Marquette University

e-Publications@Marquette

School of Dentistry Faculty Research and
Publications

Dentistry, School of

2-2020

Polymeric Scaffolds for Dental Pulp Tissue Engineering: A Review

Hossein E. Jazayeri

University of Pennsylvania

Su-Min Lee

University of Pennsylvania

Lauren Kuhn

Medical University of South Carolina

Farahnaz Fahimipour

Marquette University

Mohammadreza Tahriri

Marquette University

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://epublications.marquette.edu/dentistry_fac

Part of the [Dentistry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jazayeri, Hossein E.; Lee, Su-Min; Kuhn, Lauren; Fahimipour, Farahnaz; Tahriri, Mohammadreza; and Tayebi, Lobat, "Polymeric Scaffolds for Dental Pulp Tissue Engineering: A Review" (2020). *School of Dentistry Faculty Research and Publications*. 429.

https://epublications.marquette.edu/dentistry_fac/429

Authors

Hossein E. Jazayeri, Su-Min Lee, Lauren Kuhn, Farahnaz Fahimipour, Mohammadreza Tahriri, and Lobat Tayebi

Marquette University

e-Publications@Marquette

Dentistry Faculty Research and Publications/School of Dentistry

This paper is NOT THE PUBLISHED VERSION.

Access the published version via the link in the citation below.

Dental Materials, Vol. 36, No. 2 (February 2020): e47-e58. [DOI](#). This article is © Elsevier and permission has been granted for this version to appear in [e-Publications@Marquette](#). Elsevier does not grant permission for this article to be further copied/distributed or hosted elsewhere without express permission from Elsevier.

Polymeric Scaffolds for Dental Pulp Tissue Engineering: A Review

Hossein E. Jazayeri

School of Dental Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Su-Min Lee

Department of Endodontics, School of Dental Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Lauren Kuhn

Department of Oral Rehabilitation, Division of Endodontics, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Farahnaz Fahimipour

Department of Developmental Sciences, Marquette University School of Dentistry, Milwaukee, WI

Mohammadreza Tahriri

Department of Developmental Sciences, Marquette University School of Dentistry, Milwaukee, WI

Lobat Tayebi

Department of Developmental Sciences, Marquette University School of Dentistry, Milwaukee, WI

Abstract

Objectives

The purpose of this review is to describe recent developments in pulp tissue engineering using scaffolds and/or stem cells. It is crucial to understand how this approach can revitalize damaged dentin-pulp tissue. Widespread scaffold materials, both natural and synthetic, and their fabrication methods, and stem-progenitor cells with the potential of pulp regeneration will be discussed.

Data and Sources

A review of literature was conducted through online databases, including MEDLINE by using the PubMed search engine, Scopus, and the Cochrane Library.

Study Selection

Studies were selected based on relevance, with a preference given to recent research, particularly from the past decade.

Conclusions

The use of biomaterial scaffolds and stem cells can be safe and potent for the regeneration of pulp tissue and re-establishment of tooth vitality. Natural and synthetic polymers have distinct advantages and limitations and in vitro and in vivo testing have produced positive results for cell attachment, proliferation, and angiogenesis. The type of biomaterial used for scaffold fabrication also facilitates stem cell differentiation into odontoblasts and the resulting biochemistry of tissue repair for each polymer and cell type was discussed. Multiple methods of scaffold design exist for pulp tissue engineering, which demonstrates the variability in tissue engineering applications in endodontics. This review explains the potential of evidence-based tissue engineering strategies and outcomes in pulp regeneration.

Keywords

Pulp, Polymer, Scaffolds, Regeneration, Tissue engineering

1. Introduction

The current treatment modality for inflamed pulp tissue in adult teeth is root canal therapy (RCT), which is the extirpation of pulp tissue and filling of instrumented canals with synthetic obturation materials [1,2]. Approximately 97% of one million teeth with primary RCT showed functional retention over an eight-year monitoring period [3]. However, due to complex anatomy, the complete disinfection of root canals is difficult to achieve, which is considered the main cause of RCT failure [4]. A number of technical complications during RCT can result in blockage or perforation of root canals [5,6]. Both endodontic therapy and restorative procedures can weaken teeth with substantial loss of tooth architecture and integrity [7,8]. Furthermore, the removal of neurovasculature from the root canal space can make the progression of caries unnoticeable to patients, whereas vital dental pulp preserves the capacity for nociception and limited dentin regeneration [9,10].

One of the main challenges for pulpal regeneration is that the pulp tissue is enclosed by highly mineralized dentin and obtains its primary blood supply from the apical foramen. Rapid progress in regenerative medicine has shown promise in the use of bioactive scaffolds and stem cell therapy to

engineer pulp tissue [11]. Bioactive agents can stimulate proliferation and maturation of undifferentiated stem cells into odontoblast-like cells that promote pulp tissue repair [12]. Cell transplantation, suitable biomaterials, and scaffold delivery have been used to revascularize root canals and regenerate native connective tissue [12,13]. As a promising and evolving field, regenerative endodontics incorporates the use of biodegradable matrix-resembling scaffolds seeded with dental mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) [14]. Furthermore, the chemotaxis-based approach, cell homing, is a novel idea for dental pulp tissue engineering and may offer a clinically translatable methodology. Bioactive cues can be adsorbed, fastened, or encapsulated in biomaterials. Upon release of bioactive signals *in vivo*, adjoining and/or systemic cells adjacent to root apices of endodontically treated root canals can migrate into an anatomic compartment. In this situation, the root canal serves as a native scaffold [13]. However, current translational methodology might be irrational to study one biomolecule at once mechanistically.

A scaffold is one of three essential elements of a tissue engineering strategy—the others being stem cells and bioactive molecules, such as growth factors. It provides a three-dimensional (3D) structural framework that can support cell organization and vascularization [15,16]. The biomechanical characteristics of scaffolds (e.g.: shape and size of pores, rate of porosity, interconnectivity) are critical determinants of cell behavior and tissue formation [[17], [18], [19], [20]]. Scaffold design is a fundamental step for any tissue engineering procedure in order to properly deliver cells and biomolecules, generate an environment for cell activities, and promote intercellular communication. The composition and design of several scaffold materials have been studied and compared in view of optimizing time and strategies for pulp tissue regeneration during the last decade [17]. The latest findings showed these scaffolds can potentially serve as a bioactive carrier and recapitulate the interaction between stem-progenitor cells and physiological microenvironment-ECM [17,18].

The purpose of this review is to describe recent developments in pulp tissue engineering using scaffolds and/or stem cells. It is crucial to understand how this approach can revitalize damaged dentin-pulp tissue. Widespread scaffold materials, both natural and synthetic, and their fabrication methods, and stem-progenitor cells with the potential of pulp regeneration will be discussed.

2. Polymeric scaffolds for pulp tissue regeneration

One significant challenge in tissue engineering/regeneration of any organ is designing appropriate scaffolds with ideal biomaterial properties to facilitate the regeneration of injured tissues [[21], [22], [23], [24], [25], [26], [27], [28], [29], [30], [31], [32], [33], [34], [35], [36], [37], [38], [39], [40], [41], [42], [43], [44], [45]]. Previously, scaffolds had been viewed as passive carriers, however, scaffolds are now being used as matrices with bioactivity potential [46]. Different biomaterials, composites, and nano/microparticles might be selected or synthesized for tissue regeneration, depending on the organ of interest [[47], [48], [49], [50], [51], [52], [53], [54], [55], [56], [57], [58], [59], [60], [61], [62], [63], [64], [65]]. Polymers show great potential due to their small pores, high surface-to-volume ratio, mechanical properties, and ability to biodegrade [66]. Furthermore, polymers are versatile biocompatible materials which exhibit the necessary biological characteristics for regeneration [66] and can be created in planned shapes and compositions [16]. The majority of the polymeric biomaterials used for regenerative endodontics can be classified into groups of either natural or synthetic polymers.

Natural polymers are considered to provide better biocompatibility, while synthetic polymers allow more control of physicochemical properties, such as degradation rate, microstructure, and mechanical strength [16,20].

