

Healing of Postextraction Sockets Preserved With Autologous Platelet Concentrates. A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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Purpose: The true benefit of autologous platelet concentrates (APCs) for enhancing the healing of postextraction sites is still a matter of debate, and in recent years several clinical trials have addressed this issue. The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of an APC adjunct in the preservation of fresh extraction sockets.

Materials and Methods: An electronic search was performed on Medline, Embase, Scopus, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials. Only controlled clinical trials or randomized clinical trials were included. Selected articles underwent risk-of-bias assessment. The outcomes were complications and adverse events, discomfort and quality of life, bone healing and remodeling assessed by histologic and radiographic techniques, and soft tissue healing.

Results: Thirty-three comparative studies were included. Nine articles had a parallel design and 24 had a split-mouth design. Twenty studies were considered to have a low risk of bias and 13 were considered to have a high risk. Overall, 1,193 teeth were extracted from 911 patients. Meta-analysis showed that soft tissue healing, probing depth at 3 months, and bone density at 1, 3, and 6 month were statistically better for the APC group. Qualitative analysis suggested that APCs might be associated with a decrease in swelling and trismus. However, no relevant difference among groups was found for probing depth at 1 month, incidence of alveolar osteitis, acute inflammation or infection, percentage of new bone, and indirect measurement of bone metabolism.

Conclusion: APCs should be used in postextraction sites to improve clinical and radiographic outcomes such as bone density and soft tissue healing and postoperative symptoms. The actual benefit of APCs on decreasing on pain in extraction sockets is still not quantifiable.

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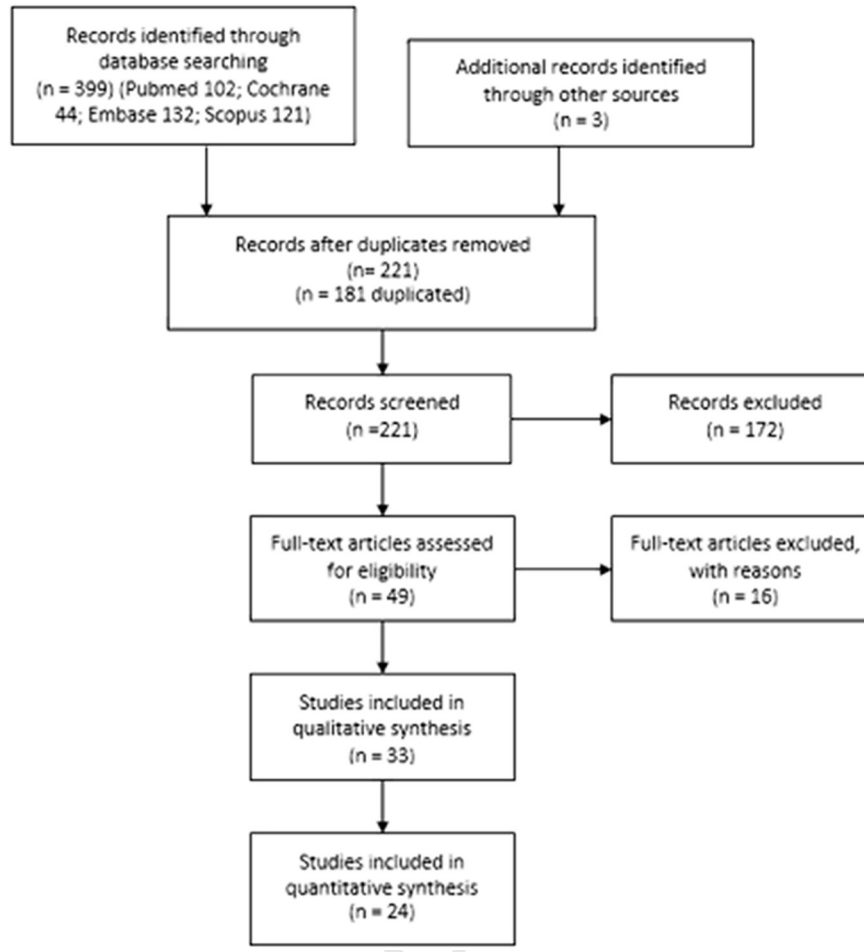


FIGURE 1. Flowchart of article selection procedure.

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Tooth extraction is one of the most frequent procedures in oral and maxillofacial surgery and is related to consistent physiologic changes to the alveolar process. The main extraction-related postoperative symptoms affecting soft tissues and patient quality of life are pain, bleeding, trismus, and swelling. Other postoperative complications are delayed healing and infection.¹ Hard tissues also are affected: tooth extraction always triggers a process of bone resorption. The alveolar ridge undergoes progressive atrophy, which is more severe in the buccolingual dimension than in the apico-coronal dimension.² Most of the resorption process occurs during the first 6 months of the postextraction period, although it continues throughout the patient's lifetime.³

Bone loss and changes in the soft tissue profile resulting from tooth loss⁴ and an unpleasant esthetic aspect can hinder rehabilitation of the edentulous ridge using removable or fixed prostheses. Previous studies have found that postextraction sockets that do not undergo preservation treatment frequently require additional bone augmentation at the time of

implant placement compared with postextraction sockets treated with preservation techniques.² Many different socket preservation techniques have been proposed over the years, most of them consisting of the placement of a graft material (bone or bone substitutes) into the socket with or without the positioning of a covering membrane.⁵⁻¹⁰ A recent systematic review reported that resorption of the alveolar ridge cannot be totally avoided, although it can be prevented with the use of alveolar ridge preservation techniques, but that no specific technique proved to be superior to another.^{11,12}

