

Review

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Review

Dental Implants and Bleeding Disorders: Review and Clinical Indications

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Abstract: Background: Bleeding disorders can be divided into three categories: congenital coagulation disorders (CCDs), antiplatelet induced bleeding disorders (APBDs) and anticoagulant induced bleeding disorders (ACBDs). Implant placement can be challenging in this kind of patients. The aim of this study is to provide evidence on implant surgery in patient with bleeding disorders and to generate some practical recommendations for clinicians. Material & Methods: Pubmed/MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science and Cochrane Library databases were screened. The latest search was performed in July 2022. Case Reports, Case Series, Cohort Studies, Cross-Sectional Studies, Case Control Studies, Reviews, Consensus Reports, Surveys and Animal Studies were included in the analysis. Results: Seventeen articles on CCDs were found, fourteen on APBDs, twenty-six on ACBDs. Most of these articles were case report or case series. Patients with CCDs can be treated after the infusion of the missing coagulation factor. Patients with APBDs can be treated without withdrawing the therapy. Patients with ACBDs should be treated depending on the anti-coagulative medication. Conclusion: Despite the low level of evidence, dental implants can be safely placed in patients with bleeding disorders. However, careful preoperative evaluation and the adoption of local and post-operative bleeding control measures are mandatory.

Keywords: Dental implants; bleeding disorders; haemophilia; von Willebrand disease.

1. Introduction

Bleeding disorders are a group of conditions when blood cannot clot properly. They can be congenital or acquired. The congenital ones are inherited and are quite rare. The acquired ones can develop from a pathological condition or can be caused by the intake of drugs belonging to the category of anti-platelet or to the inhibitors of coagulation factors.

Among congenital bleeding disorders the most common is Von Willebrand's disease, caused by diminished quantity or by a structural defect of the von Willebrand factor [1]. Von Willebrand disease is primarily a hereditary disease, but an acquired variant of von Willebrand disease has also been observed (4). The most famous classification of the disease distinguishes three inherited types: classes 1 and 3 include quantitative factor deficits, while class 2 includes qualitative defects [1, 2].

The second most common congenital bleeding disorder is haemophilia, a class of hereditary diseases whose etiopathogenetic mechanism is based on defects of the proteins involved in the coagulation process. It was once called "the royal disease" due to its presence in European royal families in the 19th and 20th centuries. Queen Victoria of England (1818-1901) was an asymptomatic carrier and her descendants in turn transmitted the mutation in various royal houses across Europe [3–5].

Anti-platelet drugs, also called "antiaggregant", interfere with the platelet plug formation. Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) and clopidogrel are the most commonly prescribed. They are used both in acute treatment and in the prevention of coronary artery disorders and stroke; they are also used for prevention of venous thromboembolism after orthopedic surgery, in generic vascular diseases, unstable angina and in patients who have undergone percutaneous coronary artery surgery and cardiac surgery [6].

Coagulation inhibitors selectively act on certain clotting factors, hindering the clot formation process. These drugs are indicated for deep venous thrombosis, venous and arterial thromboembolic disease, pulmonary embolism, atrial fibrillation with risk of embolization, mechanical heart valve prostheses (to prevent thrombus formation on valves), myocardial infarction, recent heart attack to prevent the onset of new cardiovascular events (another heart attack, stroke, etc.), unstable angina, acute peripheral arterial occlusion and unstable coronary syndromes.[7] Anticoagulant medicines that have been most used over the years are vitamin K-dependent inhibitor drugs Warfarin[8] and Acenocumarol [9]. Recently, to overcome the limits of these kind of anticoagulants, direct thrombin inhibitors and activated Factor X inhibitors have been proposed [10].

Another anticoagulant worth mentioning is heparin, although most often used as short-term therapy or to overlap a long-term therapy when a suspension is required [11]. Thrombocytopenia goes beyond the boundaries of the above classification, as it can be due to a congenital disorder or medically induced. By definition, thrombocytopenia is observed when the platelet count is below 150,000 / μ L. The reasons why a platelet count may be below the normal range can be many and varied (4).