2.1. Natural polymers

2.1.1. Collagen

The natural polymer collagen is the most abundant component of the dental pulp and overlying dentin matrix [67]. Type I collagen in the dentin matrix provides focal points for calcification, and its biological compatibility with natural tissue as well as its low antigenicity makes it a favorable scaffold material among researchers and clinicians [68]. Collagen induces organization of preodontoblasts and adhesion of newly generated odontoblasts to the dental pulp, giving rise to a framework for dentinogenesis [69]. The inductive potential of collagen on the differentiation of stem-progenitor cells seeded on the scaffold is significantly advantageous for pulp tissue engineering [15]. Sakai et al. described that stem cells from human exfoliated teeth (SHED) shaped themselves into capillary-like microvessels after being cultured in a collagen matrix [70]. Furthermore, numerous studies conducted *in vitro* and *in vivo* have shown that collagen sponge and gel scaffolds aid the proliferation of dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) and their differentiation into odontoblasts, as well as hard tissue synthesis, indicating that it is a suitable material for scaffold design in pulp-dentin reconstruction [67,71,72]. When seeding DPSCs on a collagen scaffold for 6 weeks, a foundation of a crisp stemmed pulp tissue was seen, indicating that the collagen scaffold could invigorate a systematized practically identical matrix formation to that of pulpal tissue [73]. However, utilizing comparable techniques, one study [67] demonstrated that the newly created tissue of DPSCs seeded collagen sponge *in vivo* gave off an impression of being like connective tissues as opposed to a dentin-like tissue. Thus, the features of 3D scaffolds seeded with DPSCs and their execution should be further evaluated before clinical trials.

2.1.2. Fibrin

Fibrin is highly recognized as one of the strongest agents in wound healing due to its role in the coagulation cascade [74]. A protocol developed by Dohan et al. was the combination of natural polymer fibrin with cytokines, growth factors, and platelets not only to regenerate soft tissue found in the pulp chamber but also to repair hard tissue that composes dentin [75,76]. Fibrin-based scaffolds have been used for soft tissue engineering and the revascularization of dental pulp as a result of odontoblastic differentiation [77]. Shivashankar et al. applied platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) into the root canal of a necrotic infected immature tooth after total canal disinfection. One-year follow-up examinations showed continued thickening of the dentinal walls, root lengthening, regression of the periapical lesion, and apical closure, which indicates the potential application of PRF in tooth revitalization [72]. After the development of a new treatment protocol using epithelial root sheath and clinical observations, it was deduced that the production of new tissue can be attributed to the induction of PRF on pulp cell differentiation into odontoblasts, which was confirmed by the expression of osteoprotegerin (OPG) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) [[78], [79], [80]].

2.1.3. Chitosan

The medicinal application of chitosan for wound healing is profound, and it has the potential to be used for pulp capping [81]. Several *in vitro* studies showed that chitosan provided a 3D matrix for DPSCs as it improved cell attachment, proliferation, and differentiation [82,83]. However, chitosan, in

many cases, must be combined with another materials to form a composite scaffold for enhancing its biological activity and mechanical properties [84]. Chen et al. developed the polyelectrolyte complex (PEC) chitosan/carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) composite using the freeze-drying process for pulp tissue engineering. They revealed that the addition of CMC enhanced the internal porosity and reduced the pore size. This modified scaffold displayed higher biocompatibility than pure chitosan scaffolds, as it demonstrated a higher proliferation rate, and up-regulated the expression of osteonectin (ON) and dentin sialophosphoprotein (DSPP) [84]. In addition, Yang's group demonstrated the formation of a dentin-pulp complex using a DPSC-seeded scaffold composed of chitosan-collagen composite [85]. Furthermore, the combination of a ceramic, such as β -tricalcium phosphate, with chitosan in a scaffold seeded with human periodontal ligament cells (HPLC) could also promote vascular growth *in vivo* [86]. 3D multilayered co-culture systems employing type I collagen and chitosan blends have been fabricated and seeded with DPSCs and HAT-7 dental epithelial cells to assess epithelial–mesenchymal interactions. After 24 days of co-culture, the deposition of calcium ions was detected. The distinctiveness of this scaffold is its layered macroscale bio-mimetic structure with tunable mechanical properties, which assists the movement of two cell types in all directions [87].

2.1.4. Hyaluronic acid (HAc)

Hyaluronic acid (HAc) and its derivatives are recognized to have outstanding potential for tissue engineering, as HAc could be structurally and chemically modified for different applications [[88], [89], [90], [91]]. HAc is one of the most important glycosaminoglycans in the extracellular matrix and plays a crucial role in retaining morphologic organization by maintaining extracellular spaces [92,93]. Dental pulp is a connective tissue derived from the dental papilla, and includes large quantities of glycosaminoglycans, proteoglycans, and collagens [94]. Felszeghy et al. revealed that HAc expression in the dental pulp gradually reduces during the development of tooth germs, offering that HAc attends to the initial development of the dental pulp and dentin matrix [95]. The combinations of growth factors with hyaluronic acid sponges are required to fabricate restorative materials for induction of dentin formation. Additionally, hyaluronic acid sponges exhibit a suitable physicochemical structure, cytocompatibility, and biodegradation as an implant for dental pulp regeneration [96]. HAc also has a notable disadvantage. During its biodegradation, lower molecular weight molecules are released, which modulates the inflammatory process. Specifically, it has been reported that these molecules inhibit leukocyte migration and neutrophil adhesion [97,98].

2.1.5. Alginate

Alginate is a polysaccharide derived from red algae that can be ionically crosslinked with divalent cations and used for gentle cell encapsulation procedures. However, it degrades in an uncontrolled way through disintegration, since the material is sensitive to calcium chelating compounds [99]. Kanafi et al. demonstrated that DPSCs immobilized in alginate hydrogels display increased osteogenic potential while maintaining high cell viability, both of which are fundamental for bone tissue engineering [100]. When alginate scaffolds seeded with rat dental pulp-derived cells (DPSCs) were transplanted subcutaneously into the backs of immunocompromised mice, the seeded cells differentiated into odontoblast-like cells and stimulated calcification [72,101,102]. Bohl et al., on the other hand, reported that the employment of alginate as a matrix for dental pulp tissue did not result in the formation of new tissue. This is likely due to the inability of alginate to permit cell adhesion [103].

2.1.6. Peptide-based scaffolds

Self-assembled peptide-based hydrogels have numerous characteristics that make them feasible materials for pulp tissue regeneration [15,104]. They can potentially be injected into the root system and then regain their original stiffness [105]. A peptide-based scaffold contains both a matrix metalloproteinase-2-sensitive enzyme-cleavable site as well as the cell-adhesion motif tripeptide arginine-glycine-aspartic acid (RGD) [1,106]. Additionally, growth factors were introduced by employing a mechanism commonly found in a natural extracellular matrix. Heparin—a negatively charged glycosaminoglycan—can bind growth factors, shield them from proteolytic degradation, and make them accessible to cells as they deteriorate and rebuild the extracellular matrix. This could be applied to synthetic matrices. A heparin-containing self-assembled peptide matrix binds growth factors and displays a slow-release profile for transforming growth factor beta 1 (TGF- β), basic fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF-2), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) [107]. Moreover, Galler et al. showed that bound and released growth factors in hydrogel scaffolds supported differentiation of DPSCs and angiogenesis. These results suggested the potential use of cell-free options with chemoattractants and dentin conditioning for the release of growth factors [105].

2.2. Synthetic polymers

2.2.1. Polylactic acid (PLA)

Polylactic acid (PLA) is a biodegradable polyester that supports the adhesion of undifferentiated dental pulp cells and *ex vivo* cells [[108], [109], [110]]. Chandrhasa et al. measured the proliferation of mature human dental pulp tissue using three types of tissue engineering scaffolds: (1) open-PLA scaffolds, (2) bovine collagen scaffolds, and (3) calcium phosphate bioceramic scaffolds. Their results showed that the proliferation rate of dental pulp was dependent on the chemical composition of the scaffold and PLA scaffolds were more optimal than collagen or calcium phosphate scaffolds for mature dental pulp proliferation [110]. Furthermore, the interdependent pore structure of nanofibrous PLA scaffolds has demonstrated successful cell proliferation and angiogenesis [111,112]. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies have shown that PLA can induce the differentiation of DPSC to mature odontoblasts, and form both soft and hard tissue that resemble the dentin-pulp histoarchitecture [113]. Furthermore, tooth slices containing the polymer seeded with SHED allowed the formation of a microvascular lattice [114]. The advantageous mechanical properties of PLA scaffolds in addition to their controllable rate of degradation make them favorable candidates for pulp tissue engineering [73].

2.2.2. Polyglycolic acid (PGA)

Polyglycolic acid (PGA) is another polymer similar in biochemistry to PLA that can serve as a biocompatible scaffold material for pulp tissue engineering [108]. PGA composite scaffolds can attain a cell density mirroring that of native dental pulp, according to *in vitro* studies [109,115]. In fact, Buurma et al. showed that transplanted human pulp fibroblasts (HPF) and human gingival fibroblasts (HGF) synthesized not only an extracellular matrix within the PGA construct but also a vascularized network *in vivo* [116]. PGA is diverse in its application for the bioengineering of dental tissues, including the regeneration of whole crowns [117]. Experimental implants containing PGA seeded with odontogenic cells produced highly mineralized dentin tissue, according to radiographic examinations, and histological staining further revealed pulp tissue as well as Hertwig's epithelial root sheath formation, serving as evidence of successful pulp regeneration with the use of PGA-based constructs [78,118].