Among the available options for decreasing postoperative symptoms and preserving postextraction sockets are autologous platelet concentrates (APCs). The most popular of such heme components are platelet-rich plasma (PRP), plasma rich in growth factors (PRGF), and platelet-rich fibrin (PRF). A common feature of all these APCs is the higher than baseline concentration of platelets, which has been shown to play an important role in tissue healing. Their effectiveness lies in the continuous and local release of a

Table 1. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF INCLUDED STUDIES

Study	Study Design	Patients, n	Age (yr), Mean (Range)	Teeth, n		Intervention		FU (wk)
				Test	Control	Test	Control	
Alissa et al, 2010 ¹⁷	RCT (pa)	23	30.5 (20-52)	15	14	PRP	None	12
Ogundipe et al, 2011 ¹⁸	RCT (pa)	60	24.7 (19-35)	30	30	PRP	None	16
Girish Rao et al, 2013 ²⁰	RCT (sm)	22	NR	22	22	PRF	None	24
Kumar et al, 2016 ²³	RCT (sm)	42	NR (18-40)	42	42	PRF	None	24
Ozgul et al, 2015 ²⁴	RCT (sm)	56	NR (18-28)	56	56	PRF	None	1
Anitua et al, 2015 ²⁵	RCT (pa)	60	NR (18-74)	36	24	PRGF	None	10-12
Baslarli et al, 2015 ²⁶	RCT (sm)	20	23.9 (19-34)	20	20	PRF	None	4-12
Dutta et al, 2015 ²⁷	RCT (pa)	60	33.8 PRP, 35.3 control (18-50)	30	30	PRP	None	24
Kumar et al, 2015 ²⁸	RCT (pa)	31	26.1 (19-35)	16	15	PRF	None	12
Marenzi et al, 2015 ²⁹	RCT (sm)	26	53 (NR)			PRF	None	3
Uyanik et al, 2015 ³⁰	RCT (sm)	10	22.5 (19-31)	10	10	PRF	None	
Cheah et al, 2014 ³¹	CCT (pa)	12	40.7 control, 46.7 test	6	6	Calcium sulfate + PRP	Calcium sulfate	16
Gawai and Sobhana, 2015 ³²	RCT (sm)	5	22.9 (19-32)	5	5	PRP	None	16
Durmuşlar et al, 2014 ³³	CCT (sm)	18	NR (18-30)	18	18	PRP + bovine HA + mb	Bovine HA + mb	24
Geurs et al, 2014 ³⁴	RCT (pa)	23	52 (NR)	12	11	PRP, FDDBA, TCP, collagen plug	FDDBA, TCP, collagen plug	8
Eshgpour et al, 2014 ³⁵	RCT (sm)	78	25 (18-35)	78	78	PRF	None	1
Mozzati et al, 2014 ³⁶	RCT (sm)	34	62.7 (NR)	34	34	PRGF	None	3
Mozzati et al, 2014 ³⁷	CCT (sm)	20	63 (NR)	57	57	PRGF	None	30 days
Suttapreyasri and Leepong, 2013 ³⁸	RCT (sm)	8	22.6 (20-27)	10	10	PRF	None	8
Antonello et al, 2013 ³⁹	CCT (sm)	25	NR (18-30)	25	25	PRP	None	20
Hauser et al, 2013 ⁴⁰	RCT (pa)	23	47.4 (NR)	9 + 6	8	PRF; PRF + flap	None	8
Farina et al, 2013 ⁴¹	CCT (pa)	28	55.2 (34-74)	18	18	PRGF	None	4-10
Batstone et al, 2012 ⁴²	RCT (sm)	22	54.5 (30-68)	22	22	PRP	None	5 yr
Célio-Mariano et al, 2012 ⁴³	RCT (sm)	15	NR (18-22)	15	15	PRP	None	24
Haraji et al, 2012 ⁴⁴	CCT (sm)	40	22.1 (18-45)	40	40	PRGF	None	4 days
Singh et al, 2012 ⁴⁵	CCT (sm)	20	32 (18-50)	20	20	PRF	None	12
Gürbüz et al, 2010 ⁴⁶	RCT (sm)	20	24.9 (NR)	20	20	PRF	None	4
Mozzati et al, 2010 ⁴⁷	RCT (sm)	16	22.5 (18-35)	16	16	PRGF	None	1
Arenaz-Búa et al, 2010 ⁴⁸	RCT (sm)	34	23 (18-45)	72	34	PRP	None	12-24
Gawande and Halli, 2009 ⁴⁹	CCT (sm)	20	NR (18-30)	20	20	PRR	None	24
Vivek and Sripathi Rao, 2009 ⁵⁰	CCT (sm)	10	27 (18-45)	10	10	PRP	None	16
Gürbüz et al, 2008 ⁵¹	RCT (sm)	12	21.8 (NR)	12	12	PRP	None	4
Sammartino et al, 2005 ⁵²	CCT (sm)	18	NR (21-26)	18	18	PRP	None	18

Abbreviations: CCT, clinical controlled trial; FDDBA, ■ ■ ■; FU, follow-up; HA, hyaluronic acid; mb, ■ ■ ■; NR, not reported; pa, parallel design; PRF, platelet-rich fibrin; PRGF, plasma rich in growth factors; PRP, platelet-rich plasma; RCT, randomized clinical trial; sm, split-mouth design; TCP, ■ ■ ■.