Nowadays, clinicians are reluctant to perform dental implants in this type of patients with bleeding disorders and prefer to send the patient to hospital facilities or choose other prosthetic solutions. Moreover, randomized controlled clinical trials cannot be conducted for security and ethical reasons. Therefore, the management of these patients are often demanded to expert opinions and practical guidelines that differs between countries. The aim of this paper is to perform a literature review about dental implants inserted in patients with bleeding disorders and to provide indications for clinicians to help them dealing with these patients.

2. Materials and Methods

Bibliographic electronic search was performed on Pubmed/MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science and Cochrane Library databases. The latest research was performed in July 2022. Only article in English were considered.

The keywords “oral implant”, “dental implant(s)”, implantology and implant(s) were searched in combination with the following terms: haemophilia, von Willebrand Disease, thrombocytopenia, bleeding disorder(s), aspirin, clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor, anti-platelet, antiaggregant, warfarin, sintrom, heparin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban, apixaban, edoxaban, anticoagulant, NOAC, DOAC, novel anticoagulant, direct anticoagulant.

Randomized controlled trials, , cohort studies, cross-sectional studies, case-control studies, review, case series, case reports and animal studies were included in the analysis. Letters to the Editor, expert opinion and article evaluations were excluded.

3. Results

Among the articles found on PubMed and Scopus seventeen were selected for the first section, fourteen for the second one and twenty-six for the third.

Six articles considered both patients with either anticoagulant or anti-platelet therapy. Therefore, they were considered for analysis in both the second and the third categories. Articles retrieved from the electronic search are reported in table 1, 2 and 3. Literature reviews were not reported. Results are divided into three sections, one for each of the different bleeding disorder.

3.1. Congenital Coagulation Disorders (CCDs)

Among seventeen articles, twelve were case reports and five reviews. Seven articles considered patients with haemophilia [12–18], seven considered patients with Von Willebrand Disease [19–22], one considered patients with Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura [23]. Five articles performed the surgery flapless [12, 18–21], three articles did not [13, 14, 17] and four articles did not specify [15, 16, 22, 23]. One article did not report on post-operative complications [22], one article reported mild post-operative bleeding complication [18] and one article reported a severe bleeding complication, which

required an emergency tracheotomy and hospitalization of the patient [23]. The remaining articles reported no complications [12–17, 19–21].

Literature reviews considered the safety of oral surgery in general and not specifically the implant surgery. Four out of five reviews concluded that there is no contraindication to implant surgery in this type of patient [24–27]. The remaining article recommended not to perform implant surgery in all patients with coagulation disorders [28].

3.2. Antiplatelet induced bleeding disorders (APBDs)

Among fourteen articles included: one case report [29], one case-cross-over study [30], two cohort studies [31, 32], four case-control studies [33–36], two animal studies [37, 38] and four reviews [39–42]. In almost all clinical studies related to this section, implant surgeries took place without interruption of the anti-aggregative therapy [29, 31–36]. Only two studies reported a change in drug therapy [30, 31]. This occurred in patient with dual antiaggregant therapy or when an anticoagulant was used in addition. Few hemorrhagic complications were observed, with a range between 1% and 15% of the surgeries. Most of the studies agreed on compressive hemostasis after surgery, with or without the association of tranexamic acid. Literature reviews agree on not suspending the antiaggregant therapy before implant surgery [39–42].

3.3. Anticoagulant induced bleeding disorders (ACBD).

Among twenty-six articles: four were case reports [43–46], one was a case series [47], six were cohort studies [8, 31, 48–51], eight were case control studies [33–36, 52–55], six were reviews [40, 56–60] and one was an animal study.

Considering the clinical studies, five authors treated patients undergoing conventional anticoagulant drugs [8, 44, 45, 48, 53]; six treated patients using DOAC [43, 47, 49, 51, 54, 55] and in the remaining articles the sample considered used both medications [31, 33–36, 52].

Case-control studies showed no significant differences in hemorrhagic complications after implant surgery between patients in the test and in the control group.

However, in every clinical study, where a haemorrhagic complication occurred, it was always solved with the only help of local hemostatic measurements [33, 34, 36, 43, 48, 49, 51–55]. The only animal study investigated the effects of Rivaroxaban on osteointegration and it showed that it did not effect it. The results emerged from the evaluation of the clinical studies are in accordance with the evidence found in the reviews [56–60].

4. Discussion

The present review addressed implant rehabilitation of patients with bleeding disorders. The information obtained from the analysis of the clinical studies was rather heterogeneous, and thus difficult to compare with each other.

