

# Hydrogel Scaffold In Pulp Dentin Complex Regeneration Review Article

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# Hydrogel Scaffold In Pulp Dentin Complex Regeneration: Review Article

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## ABSTRACT

**Background :** Pulp dentin complex regeneration can be initiated by hydrogel scaffold application in the pulp using tissue engineering concept and it gives many advantages. **Purpose :** The purpose of this review is to provide general understanding of current study about hydrogel scaffold as induction of pulp dentin complex regeneration material. **Reviews :** Excavation in deep dental caries, dental trauma, and iatrogenic reasons are several causes of dental pulp exposure that can affect the pulp vitality. It is crucial to maintain the pulp vitality because it can support the tooth survival by avoiding endodontic treatment which affect the resistance of tooth structure. Pulp vitality can be preserved by inducing pulp regeneration using appropriate material. New approach in endodontic regeneration is using tissue engineering concept with hydrogel scaffold, stem cells and growth factors mechanism. Hydrogel scaffold as three dimensional media can provide cell homing process in pulp dentin complex and may support adhesion of stem cells to differentiate and initiate growth factors release. **Conclusions:** Based on several studies, hydrogel scaffold can be formulated to support dental pulp regeneration using tissue engineering concept. Many favourable condition can be achieved such as acts as delivery drug factor with easy injectable application in tooth and it has a lot of potential in dental pulp tissue regeneration treatment.

**Keywords:** Hydrogel scaffold, pulp dentin complex regeneration

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Deep dental caries removal, dental trauma, and iatrogenic reasons are several causes of dental pulp exposure that can cause loss of dental pulp vitality.<sup>1</sup> Maintaining pulp vitality is important because it can preserve homeostasis, durability and help rescuing many of teeth due to fracture teeth because of failed endodontics treatment<sup>2,3</sup>. One of approaches in pulp dentin complex regeneration treatment is vital pulp therapy.<sup>4</sup> Pulp exposure can stimulate regeneration because existence of progenitor mesenchymal cells and mild inflammation to induce protective mechanism of dental pulp.<sup>1,5,4</sup>

In advances biotechnology, regeneration has been led to the application tissue engineering concept in pulp dentin complex therapy with three elements, scaffold, stem cell and growth factor.<sup>6,7</sup> The existence of scaffold provides three dimensional condition which cells can adhere, proliferate, migrate and differentiate and it will optimize pulp regeneration<sup>2,8</sup>. Suitable scaffold induces biological signalling pathway from progenitor<sup>9</sup> and injectable hydrogel scaffold has been developed widely for pulp regeneration, because it can easily applied to the specific area with minimal invasive technique.<sup>10,11</sup>

## **REVIEW(S)**

### **Pulp Dentin Complex Regeneration**

Regeneration of pulp dentin complex can be achieved by preserving pulp vitality. In many cases, there is crucial need to do some clinical intervention such as vital pulp therapy treatment. The mechanism of tissue regeneration initiates by existence of pluripotent stem cell roles which migrate, proliferate and differentiate into odontoblast like cells and replaces damage odontoblast in the healthy pulp site. Stem cell also supports angiogenic factor release to provide pulp tissue regeneration response and bioactive scaffold becomes extracellular matrix.<sup>12,13,14,15</sup> Success in vital pulp treatment can be marked by healing response, such as the restore of structure and function of dentin pulp tissue characterization.<sup>9,2</sup> Current material is limited by its lack of control infection such as tunnel defect that can fail to hermetize seal against infection. As a new approach, injectable hydrogel scaffold can be used to support cell homing process and it is potential to be used as vital pulp therapy material<sup>15</sup>, inducing dentin pulp regeneration and it supports pulp recovery.<sup>16,17</sup>