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wide range of growth factors, which meet the needs of the physiologic process of wound healing and tissue repair. Growth factors are biological mediators capable of regulating cellular events, such as migration, cell proliferation, and differentiation in addition to synthesis of the extracellular matrix.^{13,14}

The application of APCs for wound healing of post-extraction sites has been investigated in several clinical trials. A previous evidence-based systematic review on this topic, based on strict inclusion criteria, concluded that the beneficial effects of APCs were generally but not systematically reported in most

Table 2. METHODS FOR PLATELET CONCENTRATE PREPARATION

Study	PC category	Anticoagulant	Activator	Cycles of Centrifugation	Speed (rpm)	Centrifugation Time (minutes)	Platelet Count Times Baseline
Alissa et al, 2010 ¹⁷	PRP	Citrate dextrose	Autologous thrombin	1	3,200	12	NR
Ogundipe et al, 2011 ¹⁸	PRP	Citrate phosphate dextrose	10% CaCl ₂ + bovine thrombin	2	1,200 + 1,000	10 + 10	11.8
Girish Rao et al, 2013 ²⁰	PRF	Acidulated citrate dextrose	Calcium gluconate	1	360-400	20	NR
Kumar et al, 2016 ²³	PRF	NA	NA	1	NR	NR	NR
Ozgul et al, 2015 ²⁴	PRF	NA	NA	1	3,000	10	NA
Anitua et al, 2015 ²⁵	PRGF	Trisodium citrate	10% CaCl ₂	1	1,800	8	NR
Baslarli et al, 2015 ²⁶	PRF	NA	NA	1	3,000	10	NR
Dutta et al, 2015 ²⁷	PRP	Citrate phosphate dextrose	CaCl ₂	2	2,000 + 3,000	15 + 10	NR
Kumar et al, 2015 ²⁸	PRF	NA	NA	1	3,000	10	NR
Marenzi et al, 2015 ²⁹	PRF	NA	NA	1	2,700	12	NA
Uyanik et al, 2015 ³⁰	PRF	NA	NA	1	3,000	10	NR
Cheah et al, 2014 ³¹	PRP	Citrate dextrose	NR	2	NR	NR	8-10
Gawai and Sobhana, 2015 ³²	PRP	CPDA	CaCl ₂	2	2,400 + 3,600	10 + 10	1.5
Durmuşlar et al, 2014 ³³	PRP	Trisodium citrate	NR	2	2,400 + 3,600	10 + 15	NR
Geurs et al, 2014 ³⁴	PRP	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Eshgpour et al, 2014 ³⁵	PRF	NA	NA	1	3,000	10	NA
Mozzati et al, 2014 ³⁶	PRGF	Trisodium citrate	CaCl ₂	1	1,800	8	NR
Mozzati et al, 2014 ³⁷	PRGF	Trisodium citrate	CaCl ₂	1	1,800	8	NR
Suttapreyasri and Leepong, 2013 ³⁸	PRF	NA	NA	1	3,000	10	NA
Antonello et al, 2013 ³⁹	PRGFmod	3.8% sodium citrate	Autogenous thrombin	1	1,200	10	4-6
Hauser et al, 2013 ⁴⁰	PRF	NA	NA	1	2,700	12	NA
Farina et al, 2013 ⁴¹	PRGF	Trisodium citrate	CaCl ₂	1	1,800	8	NR
Batstone et al, 2012 ⁴²	PRP	NR	CaCl ₂	NR	NR	NR	NR
Célio-Mariano et al, 2012 ⁴³	PRP	3.2% sodium citrate	10% CaCl ₂	2	160 + 400g	20 + 15	5.3-5.6
Haraji et al, 2012 ⁴⁴	PRGF	Trisodium citrate	CaCl ₂	1	1,800	8	NR
Singh et al, 2012 ⁴⁵	PRF	—	—	1	3,000	10	NR
Gürbüz et al, 2010 ⁴⁶	PRF	NA	NA	1	2,030	10	—
Mozzati et al, 2010 ⁴⁷	PRGF	Trisodium citrate	CaCl ₂	1	1,800	8	NR

Table 2. Cont'd

Study	PC category	Anticoagulant	Activator	Cycles of Centrifugation	Speed (rpm)	Centrifugation Time (minutes)	Platelet Count Times Baseline
Arenaz-Búa et al, 2010 ⁴⁸	PRP	NR	NR	2	NR	NR	NR
Gawande and Halli, 2009 ⁴⁹	PRP	Citrate phosphate dextrose	Autologous thrombin + CaCl ₂	2	1,200 + 2,000	10 + 0	NR
Vivek and Sripathi Rao, 2009 ⁵⁰	PRP	Citrate phosphate dextrose	CaCl ₂	2	NR	NR	NR
Gürbüz et al, 2008 ⁵¹	PRP	Citrate phosphate dextrose	CaCl ₂	2	2,400 + 3,600	10 + 15	6.8
Sammartino et al, 2005 ⁵²	PRP	Trisodium citrate	Batroxobin + gluconate of calcium	1	1,200	15	NR

Abbreviations: CaCl₂, calcium chloride; CPDA, ■■■■; NA, ■■■■; NR, not reported; PC, platelet concentrate; PRF, platelet-rich fibrin; PRGF, plasma rich in growth factors; PRGFmod, modified plasma rich in growth factors; PRP, platelet-rich plasma. ⁰⁶

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studies.¹⁵ The main advantages associated with the use of APCs were better epithelialization of soft tissue,¹⁶ less pain,¹⁷ less swelling and trismus,¹⁸ faster alveolar bone formation,¹⁸ more mature bone, and better organized trabeculae.¹⁶ In contrast, some studies suggested there were no benefits in using APCs, because no changes were found in the horizontal or vertical dimension of the alveolar ridge¹⁹ or in bone density.²⁰

The objective of this updated systematic review was to evaluate relevant, well-designed studies dealing with postextraction sockets preserved with APCs and their effect on alveolar bone preservation, soft tissue healing, and a patient's quality of life.