As regard the Section I, in almost all the Case Reports local hemostatic measures and pre-medication with missing factor or desmopressin were implemented. It didn't happen in the Case Report concerning the patient with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. It may not be a coincidence that this Case Report is the only one in which the patient developed complication not manageable by only local hemostatic measures or the simple administration of tranexamic acid.

In the II and III Sections, the trend observed is to not interrupt the anticoagulant therapy before the implant surgery, as recommended by the European Guidelines.

5. Clinical indications

The following clinical indications should be considered when treating patients with bleeding disorders. The evidence cannot be considered strong, since these recommendations are based on case reports, case series, few cohort studies, some reviews. Stronger scientific evidence is not available now.

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1. Consulting the physician who treat the patient for his bleeding disorder before implant surgery;
 2. Administer deficiency factor or desmopressin before the surgery in patients with congenital hemostasis disease;
 3. Do not withdraw anti-aggregative therapy for implant surgery, even if dual;
 4. Do not interrupt therapy with dicumarolics. On the contrary, clinicians should check the INR value before implant surgery;
 5. When dealing with direct anticoagulants (DAOC) skip only one dose of the drug, the day before;
 6. Choose the minimally invasive or even a flapless approach, if reasonable. A thorough clinical and radiographic evaluation should be performed, respecting bone thickness and the lingual cortical wall;
 7. Adopt local hemostatic measures at the end of the procedure and in case of postoperative bleeding: compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked in Tranexamic Acid showed excellent results in both situations;
 8. Instruct the patient about the appropriate post-operative measures: soft and cold diet for 2-3 days, avoiding vigorous rinses, physical effort and supine position, applying a gauze for 5 minutes in case of bleeding. If not enough, repeat the application of the gauze soaking with tranexamic acid.

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Appendix A

TABLES WITH LEGENDS:

Table 1. Published evidence about dental implants performed in patients with CCDs.

	Study Type	Underlying blood disease	No. of implants inserted for intervention	Flapless	Prophylaxis	Additional drug administered after the procedure	Local haemostatic measurements	Bleeding complications
<i>Gornitisky et al. 2005</i>	Case Report	Moderate haemophilia A	3; 2; 1	Unspecified	Factor VIII; Tranexamic acid per os	Factor VIII; Tranexamic acid per os	Suture	no
<i>Rosen et al. 2005</i>	Case Report	Moderate haemophilia A	3; 2; 1	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified	no
<i>Neskoromna-Jędrzejczak et al. 2005</i>	Case Report	Severe haemophilia B	2; 2	no	Recombinant Factor IX	Recombinant Factor IX	Suture	no
<i>Castellanos-Cosano et al. 2014</i>	Case Report	Severe haemophilia A; HIV; HCV	3; 2	no	Antibiotic; Factor VIII (FVIII), Tranexamic acid per os	Antibiotic; Factor VIII (FVIII), Tranexamic acid per os	Unspecified	no
<i>Fénelon et al. 2017</i>	Case Report	Von Willebrand Disease	1	Yes	Von Willebrand Factor (vWF)	Von Willebrand Factor (vWF); Antibiotic	Suture; fibrin glue	no
<i>Kang et al. 2018</i>	Case Report	Von Willebrand Disease	1	Yes	Desmopressin	none	Unspecified	no
<i>Sung-Tak Lee et al. 2018</i>	Case Report	Porphyromonadobacteremia idiopathica	1	Presumably not	none	none	Unspecified	Severe
<i>Calvo-Guirado et al. 2019</i>	Case Report	Severe haemophilia B	1	no	Antibiotic; Factor IX;	Factor IX;	Suture; particulate bone graft	no

					Tranex-amic acid per os	Tranex-amic acid per os and rinses	and colla-gen mem-brane soaked in tranexamic acid; com-pressive he-mostasis with gauze soaked in tranexamic acid	
<i>Bacci et al. 2020</i>	Case Re-port	Von Wil-lebrand Desease type 2B	5	Yes	Factor VIII + VWF; tranex-amic acid	tranex-amic acid per os;	Unspecified	no
<i>Bacci et al. 2021</i>	Case Re-port	Mild hae-mophilia A	1	Yes	Factor VIII; tranex-amic acid	Unspeci-fied	Unspecified	no
<i>Takashima et al. 2021</i>	Case Re-port	Von Wil-lebrand Desease type 1	6	Un-spec-ified	Factor VIII + VWF	Unspeci-fied	Unspecified	Un-speci-fied
<i>Kinalsky et al. 2021</i>	Case Re-port	Haemo-philias A	3; 3	Yes	Factor VIII; tranex-amic acid	no	Suture	Mild

Table 2. Published evidence about dental implants performed in patients with APBDs.