3. Dental stem cells for pulp tissue regeneration

Up until now, around eight unique populations of dental tissue-derived MSCs have been isolated from different tissues of the oral and maxillofacial regions and characterized [119]. These plastic adherent cells are positive for MSC-associated markers including CD29, CD44, CD73, CD90, CD105, and Stro-1 and negative for the hematopoietic markers, such as CD14, CD34, and CD45, which is in accord with the minimal criteria defined by the International Society for Cellular Therapy [120].

Among them, DPSCs [121] and SHED [122] have been isolated from healthy pulp tissues. These dental pulp-derived stem cells are self-renewing MSCs residing within the perivascular niche of the dental pulp. They have been reported to differentiate *in vitro* into odontoblasts, adipocytes, osteoblasts, and chondroblasts and form dentin/pulp-like tissues after *in vivo* transplantation [121,122]. Compared to their adult counterparts, SHED demonstrate a higher proliferation rate and a higher number of colony-forming cells with early expression of MSC markers (STRO-1 and CD146), which makes them distinct from DPSC and represent the more immature form than DPSC [122].

Stem cells of apical papilla (SCAP) have also been isolated from soft tissue located at the apex of the developing human permanent teeth [123,124]. Similar to the multipotency exhibited by DPSCs, SCAP can differentiate into odontoblasts, cementoblast-like cells, adipocytes and connective tissue *in vitro* [123,124]. *In vivo* studies using animal models have revealed the odontogenic capacity of SCAP [125]. When compared with DPSCs, SCAP exhibit enhanced proliferation rates and mineralization potential [124,126]. More importantly, DPSCs and SCAP can be harvested from permanent teeth indicated for extraction and SHED can be obtained from the disposable exfoliated primary teeth with minimal invasiveness, which make them a relatively rich source of MSCs and offer a promising source of autologous cells with easy accessibility. Collectively, all of these stem cells have shown potential for dental tissue engineering particularly in the field of dentin/pulp tissue regeneration.

4. Cell homing approaches for pulp tissue engineering

Even though compelling evidences pertaining to pulp tissue engineering after stem cell transplantation have been reported, critical problems related to clinical feasibility still remain to be solved. Hence, cell homing, a cell-free approach, has been proposed as a viable alternative [127]. Several studies showed positive results of pulp-like tissue regeneration through chemotaxis-induced cell homing [127,128]. During the homing process, various growth factors such as nerve growth factor (NGF) and bone morphogenetic protein-7 (BMP7) play a critical role in the migration and differentiation of stem cells to promote the regeneration of dentin-like tissue [127]. In addition, studies revealed that stromal cell-derived factor (SDF-1 α) increase DPSC migration *in vitro* and that tooth fragments implanted with SDF-1 α -loaded scaffolds had vascularized connective tissues with collagen matrix deposition in the canals [129].

Furthermore, conditioning root canal dentin with ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) induces the release of endogenous growth factors from the dentin matrix which may attract resident cells to form pulp-like tissue [130]. Resident cell sources include DPSCs, SCAPs, and MSCs from the periapical area of teeth with complete root formation [131]. Moreover, a recent study using an ectopic animal model with clinically relevant setup demonstrated that fibrin derivatives make applicable scaffolds and that

dentin-derived proteins following EDTA conditioning induce chemotaxis and pulp-like tissue formation [132]. Thus, this straightforward approach using cell homing might be more feasible to induce dental pulp regeneration under current clinical setting compared to the stem cell transplantation approach.

5. Methods of scaffold fabrication

Standard methods to develop open porous scaffolds contain solvent casting/salt leaching [133], phase separation [134], gel casting [135], precipitation [136], and emulsion freeze-drying [137]. In spite of the fact that conventional fabrication techniques could accomplish interconnectivity of pores of the required surface morphology by controlling distinctive factors, the scaffolds fabricated by these methods can be developed from one polymer and may fabricate inaccurate and uncontrollable porous morphology [72]. In addition, these methods require an organic solvent purification phase which is tedious and troublesome for immediate implementation. A salt leaching technique was suggested to solve this issue, however, there is still the issue of exhausting the salt from the platform which requires further investigation [138]. A considerable number of studies have been performed to investigate new methods for custom-tailor scaffolds for dental tissue engineering.

5.1. Electrospinning

3D nanofibrous scaffolds have been synthesized by the electrospinning method. The significance of this method is to mimic an intricate nanoarchitecture of an extracellular matrix and to create a supportive scaffold for cell proliferation. Fiber diameter is under control with electrospun scaffolds, and they are very applicable in constructs designed in sheets and layers [139]. Although *in vivo* applications are limited, several studies have reported the bioactivity of electrospun scaffolds in regenerative endodontics, which demonstrates the variability of scaffold production for pulp regeneration [140,141].

5.2. Supercritical fluid-gassing

Maspero et al. described a novel technique to create a net-shaped porous scaffold in no time flat [142]. This technique, which included quick consolidation of PLGA particles in a mold utilizing sub-critical CO₂, allowed the quick fabrication of a definite porous duplicate of a tooth root without the employment of any organic solvent. In this procedure, a mold produced using a sterile polyvinylsiloxane was developed, replicating the careful geometry of the tooth by putting the root of the tooth into the polyvinylsiloxane polymer. After the impression had set, the root was evacuated and the mold was loaded with sterile PLGA particles of different sizes in the range of 700–1400 µm, giving an indistinguishable porous root of the tooth. Utilizing the exhibited molding method, open porous scaffolds with the fancied shape were created [72]. The total porosity of the scaffold acquired by gravimetry was 69 ± 4%, which additionally displayed the obtainable volume for a particular fluid. Disadvantages and optimization information has been identified by Tai et al. [143]. They demonstrated that PLGA constructs may be fragile and also their pore size decreased with increased amounts of glycolic acid. Additionally, a nonporous layer may form when the depressurization step is completed too rapidly. In fact, they recommended a slower rate of depressurization to create more uniform and larger pores. This process is not as rapid—times may be an hour or more, rather than a few minutes—but may yield more desirable results.

5.3. Three-dimensional bioprinting

The layer-by-layer dispensation of a hydrogel scaffold containing cells with the use of an inkjet instrument and CAD/CAM technology is the most recent development in tissue engineering strategies [144]. 3D printing is advantageous due to precise positioning of different cells, such as the placement of odontoblasts in the periphery of the scaffold and angiogenic fibroblasts in the core that will maintain a core lattice of blood vessels and nerves in the replacement pulp tissue [145]. Bioprinting mechanisms can give rise to an easily configurable orientation of cells within a scaffold that can enhance cell attachment and regeneration. Furthermore, it can produce functional small diameter blood vessels native to the pulp chamber [146]. However, there are still limitations with *in vivo* applications.

5.4. Self-assembling

Recently a tissue regeneration approach employed a hydrogel scaffold seeded with SHED and DPSCs together and peptide-amphiphile (PA), which was utilized to build up novel regenerative procedures. By further incorporation of the cell adhesion sequence, RGD, together with an enzyme-cleavable site, cell–matrix interactions can then be conducted. SHED and DPSCs seeded in PA hydrogels were cultured under various osteogenic inductive conditions for 4 weeks. These cells differentiated and proliferated adequately with the hydrogels scaffolds. Furthermore, 3D PAs self-assembly configurations of nanofibers and tissues could be built up to tail with this methodology. Additionally, due to the physicochemical characteristics of the hydrogels, it can be injected into small and sporadic defects, and the created procedure would be viewed as good to engineer both soft and hard mineralized matrices for dental/pulp tissue regeneration [104].

6. Conclusions

In a clinical procedure for pulp regeneration, there are two possible scenarios: (1) the pulp is reversibly inflamed and healthy pulp tissue can remain after a pulpotomy, (2) the pulp, irreversibly inflamed or necrotic, has to be completely removed, and no vital tissue remains inside the root canal. In the case of the first situation, the remnant tissue serves as a source of resident stem cells, possibly DPSCs. The treatment in this situation aims to sustain pulp vitality. Applying the cell homing approach to this situation may be appropriate to this less invasive situation as the cell-free scaffold delivers bioactive cues to recruit remaining resident stem cells and induce their differentiation. However, the characteristics of resident cells might not be reliable to predict a successful outcome due to patient-related variability. As scaffold material itself lacks chemokines and growth factors, future studies need to seek a specific suitable subset, or even a single biomolecule, to be bound and stabilized in the scaffold matrix to create a conducive environment for dental pulp regeneration. In this way, regenerative endodontic treatment by cell homing could be clinically applicable to perform and also be affordable. On the other hand, the situation with completely missing pulp tissue might be more challenging. A cell-based approach allows us to better control the involved cells and tissues and can lead to more predictable outcomes. Most research results, however, showed the limitation of pulp tissue regeneration in the whole length of the root canal, regardless of these treatment approaches. They also showed that regenerated tissues do not have original pulpal architecture and function, but rather repaired architecture and function by the formation of fibrous tissue, cementum, or bone.