### **Scaffold**

Three main elements in tissue engineering in pulp regeneration are cells, bioactive molecules or growth factors and scaffolds<sup>18,8</sup>. Scaffold is an crucial part provides three dimensional condition mimics natural extracellular matrix (ECM)<sup>19,20</sup>. Ideal scaffold should be

biocompatible, biodegradable, and mimics the composition of the natural dentin pulp tissue so it provides framework to support cell attachment, proliferation, migration and differentiation of odontoblast cell and performed formation of dentin like tissue<sup>21,10,15</sup>. Injectable scaffold can be applied considering the anatomy of the tooth. Eventually, scaffold should be degradable and replaced by new dentin pulp tissue.<sup>19,22</sup>

### Hydrogel Scaffold

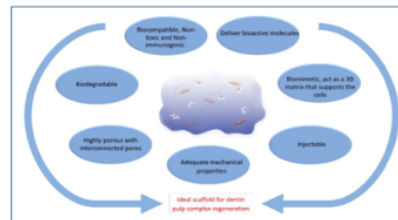
The latest review shows the application of injectable hydrogel scaffolds and progenitor cells gives potential result in dentin pulp complex regeneration. The beneficial of hydrogel is it can control scaffold viscosity and porosity.<sup>23</sup> Hydrogel scaffold for pulp dentin complex regeneration can be created from natural and synthetic sources (Table 1) with several criteria.<sup>19,24</sup> Natural sources have advantages in supporting cell adhesion and its mechanism, usually biocompatible and degradable. It will not cause inflammation or severe immune response. The limitation is the transmission of microorganism and the production has many kinds of quality. Synthetic sources has develop in biomaterial too. It can be produced in large amount with good and controlled mechanical property, microelements, degradation, and also avoids microorganism transmission risk. The limitation is in it can not provide natural or biological characterisation in signalling molecule which needed in cell communication. Composite material is another choice to produce hybrid natural and synthetic injectable biomaterial.<sup>25</sup>

**Table 1. Sources of Hydrogel scaffold**<sup>19</sup>

Hydrogels	
Natural	Synthetic
Alginate,	Gelatin
Chitosan,	methacrylate
Collagen,Fibrin	(GelMA)
Hydroxyapatite,	PEG Self-
Proteoglycans	assembling
decellularized,	peptides (SAP)
demineralized	Emdogain
bovine bone	

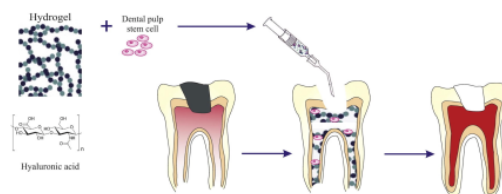
Hydrogel scaffold materials uses for pulp dentin complex regeneration should be biocompatible and easy to applicate, it can be sterilized, setting in time, injectable in certain area and economically cost. Biodegradation rate is also important because it has roles in

replacing scaffold with new tissue, interconnected pores provide cellular migration, nutrient and vascularisation. Proper mechanical property of scaffold can stimulates cell activity and mechanical loading, which can be increased by crosslinking it with other composite material. Hydrogel scaffold should also be solid in neutral pH or physiological temperature to avoid cellular destruction (Fig.1).<sup>24,22</sup>



**Fig. 1 The Ideal Criteria of Hydrogel Scaffold**<sup>24</sup>

According to Yan *et al* 2016, injectable composite gel alginate and hydroxyapatite gelatin microsphere scaffold could be crosslinked and encapsulated by tetracycline hydrochloride, with hydroxyapatite as calcium source. The result showed that it could improve mechanical property of scaffold, reduced weight loss, stable in gelation time, swelling ratio, and it facilitated drug release to its microenvironment.<sup>26</sup> Hyaluronic acid injectable hydrogel was also potential in supporting dental pulp therapy<sup>17</sup> (Fig 2)



**Fig 2. Hyaluronic Acid as regenerative therapy using injectable gel in pulp dentin regeneration**<sup>17</sup>

### **Mechanism of Hydrogel Scaffold in Pulp Dentin Complex Regeneration**

Hydrogel scaffold is applied in pulp chamber, it can be used as carriers of drug or bioactive material delivery such as antibiotics to support VEGF, FGF or stem cell factor release. It also support stem or progenitor cell attachment with highly odontogenic ability such as Dental Pulp Stem Cells (DPSCs).<sup>27,20,28</sup> Once applied, scaffold should be degradable after released bioactive molecule to pulp dentin environment. There are several hydrogel material



Hassanzadeh *et al.*, 2021 performed the development of injectable hybrid hydrogel nanohydroxyapatite and collagen scaffold for hard tissue engineering application. The result showed in table 3 (Table 3).

