** Red pine (*Pinus densiflora*) extract with a concentration of 100% was diluted to a concentration of 0.78% using the dilution formula M1.V1 = M2.V2. Viscosity test was done by mixing ZnO with red pine extract 0.78% 1:1 and calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂) with 1:1 sterile aquadest as a comparison, then each sample was measured for viscosity using a brookfield viscometer. The solubility test was carried out by placing the paste on a disc with a diameter of 15 mm x 3 mm and then being set and immersed in distilled water for 24 hours then the percentage of solubility was calculated.

**Results:** The viscosity value of combination ZnO with red pine is 19.89 Pa.s and the solubility is 0.0075%, while Ca(OH)₂ with sterile aquadest had a viscosity of 23.32 Pa.s and a solubility is 0.029%.

**Conclusion:** The combination of ZnO with red pine is effective in reducing the viscosity and solubility of the combination sealer. The viscosity and solubility of the combined sealer is lower than Ca(OH)₂ with sterile aquadest.

**Keywords:** Combination of ZnO – Red pine; Calcium hydroxide; Red pine (*Pinus densiflora*); Viscosity; Solubility

INTRODUCTION

Root canal treatment is a treatment of dental conservation that aims to maintain damaged teeth to be biologically accepted by the surrounding tissue without any signs of pathological abnormalities and still functional in the oral cavity.⁴ Root canal treatment failure in 60% is due to poor obturation (root canal filling). The filling of the root canals is the final stage that requires attention since the anatomy of the root canals and the anastomoses of the canals always differ, making it challenging to perform the obturation process.⁵

Sealers have an essential role in the obturation process by filling the space between the dentin and the core material.⁶ There is still no ideal sealer. According to Grossman (2014),⁷ ideal sealer requirements are easy to inject into the root canal, fills the lateral and apical canals, does not shrink after injection, moisture resistant, radiopaque, does not color teeth, does not irritate periapical tissues, if required, easy to extract from the root canals, bacteriostatic, sterile and long-setting time to get enough working time.

Viscosity is a measure of the fluid’s viscosity and an important indicator to determine the flow characteristics of the sealer.⁸ Due to its lower resistance of the liquid to flow (high flow), good flowability of the sealer is accomplished with low viscosity such that the sealer can flow freely and fill the entire space in the root canal.⁹ The ISO and ADA specifications regarding the sealer’s flow do not include a viscosity measurement but instead use a measurement of the sealer film’s diameter between two glass plates (ANSI / ADA 2000, BS EN ISO 6876 2002), which relates to viscosity but is easier to measure. According to ISO 6876/2001 and ADA No. 57, the root canal sealer flow is > 20 mm.¹⁰

Sealers must be resistant to oral fluids or not dissolve easily. According to the International Standard and ANSI / ADA specification No. 57 and No. 30, the sealer solubility should not exceed 3% by mass fraction after immersion in
water 24 hours. Degradation of the sealer can cause gaps and voids on the dentin’s surface with a sealer or gutta-percha with a sealer at the time of filling and become a medium for bacterial proliferation colonization.\\(^\text{10}\)

Zinc Oxide Eugenol (ZOE) is one of the sealers used in root canal treatment because it has an antimicrobial effect, mild analgesic, adequate radiopacity, economical price, easy to obtain and apply. ZOE consists of a powder in the form of zinc oxide (ZnO) and a liquid in the form of eugenol. The eugenol contained in the zinc oxide sealer eugenol has the disadvantage that cytotoxic can irritate the periapical tissue, resulting in necrosis of the bones and tooth cementum.\\(^\text{11}^{12}\)

ZOE sealer has a high viscosity, namely Grossman's 3: 1 of 105.90 Pa at 25°C. Tubiseal EWT zinc oxide eugenol sealer has a viscosity that is 61.95 Pa at 25°C, and viscosity is 27.34 Pa at 37°C.\\(^\text{13}^{14}^{15}\) Meanwhile, calcium hydroxide-based sealers, widely used as gold standards, have a viscosity of 26.14 Pa for Apexit.\\(^\text{16}\) ZOE sealers have high solubility compared to other sealer materials; there are 0.73% and 0.77%, so they are more susceptible to microleakage of 2,426 ± 0.733 solubility level of ZOE sealers is still within ISO and ADA standards.\\(^\text{17}\)