Similar to conventional RCT, sufficient disinfection of the root canal displays an essential prerequisite to conduct any regenerative endodontic treatment as bacterial contamination of dentin might compromise the treatment outcome. With the emphasis on antimicrobial activity, the antibiotic-impregnated scaffolds have been developed and shown the effectiveness in preventing bacterial re-infection whilst supporting tissue repair. Natural and synthetic polymers have distinct advantages and limitations (Table 1), but *in vitro* and *in vivo* testings have yielded positive results for cell attachment, proliferation, and angiogenesis. In addition, hydrogel-based scaffolds for dental pulp regeneration presented moderate to low risk of bias with promising results in pulp-like tissue regeneration. The injectable hydrogel-based scaffolds provide present-day chair-side application. Synthetic and hybrid scaffolds have been the least studied and shown to be dependent on the addition of bioactive molecules. Moreover, further advanced research such as nanofibrous technology and the combinations of various scaffolds such as hydroxyapatite-polymer gels that can be used to compensate for their individual shortcomings are in progress. While current endodontic therapy is indeed effective, this review explains the potential of evidence-based tissue engineering strategies and outcomes in pulp regeneration. Scaffold technology should be further explored for the development of dental pulp tissues in translational studies before a widespread clinical application is safely and effectively possible.

Table 1. Summarized key references for material/clinical characteristics of polymeric scaffolds.

Scaffold material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Suggested materials to form the potent composite	References
Chitosan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Good biocompatibility -Potent wound healing agent -Used in vascular growth and dentin formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of control over porosity of scaffold -Typically must be combined with other materials to enhance properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bioactive glass -Hydroxyapatite -Alginate -Collagen 	La Nonce et al. [82] Kim et al. [83] Chen and Fan [84] Yang et al. [85] Liao et al. [86] Ravindran et al. [87]
Polylactic acid (PLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Flexible in producing desired scaffold shape -Cheap/abundant -Supportive of differentiation of DPSCs into odontoblasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No cell adhesion sites (need to be chemically modified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PLGA -PEG -PGA 	Gebhardt et al. [108] Mooney et al. [109] Chandrhasa et al. [110] Woo et al. [111] Woo et al. [112] Wang et al. [113] Gotlieb et al. [114] Prescott et al. [73]
Collagen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bioactive -Many allograft sources -Structurally similar to matrix proteins -Presence in dentin matrix allows for greater attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Poor mechanical properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PLGA -Hyaluronic acid -Hydroxyapatite -Bioactive glass 	Demarco et al. [15] Zhang et al. [67] Linde [68] Kitasako et al. [69] Sakai et al. [70] Sumita et al. [71] Zhang et al. [72]
Fibrin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Forms variety of physical shapes -Non-immunogenic -Suitable for angiogenesis -PRF can repair both hard and soft tissue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rapid shrinkage -Low mechanical stiffness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collagen -Polyurethane -Hydroxyapatite -Calcium Phosphate -Polylactide 	Dohan et al. [74] Dohan Ehrenfest et al. [75] He et al. [76] Shivashankar et al. [77] Banchs and Trope [78]

				Shah et al. [79] Huang et al. [80]
Polyglycolic acid (PGA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Desirable mechanical properties and degradation rate -Very conducive for cell seeding -Applicable for regeneration of whole crowns 	-Lack of cell recognition signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PLA -PEG -PLGA -Chitosan -Collagen 	Banchs and Trope [78] Gebhardt et al. [108] Mooney et al. [109] Bohl et al. [115] Buurma et al. [116] Young et al. [117] Duailibi et al. [118]
Hyaluronic acid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bacteriostatic effect -Appropriate structure, biocompatibility and biodegradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highly water soluble -Rapidly degradable by enzyme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Calcium phosphate -Chitosan -PLGA -Fibrin 	Inuyama et al. [88] Angele et al. [89] Ramamurthi and Vesely [90] Kim and Valentini [91] Fraser et al. [92] Dowthwaite et al. [93] Sakamoto et al. [94] Felszeghy et al. [95] Inuyama et al. [96]
Alginate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Accurate impression -Easy to work -Has good viscosity -Low in adhesive qualities -Requires little armamentarium 	-Poor dimensional stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PLGA -Hydroxyapatite -Chitosan 	Zhang et al. [72] Boonthekul et al. [99] Kanafi et al. [100] Fujiwara et al. [101] Kumabe et al. [102] Bohl et al. [103]

Acknowledgements

We are thankful for the generous financial support of Delta Dental, the Marquette Innovation Fund and NSF grant CMMI-1363485.

References

- [1] K.M. Galler, A. Eidt, G. Schmalz. **Cell-free approaches for dental pulp tissue engineering.** J Endod, 40 (4 Suppl) (2014), pp. S41-S45
- [2] S.D. Patil, F. Papadimitrakopoulos, D.J. Burgess. **Concurrent delivery of dexamethasone and VEGF for localized inflammation control and angiogenesis.** J Control Release, 117 (1) (2007), pp. 68-79
- [3] R. Salehrabi, I. Rotstein. **Endodontic treatment outcomes in a large patient population in the USA: an epidemiological study.** J Endod, 30 (12) (2004), pp. 846-850
- [4] Y.L. Ng, V. Mann, K. Gulabivala. **A prospective study of the factors affecting outcomes of non-surgical root canal treatment: part 2: tooth survival.** Int Endod J, 44 (7) (2011), pp. 610-625
- [5] C.J. Ruddle. **Broken instrument removal. The endodontic challenge.** Dent Today, 21 (7) (2002), pp. 70-72. 74, 76 passim
- [6] C. Bargholz. **Perforation repair with mineral trioxide aggregate: a modified matrix concept.** Int Endod J, 38 (1) (2005), pp. 59-69
- [7] C.M. Sedgley, H.H. Messer. **Are endodontically treated teeth more brittle?** J Endod, 18 (7) (1992), pp. 332-335
- [8] E.S. Reeh, H.H. Messer, W.H. Douglas. **Reduction in tooth stiffness as a result of endodontic and restorative procedures.** J Endod, 15 (11) (1989), pp. 512-516
- [9] D.J. Caplan, J. Cai, G. Yin, B.A. White. **Root canal filled versus non-root canal filled teeth: a retrospective comparison of survival times.** J Public Health Dent, 65 (2) (2005), pp. 90-96
- [10] A. Piwowarczyk, H.C. Lauer, J.A. Sorensen. **Microleakage of various cementing agents for full cast crowns.** Dent Mater, 21 (5) (2005), pp. 445-453
- [11] G.T. Huang. **Pulp and dentin tissue engineering and regeneration: current progress.** Regen Med, 4 (5) (2009), pp. 697-707
- [12] M. Goldberg, A.J. Smith. **Cells and extracellular matrices of dentin and pulp: a biological basis for repair and tissue engineering.** Crit Rev Oral Biol Med, 15 (1) (2004), pp. 13-27
- [13] J.Y. Kim, X. Xin, E.K. Moioli, J. Chung, C.H. Lee, M. Chen, *et al.* **Regeneration of dental-pulp-like tissue by chemotaxis-induced cell homing.** Tissue Eng A, 16 (10) (2010), pp. 3023-3031
- [14] A. Sloan, A. Smith. **Stem cells and the dental pulp: potential roles in dentine regeneration and repair.** Oral Dis, 13 (2) (2007), pp. 151-157
- [15] F.F. Demarco, M.C.M. Conde, B.N. Cavalcanti, L. Casagrande, V.T. Sakai, J.E. Nör. **Dental pulp tissue engineering.** Braz Dent J, 22 (1) (2011), pp. 3-13
- [16] M. Nakashima, A. Akamine. **The application of tissue engineering to regeneration of pulp and dentin in endodontics.** J Endod, 31 (2005), pp. 711-718
- [17] C.P. Barnes, S.A. Sell, E.D. Boland, D.G. Simpson, G.L. Bowlin. **Nanofiber technology: designing the next generation of tissue engineering scaffolds.** Adv Drug Deliv Rev, 59 (2007), pp. 1413-1433