Materials and Methods

SEARCH STRATEGY

This review was written and conducted according to Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.²¹

The focus question was, "Does the adjunct of APCs produce benefits to postextraction socket healing for hard and soft tissue parameters, postoperative complications, and patient's postoperative quality of life?"

The electronic search was performed using Medline, Embase, Scopus, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL). The following terms were used for the search: (*platelet rich plasma*

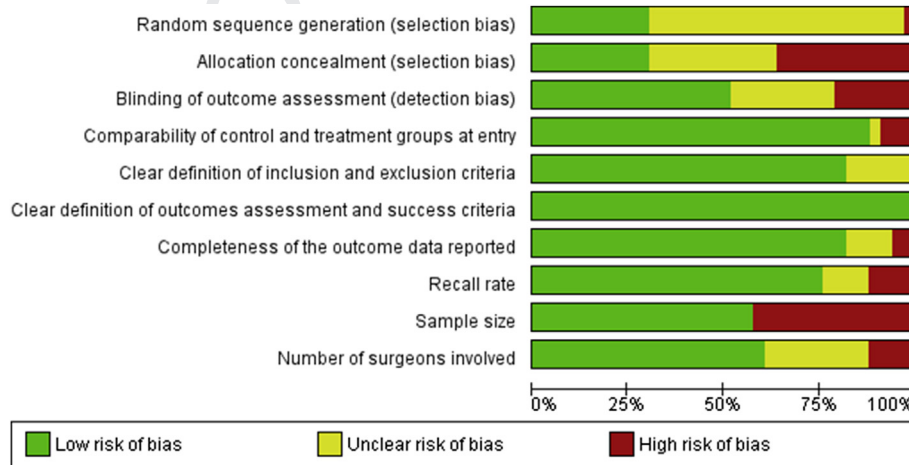


FIGURE 2. Risk-of-bias summary of included studies.

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Table 3. TOOTH TYPE, OUTCOMES, AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT OF INCLUDED STUDIES

Study	Tooth Type	Evaluation Assessment	Outcomes	APC Effects
Alissa et al, 2010 ¹⁷	Various	Clinical, Rx, health-related quality of life questionnaire, soft tissue healing	Pain at 1-3 days; analgesic consumption at 1,2 days; bad taste, bad smell, food stagnation, and alteration to diet; fewer complications; soft tissue healing; better distribution of trabecular bone pattern	NSD for patient satisfaction with treatment and trabecular dimension
Ogundipe et al, 2011 ¹⁸	Impacted 38 or 48	Pain, clinical, Rx	Less pain	NSD for bone density, swelling, trismus
Girish Rao et al, 2013 ²⁰	38 and 48	Radio-Visio Graphic, Rx	NSD in bone regeneration	
Kumar et al, 2016 ²³	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, complications, Rx	Less pain	NSD for quantity of bone
Ozgul et al, 2015 ²⁴	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, swelling	Less swelling	NSD for pain
Anitua et al, 2015 ²⁵	Nonimpacted mandibular molars	Clinical, Rx, histology, histomorphometry, pain, inflammation, complications	Enhanced healing of sockets and soft tissue	
Baslarli et al, 2015 ²⁶	Impacted 38 and 48	Osteoblast activity by scintigraphy	NSD	
Dutta et al, 2015 ²⁷	38 and 48	Soft tissue healing, dry socket, bone regeneration, density, trabecular formation, postoperative discomfort	Improved hard and soft tissue healing, bone density, caused less discomfort	
Kumar et al, 2015 ²⁸	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, swelling, PPD, Rx, OPG	Less pain, swelling, trismus, PPD	NSD for bone density
Marenzi et al, 2015 ²⁹	Canine to molar	Pain, soft tissue healing index	Less pain, better healing, faster socket closure	
Uyanık et al, 2015 ³⁰	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, analgesics, trismus, swelling	Less pain and trismus	
Cheah et al, 2014 ³¹	Nonmolar teeth	CBCT, histology, histomorphometry	Higher mineralized bone content	NSD for vertical and horizontal aspects of ridge
Gawai and Sobhana, 2015 ³²	Impacted 38 and 48	Clinical, Rx (OPG)	Greater bone density at 1 mo but not at 4 mo	Improved soft tissue healing
Durmuşlar et al, 2014 ³³	Impacted 38 and 48	PD, PPD, clinical, Rx (OPT)	Greater bone density at 3 mo but not at 1 and 6 mo	NSD for PPD
Geurs et al, 2014 ³⁴	Anterior, premolars	Histomorphometry	Increased bone graft turnover	
Eshgpour et al, 2014 ³⁵	Impacted 38 and 48	Clinical	Less alveolar osteitis	
Mozzati et al, 2014 ³⁶	NR	Residual socket volume, pain, healing index, complications	Better healing index, smaller residual socket volume (pain results NR)	
Mozzati et al, 2014 ³⁷	Various	Residual socket volume, pain, healing index, complications	Better healing index, smaller residual socket volume, less complications (pain results NR)	
Suttapreyasri and Leepong, 2013 ³⁸	Premolar	Clinical, Rx	Sooner soft tissue healing, less horizontal resorption	NSD for mesial and distal resorption and bone healing
Antonello et al, 2013 ³⁹	Impacted 38 and 48	Rx	Greater bone density	