Herbal ingredients are biocompatible, anti-bacterial, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant; different dental materials are currently being manufactured from herbal ingredients based on these properties.\\(^\text{18}^{19}\) Red pine (Pinus densiflora) is a type of pine that grows naturally in the mountainous regions of Korea, China, and Japan, has many pharmacological properties, such as anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, anti-bacterial, and antioxidant effects. One of the essential ingredients of Pinus densiflora leaf oil is flavonoids and phenolic acids.\\(^\text{20}^{21}^{22}^{23}\) Red pine essential oil has a viscosity of 12 cSt, which is low; the combination of zinc oxide (ZnO) and red pine essential oil is an acid-base reaction that will produce water products.\\(^\text{24}^{25}^{26}^{27}\)

Based on this background, the authors want to study the efficacy of the zinc oxide and red pine combination sealer to minimize viscosity and solubility, which is then compared to calcium hydroxide, the gold standard root canal sealer.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This research is experimental laboratory research, using two kinds of samples, namely the sample in the form of a paste emulsion used for viscosity testing and the sample set. Every disc was tied with nylon thread, and analytical balances were used to calculate the initial mass (W0). The samples were then immersed in 20 ml of deionized water and incubated for 24 hours in 100% humidity at a constant temperature of 37°C.\\(^\text{28}\)

Solubility evaluation (%): After immersing in water for 24 hours, the disc is removed from the tube, dried with blotted paper, left for 24 hours to dry completely, and then weighed again. The following equation calculates the solubility amount (%):

\[
\text{Solubility} = \frac{W_0 - W_f}{W_0} \times 100
\]

Note:

- \(W_0\) = Initial weight
- \(W_f\) = Final weight after immersion

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DISCUSSION

This study found that the combination sealer of zinc oxide and red pine had a lower viscosity and solubility compared to calcium hydroxide and sterile aquadest. In this study, red pine extract with a concentration of 0.78% was used because it has an anti-bacterial effect against Enterococcus faecalis, which often causes root canal treatment failure. For the powder/liquid (P/L) comparison, previously the researchers had conducted a preliminary test, namely the viscosity test of the combination of zinc oxide and red pine using three P/L ratios, namely 1: 1, 1: 2, 1: 3, because until now there have been no studies using zinc oxide powder with liquid red pine. From the three comparisons, the results show that 1: 1 has the closest viscosity to the combination of calcium hydroxide and sterile aquadest, which is the gold standard root canal sealer.

The viscosity of the sealer combination of zinc oxide and red pine is low due to the weak interactions between molecules in the form of hydrogen bonds and Van Der Waals forces (dipole-dipole forces), which are weak types of bonds and forces between molecules as well as acid-base chemical reactions that produce water products. The interaction between molecules is based on the cohesive strength and attraction between the same or different molecules in a compound; the stronger the interaction between molecules, the greater the substance’s attractive characteristic, such that the substance’s viscosity or viscosity level increases, and vice versa if the interaction between weak molecules is due to chemical bonds and weak molecules increases.

The hydrogen bonding in the zinc oxide sealer with red pine comes from the aromatic red pine compound, namely flavonoids and phenolic acids, a group of polyphenols containing hydroxyl ions (OH⁻), which easily bind to water and then form hydrogen bonds. Hydrogen bonds are weak when compared to ionic and covalent bonds.

Van Der Waals’ dipole-dipole forces are weaker than those of the ion-dipole forces produced by the calcium hydroxide combination with the sterile aquadest. Zinc oxide, a polar compound that binds to the aromatic red pine compound, a polar compound because it contains hydroxyl ions, is the Van Der Waals power (OH⁻)²⁸.