- [18] F.F. Demarco, L. Casagrande, Z. Zhang, Z. Dong, S.B. Tarquinio, B.D. Zeitlin, *et al.* **Effects of morphogen and scaffold porogen on the differentiation of dental pulp stem cells.** J Endod, 36 (2010), pp. 1805-1811
- [19] A. Graziano, R. d'Aquino, M.G. Cusella-De Angelis, F. De Francesco, A. Giordano, G. Laino, *et al.* **Scaffold's surface geometry significantly affects human stem cell bone tissue engineering.** J Cell Physiol, 214 (2008), pp. 166-172
- [20] S. Yang, K.F. Leong, Z. Du, C.K. Chua. **The design of scaffolds for use in tissue engineering Part 1. Traditional factors.** Tissue Eng, 7 (2001), pp. 679-689
- [21] M. Razavi, M. Fathi, O. Savabi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **In vitro study of nanostructured diopside coating on Mg alloy orthopedic implants.** Mater Sci Eng C, 41 (2014), pp. 168-177
- [22] M. Razavi, M.H. Fathi, O. Savabi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Biodegradation, bioactivity and in vivo biocompatibility analysis of plasma electrolytic oxidized (PEO) biodegradable Mg implants.** Phys Sci Int J, 4 (5) (2014), pp. 708-722
- [23] M. Razavi, M. Fathi, O. Savabi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **In vitro evaluations of anodic spark deposited AZ91 alloy as biodegradable metallic orthopedic implant.** Annu Res Rev Biol, 4 (24) (2014), p. 3716
- [24] M. Razavi, M. Fathi, O. Savabi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Regenerative influence of nanostructured bredigite ($\text{Ca}_7\text{MgSi}_4\text{O}_{16}$)/anodic spark coating on biodegradable AZ91 magnesium alloy implants for bone healing.** Mater Lett, 155 (2015), pp. 97-101
- [25] M. Yazdimamaghani, D. Vashae, S. Assefa, K. Walker, S. Madihally, G. Köhler, *et al.* **Hybrid macroporous gelatin/bioactive-glass/nanosilver scaffolds with controlled degradation behavior and antimicrobial activity for bone tissue engineering.** J Biomed Nanotechnol, 10 (6) (2014), pp. 911-931
- [26] A. Shahini, M. Yazdimamaghani, K.J. Walker, M.A. Eastman, H. Hatami-Marbini, B.J. Smith, *et al.* **3D conductive nanocomposite scaffold for bone tissue engineering.** Int J Nanomedicine, 9 (2014), p. 167
- [27] H. Nojehdehian, F. Moztarzadeh, H. Baharvand, H. Nazarian, M. Tahriri. **Preparation and surface characterization of poly-L-lysine-coated PLGA microsphere scaffolds containing retinoic acid for nerve tissue engineering: in vitro study.** Colloids Surf B Biointerfaces, 73 (1) (2009), pp. 23-29
- [28] M. Ashuri, F. Moztarzadeh, N. Nezafati, A.A. Hamedani, M. Tahriri. **Development of a composite based on hydroxyapatite and magnesium and zinc-containing sol-gel-derived bioactive glass for bone substitute applications.** Mat Sci Eng C Mater, 32 (8) (2012), pp. 2330-2339
- [29] S.H. Emami, A.M.A. Abad, S. Bonakdar, M.R. Tahriri, A. Samadikuchaksaraei, M.A. Bahar. **Preparation and evaluation of chitosan-gelatin composite scaffolds modified with chondroitin-6-sulphate.** Int J Mater Res, 101 (10) (2010), pp. 1281-1285
- [30] R. Touri, F. Moztarzadeh, Z. Sadeghian, D. Bizari, M. Tahriri, M. Mozafari. **The use of carbon nanotubes to reinforce 45S5 bioglass-based scaffolds for tissue engineering applications.** Biomed Res Int, 2013 (2013), p. 8. Article ID 465086
- [31] S.N. Alhosseini, F. Moztarzadeh, S. Kargozar, M. Dodel, M. Tahriri. **Development of polyvinyl alcohol fibrous biodegradable scaffolds for nerve tissue engineering applications: in vitro study.** Int J Polym Mater, 64 (9) (2015), pp. 474-480

- [32] E.S. Sedeh, S. Mirdamadi, F. Sharifianjazi, M. Tahriri. **Synthesis and evaluation of mechanical and biological properties of scaffold prepared from Ti and Mg with different volume percent.** Synth React Inorg Met Org Nano Met Chem, 45 (7) (2015), pp. 1087-1091
- [33] M. Tahriri, F. Moztarzadeh. **Preparation, characterization, and in vitro biological evaluation of PLGA/nano-fluorohydroxyapatite (FHA) microsphere-sintered scaffolds for biomedical applications.** Appl Biochem Biotechnol, 172 (5) (2014), pp. 2465-2479
- [34] R. Ravarian, F. Moztarzadeh, M.S. Hashjin, S. Rabiee, P. Khoshakhlagh, M. Tahriri. **Synthesis, characterization and bioactivity investigation of bioglass/hydroxyapatite composite.** Ceram Int, 36 (1) (2010), pp. 291-297
- [35] M. Mozafari, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Rabiee, M. Azami, S. Maleknia, M. Tahriri, *et al.* **Development of macroporous nanocomposite scaffolds of gelatin/bioactive glass prepared through layer solvent casting combined with lamination technique for bone tissue engineering.** Ceram Int, 36 (8) (2010), pp. 2431-2439
- [36] M. Azami, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Tahriri. **Preparation, characterization and mechanical properties of controlled porous gelatin/hydroxyapatite nanocomposite through layer solvent casting combined with freeze-drying and lamination techniques.** J Porous Mater, 17 (3) (2010), pp. 313-320
- [37] H. Nojehdehian, F. Moztarzadeh, H. Baharvand, H. Nazarian, M. Tahriri. **Preparation and surface characterization of poly-L-lysine-coated PLGA microsphere scaffolds containing retinoic acid for nerve tissue engineering: in vitro study.** Colloids Surf B Biointerfaces, 73 (1) (2009), pp. 23-29
- [38] M. Mozafari, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Rabiee, M. Azami, N. Nezafati, Z. Moztarzadeh, *et al.* **Development of 3D bioactive nanocomposite scaffolds made from gelatin and nano bioactive glass for biomedical applications.** Adv Compos Lett, 19 (2) (2010), pp. 91-96
- [39] M. Ashuri, F. Moztarzadeh, N. Nezafati, A.A. Hamedani, M. Tahriri. **Development of a composite based on hydroxyapatite and magnesium and zinc-containing sol-gel-derived bioactive glass for bone substitute applications.** Mater Sci Eng C, 32 (8) (2012), pp. 2330-2339
- [40] H. Nojehdehian, F. Moztarzadeh, H. Baharvand, N.Z. Mehrjerdi, H. Nazarian, M. Tahriri. **Effect of poly-L-lysine coating on retinoic acid-loaded PLGA microspheres in the differentiation of carcinoma stem cells into neural cells.** Int J Artif Organs, 33 (10) (2010), pp. 721-730
- [41] I. Manavi-Tehrani, M. Rabiee, M. Parviz, M.R. Tahriri, Z. Fahimi. **Preparation, characterization and controlled release investigation of biocompatible pH-sensitive PVA/PAA hydrogels.** Macromol Symp, 296 (1) (2010), pp. 457-465
- [42] R. Touri, F. Moztarzadeh, Z. Sadeghian, D. Bizari, M. Tahriri, M. Mozafari. **The use of carbon nanotubes to reinforce 45S5 bioglass-based scaffolds for tissue engineering applications.** Biomed Res Int, 2013 (2013)
- [43] D. Bizari, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Rabiee, M. Tahriri, F. Banafatizadeh, A. Ansari, *et al.* **Development of biphasic hydroxyapatite/dicalcium phosphate dihydrate (DCPD) bone graft using polyurethane foam template: in vitro and in vivo study.** Adv Appl Ceram, 110 (7) (2011), pp. 417-425
- [44] M. Rezvannia, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Tahriri. **Formation of hydroxyapatite nanoneedles on the surface of a novel calcium phosphate/blood plasma proteins biocement in simulated body fluid (SBF).** J Ceram Process Res, 10 (5) (2009), pp. 669-673