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Hauser et al, 2013 ⁴⁰	Premolars	Histomorphometry, micro-CT, clinical	NSD for bone volume, trabecular thickness, intrinsic bone quality	More trabeculae and preservation of alveolar width
Farina et al, 2013 ⁴¹	Various	Micro-CT, histomorphometric markers	No increase in bone deposition	
Batstone et al, 2012 ⁴²	Posterior mandibular teeth	Prevention of osteoradionecrosis, pain, soft tissue healing	NSD for prevention of osteoradionecrosis, pain scores, or mucosal healing	
Célio-Mariano et al, 2012 ⁴³	Impacted 38 and 48	Rx	Faster bone formation	
Haraji et al, 2012 ⁴⁴	38 and 48	Alveolar osteitis, pain, healing score	Decreased alveolar osteitis, pain, accelerated healing	
Singh et al, 2012 ⁴⁵	38 and 48	Pain, soft tissue healing, Rx	Better soft tissue healing, greater bone density at 3 mo	NSD for pain
Gürbüz et al, 2010 ⁴⁶	Impacted 38 and 48	Scintigraphic evaluation of early osteoblastic activity	NSD	
Mozzati et al, 2010 ⁴⁷	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, swelling	Less inflammation and better healing parameters	
Arenaz-Búa et al, 2010 ⁴⁸	Impacted 38 and 48	Clinical, pain, Rx	Inadequate report	
Gawande and Halli, 2009 ⁴⁹	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, swelling, Rx, OPG	Less swelling, greater bone density	NSD for pain
Vivek and Sripathi Rao, 2009 ⁵⁰	Impacted 38 and 48	Pain, healing index, Rx	NSD for pain	Better soft tissue healing, greater density, trabecular bone formation at 12 wk
Gürbüz et al, 2008 ⁵¹	Impacted 38 and 48	Scintigraphic evaluation of early osteoblastic activity	NSD	
Sammartino et al, 2005 ⁵²	Impacted 38 and 48	Histology (only in APC group), clinical	Decrease of PPD, improvement of CAL	

Note: All outcomes were statistically significant unless otherwise specified.

Abbreviations: APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CAL, clinical attachment level; CBCT, cone-beam computed tomography; micro-CT, micro-computed tomography; NR, not reported; NSD, no significant differences; OPG, orthopantomography; PPD, periodontal probing depth; Rx, radiography; VAS, visual analog scale.

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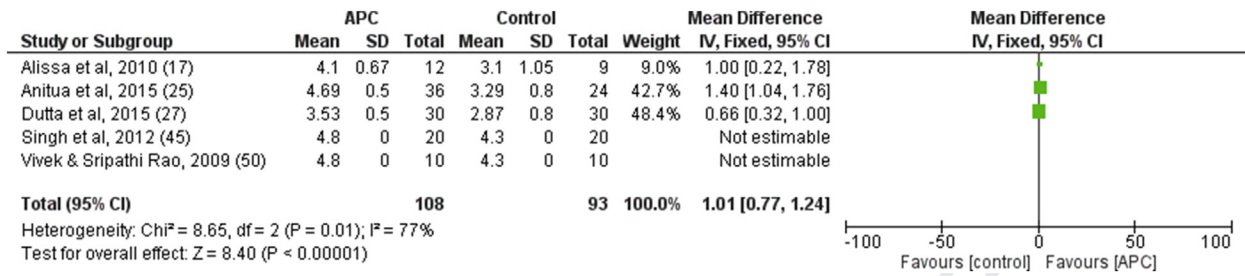


FIGURE 3. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating soft tissue healing using the index of Landry at postoperative day 7. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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OR platelet rich fibrin OR plasma rich in growth factors OR platelet concentrates OR PRF OR PRP OR PRGF) AND (postextraction sockets OR extraction sockets OR preservation techniques OR tooth extraction OR third molar surgery). In addition, a hand search was performed in the following dental journals: *British Dental Journal*, *British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Clinical Implant Dentistry and Related Research*, *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, *Clinical Oral Investigations*, *European Journal of Oral Sciences*, *Implant Dentistry*, *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry*, *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, *Journal of Dental Research*, *Journal of Dentistry*, *Journal of Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery*, *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Journal of Periodontal Research*, *Journal of Periodontology*, and *Oral Surgery*, *Oral Medicine*, *Oral Pathology*, and *Oral Radiology*. The reference lists of the included studies and of the reviews also were searched for possible additional eligible studies.

The last electronic search was performed on February 8, 2016.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

The selection criteria were limited to clinical studies involving human subjects. To be included the articles had to be controlled clinical trials or randomized clinical trials, have a parallel or split-mouth design, and

have a sample size of at least 5 patients per group or 5 patients with bilateral treatment.

The studies had to use any APC in the postextraction sockets of the experimental group. The APC could be used alone or in conjunction with another material (such as bone graft materials), but the only difference between the control and experimental groups had to be the use of APC. The studies had to provide clear and adequate information on all agents and techniques used for socket preservation procedures.

No restrictions on language or follow-up duration were applied.

SELECTION OF STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTION

Titles and abstracts of the articles retrieved by the electronic search were screened by 2 independent reviewers (C.B. and S.C.). Two reviewers checked whether they met the inclusion criteria and independently assessed the full text of studies of possible relevance. Cases of disagreement were resolved by discussion. Reasons for exclusion were recorded.

Two independent reviewers extracted the relevant data using an Excel spreadsheet (Microsoft, Redmond, WA). The extracted data were study design, study setting, ethical approval, country, number of patients and sockets in the control and experimental groups, mean age of patients, intervention, follow-up duration, tooth type, reason for extraction, number of dropouts, and information on the method of APC production. Additional extracted data on outcome variables were adverse events, patient satisfaction, self-reported