	Study Type	Antithrombotic treatment	Dis-contin-uation of the phar-maco-logical ther-apy	N. of proce-dures	Post-operative bleeding compli-cations	Management of complications
<i>Flanagan et al. 2015</i>	Case Report	Clopidogrel + ASA	No	1	1	Compressive he-mostasis with sponge soaked in tranexamic acid

<i>Clemm et al. 2015</i>	Case-control study	Dicumarols (32) / bridging with LMWH (8) / Dabigatran (6) / Rivaroxaban (8) / Apixaban (2) / Antiaggregants (61)	No	61 (anti-aggregants)	4 (1 antiaggregant; 2 dicumarols e 1 dicumarols bridged with LMWH)	Compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked in tranexamic acid/Compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked in tranexamic acid + additional suture/revision of the wound and electrocoagulation
<i>Tabrizi et al. 2018</i>	Case-cross-over study	Clopidogrel / ASA	Only in the second session of the study	41	/	/
<i>Rubino et al. 2019</i>	Retro-spective cohort study	ASA / Clopidogrel / Warfarin / DOAC / ASA + clopidogrel / Clopidogrel + warfarin / ASA + clopidogrel + warfarin / ASA + clopidogrel + DOAC / ASA + DOAC / ASA + warfarin + DOAC	Only in 4 cases, after consulting the physician	218	2 (1 in ASA + warfarin; 1 in warfarin)	Cauterization and infiltration with lidocaine
<i>Kaura et al. 2021</i>	Pro-spective cohort study	Clopidogrel / ASA / Clopidogrel + ASA	No	65	1 (in dual therapy)	/
<i>Manor et al. 2021</i>	Case-control study	Clopidogrel / ASA / DOAC / Warfarin / Combinations	No	72 (+ 121 control group)	4 (1 warfarin+DOAC; 2 Clopidogrel+ ASA; 1 warfarin+clopidogrel); + 7 control group	Suture / Suture + Compressive hemostasis with sponge gauze in tranexamic acid

<i>Broekema et al. 2021</i>	Case-control study	Antiaggregants / Dicumarols	No	8 (+ 7 control group)	0	/
<i>Buchbender et al. 2021</i>	Case-control study	Antiaggregants / Dicumarols / DO-ACs	No	95 (+100 control group)	15	Compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked in tranexamic acid

Table 3. Published evidence about dental implants performed in patients with ACBDs.

Study Type	Anticoagulant therapy	N. of patients in the study	N. of implants	Discontinuation of the pharmacological therapy	Flapless	Local hemostatic measures	Bleeding complications	Management of complications
<i>Ferrieri et al. 2007</i>	Cohort Study	warfarin	3	7	no	no	Suture + Compressive hemostasis for 30 minutes with gauzed soaked in saline	no /
<i>Bacci et al. 2010</i>	Case-control study	Warfarin	50	159	no	no	Suture + Compressive hemostasis with gauze	2 Compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked

							soaked in tranex-amic acid for 30-60 minutes		in tranex-amic acid for 1 hour
Miranda et al. 2011	Case Report	Warfarin	1	4	bridge d with Hepa-rin	no	unspec-ified	no	/
Hong et al. 2012	Cohort Study	Warfarin	1	2	no	un-spec-ified	“Pon-cho” of gingi-val for-mer soaked with tramex-amic acid	1	local he-mostatic measure s and re-inforce-ment of home care in-struc-tions
Broekema et al. 2014	Case-control study	Anti-aggre-gants / Dicuma-rols	7	Un-spec-ified	no	no	Un-speci-fied	0	/
Clemm et al. 2015	Case-control study	Dicuma-rolici (32) / bridging with LMWH (8) / Dabigatra n (6) / Rivaroxa-ban (8) / Apixaban (2) / Anti-aggre-gants (61)	117 (amon g them, 61 in ther-apy with anti-aggre-gants)	Un-spec-ified	no	no	suture; electro-coagu-lation	4 (1 anti-aggreganti; 2 dicumarolici e 1 dicuma-rolici embri-cato con LMWH)	Com-pressive hemo-stasis with gauze soaked in tranex-amic acid/Compres-sive he-mostasis with gauze soaked in tranex-amic acid +