- [45] M. Raz, F. Moztarzadeh, M.A. Shokrgozar, M. Azami, M. Tahriri. **Development of biomimetic gelatin–chitosan/hydroxyapatite nanocomposite via double diffusion method for biomedical applications.** Int J Mater Res, 105 (5) (2014), pp. 493-501
- [46] K.M. Galler, R.N. D'Souza, J.D. Hartgerink, G. Schmalz. **Scaffolds for dental pulp tissue engineering.** Adv Dent Res, 23 (3) (2011), pp. 333-339
- [47] M. Bodaghi, A. Mirhabibi, H. Zolfonun, M. Tahriri, M. Karimi. **Investigation of phase transition of γ -alumina to α -alumina via mechanical milling method.** Phase Transit, 81 (6) (2008), pp. 571-580
- [48] H. Eslami, M. Solati-Hashjin, M. Tahriri. **Effect of fluorine ion addition on structural, thermal, mechanical, solubility and biocompatibility characteristics of hydroxyapatite nanopowders.** Adv Appl Ceram Struct Funct Bioceram, 109 (4) (2010), p. 200
- [49] H. Eslami, M. Tahriri, F. Bakhshi. **Synthesis and characterization of nanocrystalline hydroxyapatite obtained by the wet chemical technique.** Mater Sci Poland, 28 (1) (2010), pp. 5-13
- [50] K. Fatehi, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Solati-Hashjin, M. Tahriri, M. Rezvannia, R. Ravarian. **In vitro biomimetic deposition of apatite on alkaline and heat treated Ti6Al4V alloy surface.** Bull Mater Sci, 31 (2) (2008), pp. 101-108
- [51] K. Fatehi, F. Moztarzadeh, M. Solati-Hashjin, M. Tahriri, M. Rezvannia, A. Saboori. **Biomimetic hydroxyapatite coatings deposited onto heat and alkali treated Ti6Al4V surface.** Surf Eng, 31 (2013), pp. 101-108
- [52] F. Heidari, M.E. Bahrololoom, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **In situ preparation of iron oxide nanoparticles in natural hydroxyapatite/chitosan matrix for bone tissue engineering application.** Ceram Int, 41 (2) (2015), pp. 3094-3100
- [53] T. Hooshmand, A. Abrishamchian, F. Najafi, M. Mohammadi, H. Najafi, M. Tahriri. **Development of sol-gel-derived multi-wall carbon nanotube/hydroxyapatite nanocomposite powders for bone substitution.** J Compos Mater, 48 (4) (2013), pp. 483-489
- [54] F. Kazemi, A. Saberi, S. Malek-Ahmadi, S. Sohrabi, H. Rezaie, M. Tahriri. **Novel method for synthesis of metastable tetragonal zirconia nanopowders at low temperatures.** Ceram Silikáty, 55 (1) (2011), pp. 26-30
- [55] R. Masaeli, J. Kashi, T. Sadat, R. Dinarvand, M. Tahriri, V. Rakhshan, *et al.* **Preparation, characterization and evaluation of drug release properties of simvastatin-loaded PLGA microspheres.** Iran J Pharm Res, 15 (2016), pp. 205-211
- [56] M. Raz, F. Moztarzadeh, M.A. Shokrgozar, M. Tahriri. **Synthesis of nano calcium phosphate via biomimetic method for bone tissue engineering scaffolds and investigation of its phase transformation in simulated body fluid.** Key engineering materials, Trans Tech Publications (2014), pp. 86-92
- [57] M. Razavi, M. Fathi, O. Savabi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **In vitro analysis of electrophoretic deposited fluoridated hydroxyapatite coating on micro-arc oxidized AZ91 magnesium alloy for biomaterials applications.** Metall Mater Trans A, 46 (3) (2014), pp. 1394-1404
- [58] M. Razavi, M. Fathi, O. Savabi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **In vivo biocompatibility of Mg implants surface modified by nanostructured merwinite/PEO.** J Mater Sci Mater Med, 26 (5) (2015), pp. 1-7

- [59] M. Razavi, E. Salahinejad, M. Fahmy, M. Yazdimamaghani, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Green chemical and biological synthesis of nanoparticles and their biomedical applications.** Green processes for nanotechnology, Springer (2015), pp. 207-235
- [60] P. Rouhani, E. Salahinejad, R. Kaul, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Nanostructured zirconium titanate fibers prepared by particulate sol-gel and cellulose templating techniques.** J Alloys Compd, 568 (2013), pp. 102-105
- [61] E. Salahinejad, M. Hadianfard, D. Macdonald, I. Karimi, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Aqueous sol-gel synthesis of zirconium titanate (ZrTiO₄) nanoparticles using chloride precursors.** Ceram Int, 38 (8) (2012), pp. 6145-6149
- [62] E. Salahinejad, M. Hadianfard, D. Macdonald, M. Mozafari, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Zirconium titanate thin film prepared by an aqueous particulate sol-gel spin coating process using carboxymethyl cellulose as dispersant.** Mater Lett, 88 (2012), pp. 5-8
- [63] E. Salahinejad, M. Hadianfard, D. Vashae, L. Tayebi. **Effect of precursor solution pH on the structural and crystallization characteristics of sol-gel derived nanoparticles.** J Alloys Compd, 589 (2014), pp. 182-184
- [64] Y. Zamani, M. Rabiee, M.A. Shokrgozar, S. Bonakdar, M. Tahriri. **Response of human mesenchymal stem cells to patterned and randomly oriented poly(vinyl alcohol) nano-fibrous scaffolds surface-modified with Arg-Gly-Asp (RGD) ligand.** Appl Biochem Biotech, 171 (6) (2013), pp. 1513-1524
- [65] A. Zamanian, F. Moztaezadeh, S. Kordestani, S. Hesarak, M. Tahriri. **Novel calcium hydroxide/nanohydroxyapatite composites for dental applications: in vitro study.** Adv Appl Ceram, 109 (7) (2010), pp. 440-444
- [66] B. Dhandayuthapani, Y. Yoshida, T. Maekawa, D. Sakthi Kumar. **Polymeric scaffolds in tissue engineering application: a review.** Int J Polym Sci, 2011 (2011)
- [67] W. Zhang, X.F. Walboomers, T.H. van Kuppevelt, W.F. Daamen, Z. Bian, J.A. Jansen. **The performance of human dental pulp stem cells on different three-dimensional scaffold materials.** Biomaterials, 27 (33) (2006), pp. 5658-5668
- [68] A. Linde. **Dentin matrix proteins: composition and possible functions in calcification.** Anat Rec, 224 (2) (1989), pp. 154-166
- [69] Y. Kitasako, S. Shibata, C.F. Cox, J. Tagami. **Location, arrangement and possible function of interodontoblastic collagen fibres in association with calcium hydroxide-induced hard tissue bridges.** Int Endod J, 35 (12) (2002), pp. 996-1004
- [70] V.T. Sakai, Z. Zhang, Z. Dong, K.G. Neiva, M.A. Machado, S. Shi, *et al.* **SHED differentiate into functional odontoblasts and endothelium.** J Dent Res, 89 (8) (2010), pp. 791-796
- [71] Y. Sumita, M.J. Honda, T. Ohara, S. Tsuchiya, H. Sagara, H. Kagami, *et al.* **Performance of collagen sponge as a 3-D scaffold for tooth-tissue engineering.** Biomaterials, 27 (17) (2006), pp. 3238-3248
- [72] L. Zhang, Y. Morsi, Y. Wang, Y. Li, S. Ramakrishna. **Review scaffold design and stem cells for tooth regeneration.** Jpn Dent Sci Rev, 49 (1) (2013), pp. 14-26
- [73] R.S. Prescott, R. Alsanea, M.I. Fayad, B.R. Johnson, C.S. Wenckus, J. Hao, *et al.* **In vivo generation of dental pulp-like tissue by using dental pulp stem cells, a collagen scaffold, and dentin matrix protein 1 after subcutaneous transplantation in mice.** J Endod, 34 (4) (2008), pp. 421-426