**Table 3. Injectable Nanohydroxyapatite and collagen scaffold** <sup>21</sup>

Analysis	Remarks
Chemical analysis	Nanohydroxyapatite and Collagen could be formulated into poly ( $\xi$ -caprolactone) PCL-PEG (Polyethylen Glycol) -PCL hydrogel
Histology examination	The addition of nanohydroxyapatite and collagen effects in decreasing of biodegradation rate , with minimum inflammation response
Level of CD68 and CD8/CD4 lymphosite ratio	There are no differences between the addition of nanohydroxyapatite and collagen or not
Gene expression analysis	The expression of the CD31, IL-10 was increased significantly in the addition of nanohydroxyapatite and collagen to PCL-PEG-PCL
Concluding remarks	Injectable PCL-PEG-PCL-Collagen/nanohydroxyapatite was appropriate for advanced research in hard tissue regeneration

**Table 4. Injectable Keratin hydrogel is also suggested as pulp therapy biomaterial** <sup>30</sup>

Analysis of Characterization	Remarks
Flow characterization	The dynamic elastic and viscous was significantly increase in 15% ,17 and 20% (w/v) gel concentration in minimal essential medium immersion in 10 days
Microstructure ,swelling ratio and contact angle	Interconnected porous in microstructure, swelling ratio wer stabil in 1 hour without significant ratio between 1 to 24 hours, and contact angle in $35.52 \pm 7.187$
Biocompatibility	In partial pulpotomy site, there was cellular infiltration with mild and moderate inflammation. It performed blood vessel presence and reparative dentinogenesis
Concluding remarks	20% injectable Keratin Hydrogel was stable, non toxic and biocompatible to pulp tissue healing. It also performed reparative reaction

## DISCUSSION

Preserving pulp vitality is important to provide pulp dentin complex regeneration. Tissue regeneration initiates by existance of stem cell which differentiates into odontoblast like

cells and also supports angiogenic factor release so it performs healing response.<sup>12</sup> As a new approach, hydrogel scaffold is potential to be used as a material inducing dentin pulp regeneration.<sup>15</sup> Many concern to develop natural, synthetic or composite scaffolds using unique material with their polymer to form injectable gels. Hydrogel scaffold being researched for its toxicity, biocompatibility, easy to manufacture, prepare and it was crosslinked to bioactive material in improving property of scaffold with economically cost and easy application.<sup>31</sup> Several studies has shown that creating formula for hydrogel scaffold needs many criteria and has potential possibility for replace the conventional endodontic treatment.<sup>24</sup> Injectable PCL-PEG-PCL-Collagen/nanohydroxyapatite was appropriate for hard tissue regeneration, and 20% injectable Keratin hydrogel was non toxic and biocompatible to pulp tissue healing.<sup>21,30</sup>

According to several research before, we can conclude that hydrogel scaffold can support induction dental pulp regeneration using tissue engineering concept and it can be crosslinked with other bioactive material which can increases its properties. Hydrogel scaffold was also used as a delivery drug factor that has a lot of advantages. Further studies about hydrogel scaffold should be performed to explore the potential in dental pulp tissue regeneration treatment and it can support pulp vital therapy treatment in clinical application

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Review & Editing; also contributed by <sup>1</sup> funding acquisition, Author : K.I., T.I.B have  
contributed in <sup>1</sup> supervision and review editing. All authors have read and agreed to the  
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