									addi- tional su- ture/re- vision of the wound and electro- coagula- tion
<i>Gomez- Moreno 2015</i>	Case- control study	Rivaroxa- ban	18	43	no	no	suture + Com- pres- sive he- mosta- sis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid	1	Com- pressive hemo- stasis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid
<i>Romero- Ruiz et al 2015 Caso 3</i>	Case Re- port	Acenocu- marolo	1	12	no	yes	unspec- ified	no	/
<i>Gomez- Moreno 2016</i>	Case- control study	Dabigatra n	29	67	yes	no	suture + Com- pres- sive he- mosta- sis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid for 30-60 minute s	2	Com- pressive hemo- stasis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid
<i>Kim et al. 2017</i>	Case Re- port	Rivaroxa- ban	1	2	yes	no	Suture + Com- pres- sive	yes (3)	Com- pressive hemo- stasis with gauze +

							hemo- stasis for 1 hour		apply- ing oxi- dized regener- ated cel- lulose
<i>Okamoto et al. 2018</i>	Cohort Study	non spec- ificato	289	un- spec- ified	no	un- spec ified	unspec- ified	0	/
<i>Gandhi et al 2019</i>	Case Serie	Rivaroxa- ban (3); Apixaban (1); Dabigatra n (1)	6	18	no	yes	unspec- ified	no	/
<i>Rubino et al. 2019</i>	Cohort Study	Anti- aggrant / Warfarin / DOAC / combina- tions	176	218	Only in 4 cases	un- spec ified	unspec- ified	2 (1 in ASA + warfarin; 1 in warfarin)	local he- mostatic measure s
<i>Kwak et al. 2019</i>	Cohort Study	Dabigatra n (3); Rivaroxa- ban (3); Apixaban (3)	8	un- spec- ified	yes: for 24 hours in 8 case; 48 hours for 1 case	no	Suture + Com- pres- sive he- mosta- sis for 1 hour	3	Com- pressive hemo- stasis
<i>Al Zoman et al. 2020</i>	Case Re- port	Warfarin	1	1; 1	no	yes	Com- pres- sive he- mosta- sis	no	/
<i>Sannino et al. 2020</i>	Case- control study	warfarin (40) e rivaroxa- ban (40)	80	320	no	no	bone wax and spon- gostan in the extrac- tion site + Com- pres- sive	Gruppo war- farin: 29 mild, 11 moderate; Gruppo riva- roxavan: 37 mild, 3 mod- erate	Mild: Com- pressive hemo- stasis with gauze ; moder- ate: un- speci- fied

								hemo- stasis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid		
<i>Galletti et al. 2020</i>	Cohort Study	Rivaroxa- ban	12	57	yes (for 24 hours)	no	Suture + Com- pres- sive he- mosta- sis for 30 minute s (+ com- pres- sive he- mosta- tis with gauze soaked with tranex- amic acid for other 30 minute s if needed)	3	Com- pressive hemo- stasis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid (+ electro- cauteri- zation and ad- ditional sutures, if neces- sary)	
<i>Manor et al. 2021</i>	Case- control study	Clopidog rel / ASA / DOAC / Warfarin / Combi- nations	72	Un- spec- ified	no	no	suture + gela- tin sponge + Com- pres- sive he- mosta- sis with gauze soaked in	4 (1 warfa- rin+DOAC; 2 Clopidogrel+ ASA; 1 warfa- rin+clopidogr el); + 7 <i>con- trolli</i>	Suture / Suture + Com- pressive hemo- stasis with gauze soaked in tranex- amic acid	

							tranex-amic acid for 20-30 minutes		
<i>Buchbender et al. 2021</i>	Case-control study	Anti-aggregants / Dicumarols / DO-ACs	95	Un-specified	no	Un-specified	suture + Compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked in tranex-amic acid	1	Compressive hemostasis with gauze soaked in tranex-amic acid

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