- [74] D.M. Dohan, J. Choukroun, A. Diss, S.L. Dohan, A.J. Dohan, J. Mouhyi, *et al.* **Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF): a second-generation platelet concentrate. Part III: leucocyte activation: a new feature for platelet concentrates?** Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod, 101 (3) (2006), pp. e51-e55
- [75] D.M. Dohan Ehrenfest, G.M. de Peppo, P. Doglioli, G. Sammartino. **Slow release of growth factors and thrombospondin-1 in Choukroun's platelet-rich fibrin (PRF): a gold standard to achieve for all surgical platelet concentrates technologies.** Growth Factors, 27 (1) (2009), pp. 63-69
- [76] L. He, Y. Lin, X. Hu, Y. Zhang, H. Wu. **A comparative study of platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) on the effect of proliferation and differentiation of rat osteoblasts in vitro.** Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endodontol, 108 (5) (2009), pp. 707-713
- [77] V.Y. Shivashankar, D.A. Johns, S. Vidyanath, M.R. Kumar. **Platelet rich fibrin in the revitalization of tooth with necrotic pulp and open apex.** J Conserv Dent, 15 (4) (2012), p. 395
- [78] F. Banchs, M. Trope. **Revascularization of immature permanent teeth with apical periodontitis: new treatment protocol?** J Endod, 30 (4) (2004), pp. 196-200
- [79] N. Shah, A. Logani, U. Bhaskar, V. Aggarwal. **Efficacy of revascularization to induce apexification/apexogenesis in infected, nonvital, immature teeth: a pilot clinical study.** J Endod, 34 (8) (2008), pp. 919-925
- [80] F.-M. Huang, S.-F. Yang, J.-H. Zhao, Y.-C. Chang. **Platelet-rich fibrin increases proliferation and differentiation of human dental pulp cells.** J Endod, 36 (10) (2010), pp. 1628-1632
- [81] T. Matsunaga, K. Yanagiguchi, S. Yamada, N. Ohara, T. Ikeda, Y. Hayashi. **Chitosan monomer promotes tissue regeneration on dental pulp wounds.** J Biomed Mater Res A, 76 (4) (2006), pp. 711-720
- [82] M. La Noce, F. Paino, A. Spina, P. Naddeo, R. Montella, V. Desiderio, *et al.* **Dental pulp stem cells: state of the art and suggestions for a true translation of research into therapy.** J Dent, 42 (7) (2014), pp. 761-768
- [83] N.R. Kim, D.H. Lee, P.-H. Chung, H.-C. Yang. **Distinct differentiation properties of human dental pulp cells on collagen, gelatin, and chitosan scaffolds.** Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endodontol, 108 (5) (2009), pp. e94-e100
- [84] H. Chen, M. Fan. **Chitosan/carboxymethyl cellulose polyelectrolyte complex scaffolds for pulp cells regeneration.** J Bioact Compat Polym, 22 (5) (2007), pp. 475-491
- [85] X. Yang, G. Han, X. Pang, M. Fan. **Chitosan/collagen scaffold containing bone morphogenetic protein-7 DNA supports dental pulp stem cell differentiation in vitro and in vivo.** J Biomed Mater Res A, 2011 (Part A) (2012) 00A:000-000
- [86] F. Liao, Y. Chen, Z. Li, Y. Wang, B. Shi, Z. Gong, *et al.* **A novel bioactive three-dimensional β -tricalcium phosphate/chitosan scaffold for periodontal tissue engineering.** J Mater Sci Mater Med, 21 (2) (2010), pp. 489-496
- [87] S. Ravindran, Y. Song, A. George. **Development of three-dimensional biomimetic scaffold to study epithelial-mesenchymal interactions.** Tissue Eng A, 16 (1) (2009), pp. 327-342
- [88] Y. Inuyama, C. Kitamura, T. Nishihara, T. Morotomi, M. Nagayoshi, Y. Tabata, *et al.* **Effects of hyaluronic acid sponge as a scaffold on odontoblastic cell line and amputated dental pulp.** J Biomed Mater Res B, 92b (1) (2010), pp. 120-128

- [89] P. Angele, R. Kujat, M. Nerlich, J. Yoo, V. Goldberg, B. Johnstone. **Engineering of osteochondral tissue with bone marrow mesenchymal progenitor: cells in a derivatized hyaluronan-gelatin composite sponge.** *Tissue Eng*, 5 (6) (1999), pp. 545-553
- [90] A. Ramamurthi, I. Vesely. **Smooth muscle cell adhesion on crosslinked hyaluronan gels.** *J Biomed Mater Res*, 60 (1) (2002), pp. 196-205
- [91] H.D. Kim, R.F. Valentini. **Retention and activity of BMP-2 in hyaluronic acid-based scaffolds in vitro.** *J Biomed Mater Res*, 59 (3) (2002), pp. 573-584
- [92] J.R.E. Fraser, T.C. Laurent, U.B.G. Laurent. **Hyaluronan: its nature, distribution, functions and turnover.** *J Intern Med*, 242 (1) (1997), pp. 27-33
- [93] G.P. Dowthwaite, J.C.W. Edwards, A.A. Pitsillides. **An essential role for the interaction between hyaluronan and hyaluronan binding proteins during joint development.** *J Histochem Cytochem*, 46 (5) (1998), pp. 641-651
- [94] N. Sakamoto, H. Okamoto, K. Okuda. **Qualitative and quantitative-analyses of bovine, rabbit and human dental-pulp glycosaminoglycans.** *J Dent Res*, 58 (2) (1979), pp. 646-655
- [95] S. Felszeghy, M. Hyttinen, R. Tammi, M. Tammi, L. Modis. **Quantitative image analysis of hyaluronan expression in human tooth germs.** *Eur J Oral Sci*, 108 (4) (2000), pp. 320-326
- [96] Y. Inuyama, C. Kitamura, T. Nishihara, T. Morotomi, M. Nagayoshi, Y. Tabata, *et al.* **Effects of hyaluronic acid sponge as a scaffold on odontoblastic cell line and amputated dental pulp.** *J Biomed Mater Res B Appl Biomater*, 92 (1) (2010), pp. 120-128
- [97] J.V. Forrester, P.C. Wilkinson. **Inhibition of leukocyte locomotion by hyaluronic acid.** *J Cell Sci*, 48 (1981), pp. 315-331
- [98] G. Partsch, C. Schwarzer, J. Neumuller, A. Dunky, P. Petera, H. Broll, *et al.* **Modulation of the migration and chemotaxis of PMN cells by hyaluronic acid.** *Z Rheumatol*, 48 (3) (1989), pp. 123-128
- [99] T. Boontheekul, H.J. Kong, D.J. Mooney. **Controlling alginate gel degradation utilizing partial oxidation and bimodal molecular weight distribution.** *Biomaterials*, 26 (15) (2005), pp. 2455-2465
- [100] M.M. Kanafi, A. Ramesh, P.K. Gupta, R.R. Bhonde. **Dental pulp stem cells immobilized in alginate microspheres for applications in bone tissue engineering.** *Int Endod J*, 47 (7) (2014), pp. 687-697
- [101] S. Fujiwara, S. Kumabe, Y. Iwai. **Isolated rat dental pulp cell culture and transplantation with an alginate scaffold.** *Okajimas Folia Anat Jpn*, 83 (1) (2006), pp. 15-24
- [102] S. Kumabe, M. Nakatsuka, G.-S. Kim, S.-S. Jue, F. Aikawa, J.-W. Shin, *et al.* **Human dental pulp cell culture and cell transplantation with an alginate scaffold.** *Okajimas Folia Anat Jpn*, 82 (4) (2006), pp. 147-156
- [103] K.S. Bohl, J. Shon, B. Rutherford, D.J. Mooney. **Role of synthetic extracellular matrix in development of engineered dental pulp.** *J Biomater Sci Polym Ed*, 9 (7) (1998), pp. 749-764
- [104] K.M. Galler, A. Cavender, V. Yuwono, H. Dong, S. Shi, G. Schmalz, *et al.* **Self-assembling peptide amphiphile nanofibers as a scaffold for dental stem cells.** *Tissue Eng A*, 14 (12) (2008), pp. 2051-2058
- [105] K.M. Galler, J.D. Hartgerink, A.C. Cavender, G. Schmalz, R.N. D'Souza. **A customized self-assembling peptide hydrogel for dental pulp tissue engineering.** *Tissue Eng A*, 18 (1-2) (2012), pp. 176-184