Acid-base reactions occur between aromatic red pine phenolic acids, which are weak acids of the polyphenol group, one form of phenolic acid, namely salicylic acid. Amphoteric zinc oxide is a compound that can act as an acid or a base, depending on environmental conditions. In this case, ZnO acts as a base reacting with salicylic acid to produce zinc salicylic and water (Figure 1). This water production will decrease the combined sealer viscosity.²⁴²⁸

The viscosity of calcium hydroxide is higher than the sealer’s viscosity combined with zinc oxide and red pine because the strong interactions between molecules come from ionic bonds, ionic bonds are bonds that occur between metallic (Ca²⁺) and non-metal (OH⁻) elements. In this ionic bond, there is a transfer between electrons, and it is a strong

Table 1. The mean viscosity value of Ca(OH)₂ + Aquadest sterile and ZnO + Red Pine with a powder/liquid ratio of 1: 1 (Pa.s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of sample</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ca(OH)₂ + Aquadest sterile (1 : 1)</td>
<td>23.3188889 ≈ 23.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO + Red Pine (1 : 1)</td>
<td>19.8922222 ≈ 19.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. The mean solubility value of Ca(OH)₂ + Sterile aquadest and ZnO + Red Pine with a powder/liquid ratio of 1:1 (%) 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of sample</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ca(OH)₂ + Aquadest sterile (1 : 1)</td>
<td>0.02877778 ≈ 0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO + Red Pine (1 : 1)</td>
<td>0.0075</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The reaction of zinc oxide with salicylic acid produces zinc salicylic and water.

ZnO + C₆H₅COOH → C₆H₅COOHZn + H₂O

[Image of chemical reaction]

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chemical bond, stronger than the hydrogen bond and the Van Der Waals force found in the combination sealer of zinc oxide and red pine.  

Also, there are fewer hydrogen bonds in calcium hydroxide than zinc oxide and red pine combination sealers, containing many polyphenol compounds. Combination Ca(OH)$_2$, and sterile aquadest produce a dipole ion force; this force is stronger than the dipole-dipole force formed in the sealer combination of zinc oxide and red pine.

The combination sealer of zinc oxide and red pine has a low solubility compared to calcium hydroxide and sterile aquadest. The weak interaction between molecules comes from the number of hydrogen bonds and Van Der Waals forces (dipole-dipole forces) and the combination sealer’s low compound polarity. This is due to a benzene group, a nonpolar molecule, and a CH bond, which will prevent the absorption or entry of water into the sealer of the combination of zinc oxide and red pine. The stronger the interactions between molecules, the greater the tendency for the substance to dissolve in the solvent so that it has high solubility, and vice versa if the interactions between molecules are weak, the solubility of a substance is low.

The solubility of calcium hydroxide with sterile aquadest is higher than the combination sealer of zinc oxide and red pine due to strong interactions between molecules originating from ionic bonds, at least hydrogen bonds weak, and the presence of dipole ion forces. Also, the solubility of Ca(OH)$_2$ and sterile aquadest is high due to the dissociation reaction, the high polarity of the compound, and its hygroscopic properties. Calcium hydroxide is a strong base which, when dissolved in water, a complete dissociation reaction will occur, becoming the constituent ions, namely Ca$^{2+}$ and OH$^{-}$ ions. The hydrogen bonding in the hydroxyl ion will affect a substance’s polarity because it is hydrophilic and binds very easily to water. The hygroscopic characteristics cause calcium hydroxide to easily absorb water, which will encourage further reactions of powder and liquid and free additional Ca$^{2+}$ and OH$^{-}$ ions so that the solubility is high.

The viscosity value of the combination sealer zinc oxide with red pine is lower than that of the calcium hydroxide-based sealer on the market, namely Apexit with a viscosity of 26.14 Pa so that the combination sealer of zinc oxide and red pine can provide better flow. In addition, the solubility of the sealer combination of zinc oxide and red pine of 0.0075% has met the ANSI / ADA standard, which is not more than 3% of the mass of the fraction after immersing in water for 24 hours.

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REFERENCES