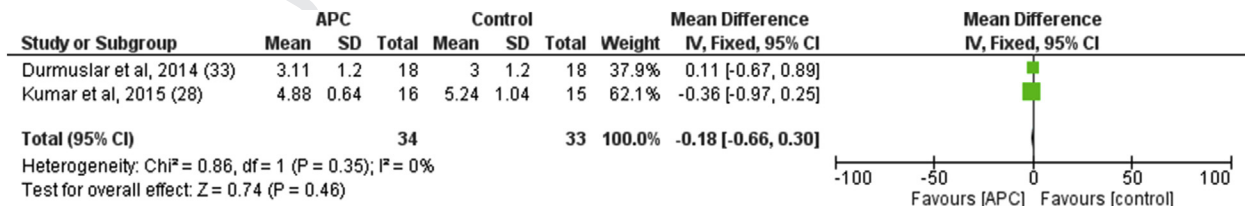


FIGURE 4. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating probing depth at the first postoperative month. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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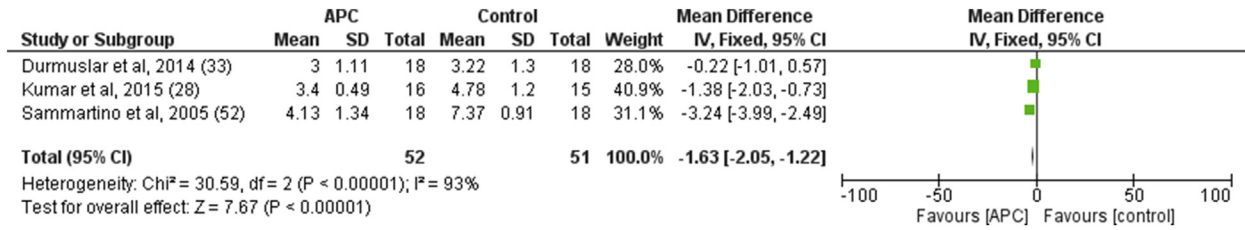


FIGURE 5. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating probing depth at this third postoperative month. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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postoperative quality of life (including pain, swelling, and other symptoms, assessed through a questionnaire or interview), radiographic evaluation of bone healing, clinical or radiographic evaluation of marginal bone remodeling, and soft tissue healing.

The primary outcome measurements were:

- Any complication and adverse event (eg, alveolar osteitis, acutely infected or inflamed alveolus)
- Postoperative discomfort and quality of life (eg, self-reported postoperative pain on a visual analog scale, swelling)

Secondary outcome measurements were:

- Bone healing assessed radiographically (eg, by evaluation of bone density or trabecular bone pattern at the extraction site) or histomorphometrically (eg, assessment of percentage of bone volume)
- Clinical or radiographic evaluation of marginal bone remodeling (eg, bone height at the vestibular and lingual or palatal aspect and bone width at the extraction region)
- Any other indirect estimation of bone regeneration process (eg, through evaluation of markers of bone metabolism, osteoblast activity)

- Clinical evaluation of soft tissue healing (eg, using the healing index proposed by Landry or other standard indices)

RISK OF BIAS ASSESSMENT

The methodologic quality of the selected studies was evaluated independently by 2 reviewers (C.B. and M.D.F.), according to the following methodologic parameters.

Randomized Studies

- Random sequence generation method and allocation concealment

All Studies

- Calibration and blinding of outcome assessment
- Comparability of control and treatment groups at entry
- Clear definition of inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Clear definition of outcomes assessment and success criteria
- Completeness of the outcome data reported and explanation for dropouts or withdrawal (when applicable)
- Recall rate (it was assumed adequate if the dropout rate was $<10\%$)

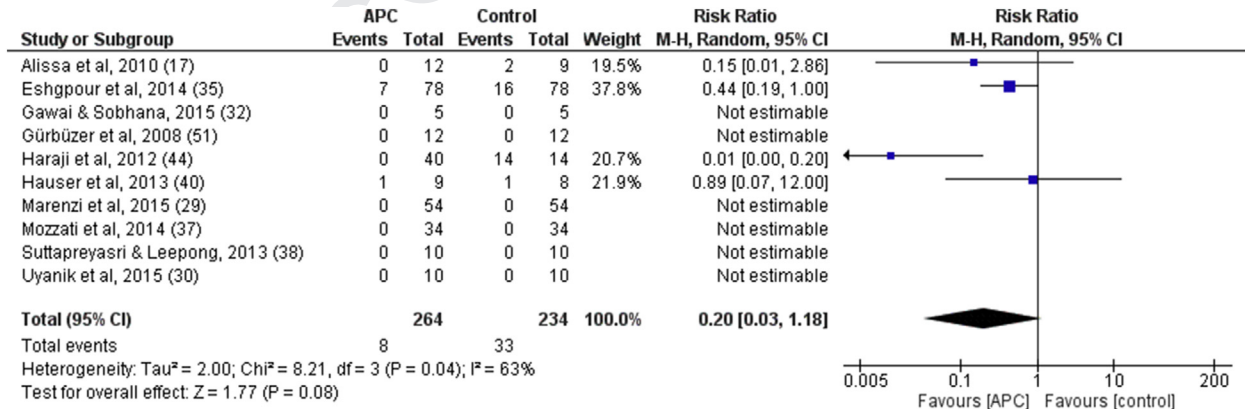


FIGURE 6. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating incidence of alveolar osteitis. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval.