- [106] K.M. Galler, L. Aulisa, K.R. Regan, R.N. D'Souza, J.D. Hartgerink. **Self-assembling multidomain peptide hydrogels: designed susceptibility to enzymatic cleavage allows enhanced cell migration and spreading.** J Am Chem Soc, 132 (9) (2010), pp. 3217-3223
- [107] K.M. Galler, R.N. D'Souza, M. Federlin, A.C. Cavender, J.D. Hartgerink, S. Hecker, *et al.* **Dentin conditioning codetermines cell fate in regenerative endodontics.** J Endod, 37 (11) (2011), pp. 1536-1541
- [108] M. Gebhardt, P.E. Murray, K.N. Namerow, S. Kuttler, F. Garcia-Godoy. **Cell survival within pulp and periodontal constructs.** J Endod, 35 (1) (2009), pp. 63-66
- [109] D.J. Mooney, C. Powell, J. Piana, B. Rutherford. **Engineering dental pulp-like tissue in vitro.** Biotechnol Prog, 12 (6) (1996), pp. 865-868
- [110] S. Chandrhasa, P.E. Murray, K.N. Namerow. **Proliferation of mature ex vivo human dental pulp using tissue engineering scaffolds.** J Endod, 37 (9) (2011), pp. 1236-1239
- [111] K.M. Woo, V.J. Chen, H.-M. Jung, T.-I. Kim, H.-I. Shin, J.-H. Baek, *et al.* **Comparative evaluation of nanofibrous scaffolding for bone regeneration in critical-size calvarial defects.** Tissue Eng A, 15 (8) (2009), pp. 2155-2162
- [112] K.M. Woo, V.J. Chen, P.X. Ma. **Nano-fibrous scaffolding architecture selectively enhances protein adsorption contributing to cell attachment.** J Biomed Mater Res A, 67 (2) (2003), pp. 531-537
- [113] J. Wang, X. Liu, X. Jin, H. Ma, J. Hu, L. Ni, *et al.* **The odontogenic differentiation of human dental pulp stem cells on nanofibrous poly(l-lactic acid) scaffolds in vitro and in vivo.** Acta Biomater, 6 (10) (2010), pp. 3856-3863
- [114] E.L. Gotlieb, P.E. Murray, K.N. Namerow, S. Kuttler, F. Garcia-Godoy. **An ultrastructural investigation of tissue-engineered pulp constructs implanted within endodontically treated teeth.** J Am Dent Assoc, 139 (4) (2008), pp. 457-465
- [115] K.S. Bohl, J. Shon, B. Rutherford, D.J. Mooney. **Role of synthetic extracellular matrix in development of engineered dental pulp.** J Biomater Sci Polym Ed, 9 (7) (1998), pp. 749-764
- [116] B. Buurma, K. Gu, R.B. Rutherford. **Transplantation of human pulpal and gingival fibroblasts attached to synthetic scaffolds.** Eur J Oral Sci, 107 (4) (1999), pp. 282-289
- [117] C. Young, S. Terada, J. Vacanti, M. Honda, J. Bartlett, P. Yelick. **Tissue engineering of complex tooth structures on biodegradable polymer scaffolds.** J Dent Res, 81 (10) (2002), pp. 695-700
- [118] M. Duailibi, S. Duailibi, C. Young, J. Bartlett, J. Vacanti, P. Yelick. **Bioengineered teeth from cultured rat tooth bud cells.** J Dent Res, 83 (7) (2004), pp. 523-528
- [119] H. Egusa, W. Sonoyama, M. Nishimura, I. Atsuta, K. Akiyama. **Stem cells in dentistry—part I: stem cell sources.** J Prosthodont Res, 56 (3) (2012), pp. 151-165
- [120] M. Dominici, K. Le Blanc, I. Mueller, I. Slaper-Cortenbach, F. Marini, D. Krause, *et al.* **Minimal criteria for defining multipotent mesenchymal stromal cells. The International Society for Cellular Therapy position statement.** Cytotherapy, 8 (4) (2006), pp. 315-317
- [121] S. Gronthos, M. Mankani, J. Brahimi, P.G. Robey, S. Shi. **Postnatal human dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) in vitro and in vivo.** Proc Natl Acad Sci, 97 (25) (2000), pp. 13625-13630
- [122] M. Miura, S. Gronthos, M. Zhao, B. Lu, L.W. Fisher, P.G. Robey, *et al.* **SHED: stem cells from human exfoliated deciduous teeth.** Proc Natl Acad Sci, 100 (10) (2003), pp. 5807-5812
- [123] W. Sonoyama, Y. Liu, D. Fang, T. Yamaza, B.-M. Seo, C. Zhang, *et al.* **Mesenchymal stem cell-mediated functional tooth regeneration in swine.** PLoS One, 1 (1) (2006), Article e79

- [124] W. Sonoyama, Y. Liu, T. Yamaza, R.S. Tuan, S. Wang, S. Shi, *et al.* **Characterization of the apical papilla and its residing stem cells from human immature permanent teeth: a pilot study.** J Endod, 34 (2) (2008), pp. 166-171
- [125] G.T. Huang, W. Sonoyama, Y. Liu, H. Liu, S. Wang, S. Shi. **The hidden treasure in apical papilla: the potential role in pulp/dentin regeneration and bioroot engineering.** J Endod, 34 (6) (2008), pp. 645-651
- [126] A. Bakopoulou, G. Leyhausen, J. Volk, A. Tsiftoglou, P. Garefis, P. Koidis, *et al.* **Comparative analysis of in vitro osteo/odontogenic differentiation potential of human dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) and stem cells from the apical papilla (SCAP).** Arch Oral Biol, 56 (7) (2011), pp. 709-721
- [127] J.Y. Kim, X. Xin, E.K. Moiola, J. Chung, C.H. Lee, M. Chen, *et al.* **Regeneration of dental-pulp-like tissue by chemotaxis-induced cell homing.** Tissue Eng Part A, 16 (10) (2010), pp. 3023-3031
- [128] S.G. Kim, Y. Zheng, J. Zhou, M. Chen, M.C. Embree, K. Song, *et al.* **Dentin and dental pulp regeneration by the patient's endogenous cells.** Endod Topics, 28 (1) (2013), pp. 106-117
- [129] J.W. Yang, Y.F. Zhang, C.Y. Wan, Z.Y. Sun, S. Nie, S.J. Jian, *et al.* **Autophagy in SDF-1 α -mediated DPSC migration and pulp regeneration.** Biomaterials, 44 (2015), pp. 11-23
- [130] K.M. Galler, M. Widbiller. **Perspectives for cell-homing approaches to engineer dental pulp.** J Endod, 43 (9S) (2017), pp. S40-S45
- [131] V. Chrepa, M.A. Henry, B.J. Daniel, A. Diogenes. **Delivery of apical mesenchymal stem cells into root canals of mature teeth.** J Dent Res, 94 (12) (2015), pp. 1653-1659
- [132] M. Widbiller, R.B. Driesen, A. Eidt, I. Lambrichts, K.A. Hiller, W. Buchalla, *et al.* **Cell homing for pulp tissue engineering with endogenous dentin matrix proteins.** J Endod, 44 (6) (2018) 956-962.e952
- [133] A.G. Mikos, A.J. Thorsen, L.A. Czerwonka, Y. Bao, R. Langer, D.N. Winslow, *et al.* **Preparation and characterization of poly(l-lactic acid) foams.** Polymer, 35 (5) (1994), pp. 1068-1077
- [134] Y.S. Nam, T.G. Park. **Biodegradable polymeric microcellular foams by modified thermally induced phase separation method.** Biomaterials, 20 (19) (1999), pp. 1783-1790
- [135] C. Agrawal, M. Kennedy, D. Micallef. **The effects of ultrasound irradiation on a biodegradable 50–50% copolymer of polylactic and polyglycolic acids.** J Biomed Mater Res, 28 (8) (1994), pp. 851-859
- [136] K.A. Athanasiou, J. Schmitz, C. Agrawal. **The effects of porosity on in vitro degradation of polylactic acid-polyglycolic acid implants used in repair of articular cartilage.** Tissue Eng, 4 (1) (1998), pp. 53-63
- [137] K. Whang, C. Thomas, K. Healy, G. Number. **A novel method to fabricate bioabsorbable scaffolds.** Polymer, 36 (4) (1995), pp. 837-842
- [138] L.D. Harris, B.-S. Kim, D.J. Mooney. **Open pore biodegradable matrices formed with gas foaming.** J Biomed Mater Res, 42 (3) (1998), pp. 396-402
- [139] M. Albuquerque, M. Valera, M. Nakashima, J. Nör, M. Bottino. **Tissue-engineering-based strategies for regenerative endodontics.** J Dent Res, 93 (12) (2014), pp. 1222-1231
- [140] M. Bottino, K. Kamocki, G. Yassen, J. Platt, M. Vail, Y. Ehrlich, *et al.* **Bioactive nanofibrous scaffolds for regenerative endodontics.** J Dent Res, 92 (11) (2013), pp. 963-969

- [141] N. Baylan, S. Bhat, M. Ditto, J.G. Lawrence, B. Lecka-Czernik, E. Yildirim-Ayan. **Polycaprolactone nanofiber interspersed collagen type-I scaffold for bone regeneration: a unique injectable osteogenic scaffold.** Biomed Mater, 8 (4) (2013), Article 045011
- [142] F. Maspero, K. Ruffieux, B. Müller, E. Wintermantel. **Resorbable defect analog PLGA scaffolds using CO₂ as solvent: structural characterization.** J Biomed Mater Res, 62 (1) (2002), pp. 89-98
- [143] H. Tai, M.L. Mather, D. Howard, W. Wang, L.J. White, J.A. Crowe, *et al.* **Control of pore size and structure of tissue engineering scaffolds produced by supercritical fluid processing.** Eur Cell Mater, 14 (2007), pp. 64-77
- [144] C. Palit Madhu, K.S. Hegde, S.S. Bhat, S.S. Sargod, S. Mantha, S. Chattopadhyay. **Tissue engineering in endodontics: root canal revascularization.** J Clin Pediatr Dent, 38 (4) (2014), pp. 291-297
- [145] J.A. Barron, D.B. Krizman, B.R. Ringeisen. **Laser printing of single cells: statistical analysis, cell viability, and stress.** Ann Biomed Eng, 33 (2) (2005), pp. 121-130
- [146] K. Jakab, C. Norotte, F. Marga, K. Murphy, G. Vunjak-Novakovic, G. Forgacs. **Tissue engineering by self-assembly and bio-printing of living cells.** Biofabrication, 2 (2) (2010), Article 022001