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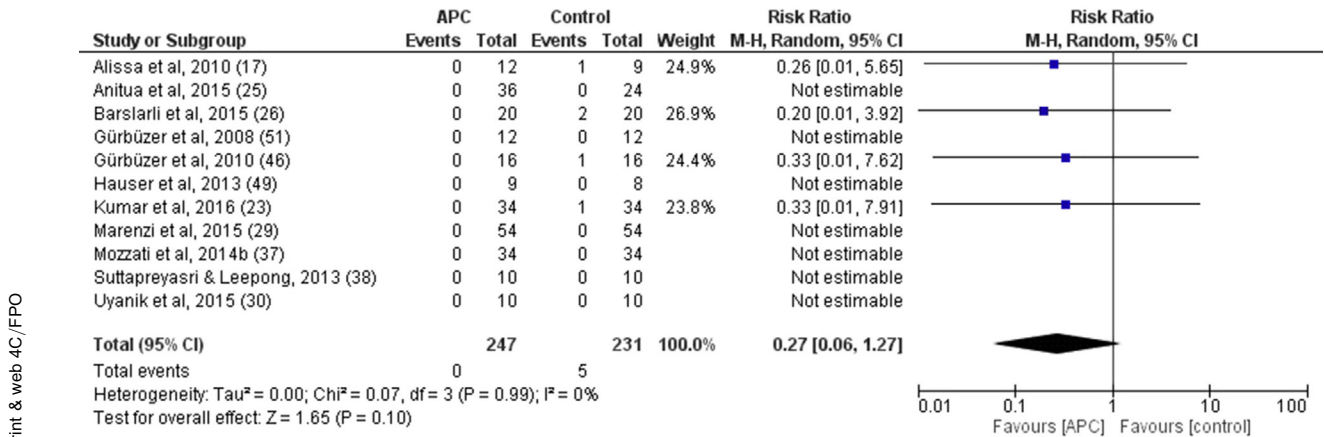


FIGURE 7. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating acute inflammation or infection of the alveolus. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval.

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- Sample size (it was considered adequate if ≥ 20 patients per group were treated)
- Number of surgeons involved (it was considered adequate if the same surgeon performed all operations)

For missing or unclear data, the investigators were contacted to provide additional data or clarification.

All criteria were assessed as adequate, unclear, or inadequate except for the last 3 that were simply judged as adequate or inadequate. Criteria for assessing the risk of bias of randomized clinical trials in the present review were adapted from guidelines reported in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0.²² Cases of disagreement were resolved by discussion. To summarize the validity of the studies, they were considered to have a low risk of bias if at least two thirds of the parameters were judged as adequate, and they were considered to have a high risk if less than two thirds of the parameters judged as adequate were considered to have a high risk of bias.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data from different studies were combined by meta-analysis only in the presence of studies with

similar comparisons reporting the same outcome measurements at comparable observation times after tooth extraction. For each trial, for dichotomous outcomes (such as postoperative alveolar osteitis, recorded as yes or no), the estimation of the effect of an intervention was expressed as risk ratios (RRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs). For continuous outcomes (such as percentage of newly formed bone, alveolar bone height, and width changes), mean differences with 95% CIs were used to synthesize data for each treatment group. The statistical analysis unit, if possible, was the patient, unless all compared studies expressed the results as a function of the tooth. If a meta-analysis was not feasible for a given outcome, then a qualitative report of the results was provided.

RRs for dichotomous data and mean differences for continuous data were combined using random-effects models if at least 4 studies could be included in the meta-analysis, whereas a fixed-effects model was adopted if there were fewer than 4 studies. Review Manager 5.3 (The Nordic Cochrane Center, The Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark) was used for meta-analysis calculations and graphs. Data from split-mouth and parallel group studies were combined. In addition, sensitivity analysis was performed to evaluate the effect of the study risk of bias and of the study

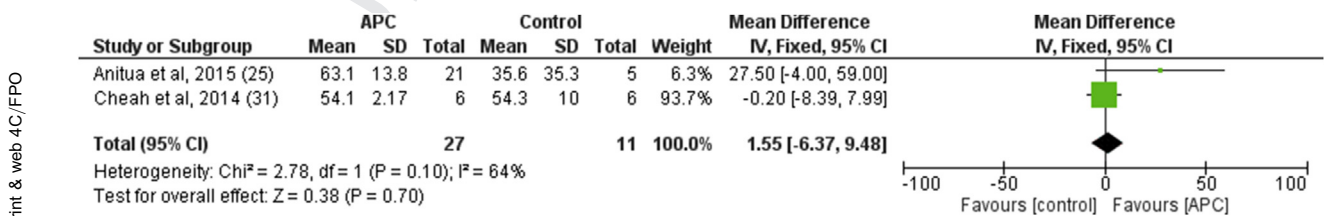


FIGURE 8. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating histomorphometric characteristics of the percentage of new bone formation at 12 postoperative weeks. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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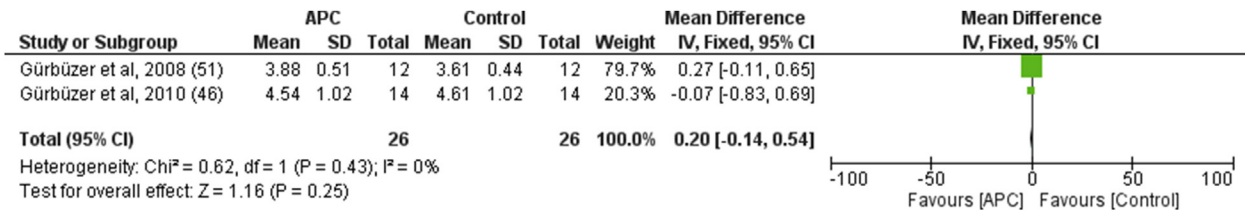


FIGURE 9. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating scintigraphic bone metabolism at 4 postoperative weeks. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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design (split mouth vs parallel design trial) on the overall estimates of effect.

Results

The selection process is presented in Figure 1. The electronic search retrieved 399 articles and 3 more articles were found by hand searching. After exclusion of duplicates, unrelated articles, and articles excluded for a specific reason, 33 studies met the inclusion criteria and were analyzed in this review.^{17,18,20,23-52}

Table 1 presents the main characteristics and outcomes of the included articles. Nine articles had a parallel design and 24 had a split-mouth design. Overall, 1,193 teeth were extracted from 911 patients. Six hundred twenty postextraction sockets were treated with APCs (PRP, PRF, or PRGF) and 573 sockets served as controls (Table 1). Control sockets were left unfilled except in 3 articles in which control sockets were filled with bone graft materials (Table 1).

Table 2 presents the methodology for obtaining the APC. PRP was the APC used most frequently, followed by PRF and PRGF. All studies using PRGF adopted systematically the same procedure and used the same additives (anticoagulant and activator).^{25,36,37,41,44,47} Only Antonello et al³⁹ declared that they used a modified PRGF procedure, introducing changes in many steps of the preparation technique. Conversely, protocols to obtain PRF and especially PRP varied considerably for additives, centrifugation time, and speed (Table 2).

RISK-OF-BIAS ASSESSMENT

The risk-of-bias summary is presented in Figure 2. Thirteen studies were classified as having a high risk

of bias and 20 were classified as having a low risk of bias.

STUDIES OUTCOMES

Table 3 presents the qualitative summary of outcomes of all included studies. A decrease in pain levels, swelling, and patient discomfort was frequently described by the included studies, as were improved bone regeneration, bone density, and soft tissue healing.

META-ANALYSIS

Soft Tissue Healing

Index of laundry. Five studies measured soft tissue healing of the postextraction alveolus at the seventh postoperative day^{17,25,27,45,50}; however, only 3 reported the standard deviation, which made the meta-analysis possible.^{17,25,27} The meta-analysis indicated that soft tissue healing was statistically better for sockets treated with APCs at the seventh postoperative day (mean difference, 1.01; 95% CI, 0.77-1.24; $P < .05$; Fig 3).

Probing depth. The probing depth in the distal aspect of the second mandibular molar was measured at months 1 and 3 in 2 and 3 studies, respectively.^{28,33,52} Probing depth was minor in the APC group at 2 periods in all studies. Meta-analysis indicated that this outcome was similar for the 2 groups in the first month (mean difference, -0.18 ; 95% CI, -0.66 to 0.3 ; $P > .05$) and statistically better for the APC group at the third postoperative month (mean difference, -1.63 ; 95% CI, -2.05 to -1.22 ; $P < .05$; Figs 4, 5).

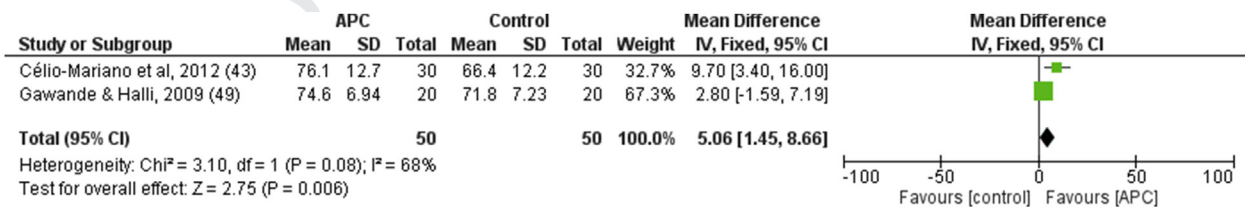


FIGURE 10. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating bone density at the first postoperative month. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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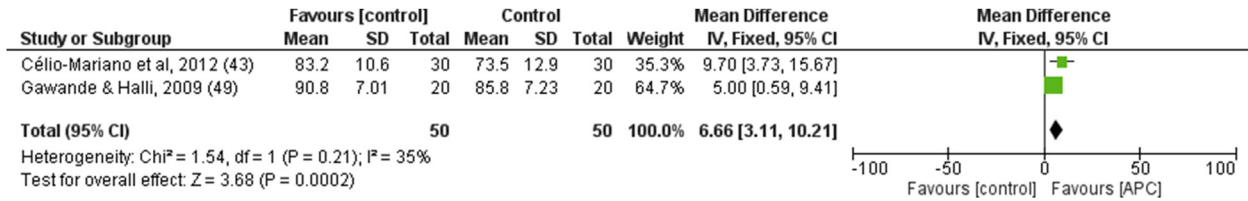


FIGURE 11. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating bone density at the third postoperative month. CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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Patient's Quality of Life

Alveolar osteitis. The postextraction complication of alveolar osteitis was assessed in 10 studies, but only 4 described the event.^{17,35,40,44} Despite the frequency of the event, it was major in the control group (8 events in APC group [1.3%] and 33 events in control group [5.8%]), although the meta-analysis indicated there were no statistical differences between the APC and control groups (RR = 0.20; 95% CI, 0.03-1.18; $P > .05$; Fig 6).

Acute Inflammation or Infection of Alveolus. Eleven studies assessed the presence of acute inflammation or infection of the postextraction socket; however, only 4 described the event.^{17,23,26,46} Although the event was major in the control group (0 event in APC group and 5 events in control group [0.9%]), the meta-analysis indicated there were no statistical differences (RR = 0.27; 95% CI, 0.06-1.27; $P < .05$; Fig 7).

Pain. Most studies measured pain through a visual analog scale of 10 points. Seven studies reported statistical differences in pain decrease for the APC group,^{17,18,23,28-30,44} and 5 studies described no statistical differences.^{24,42,45,49,50} Because of the heterogeneity of the studies and the lack of standard deviation reported by the studies, it was not possible to perform a meta-analysis for this outcome.

Hard Tissue Healing

Percentage of new bone. Two studies measured the percentage of new bone at the twelfth postoperative week through histomorphometric analysis.^{25,31} New bone was statistically greater for the APC group in 1 study²⁵ and similar in the other.³¹ Meta-analysis

indicated that the percentage of new bone formation was similar for the 2 groups (mean difference, 1.55%; 95% CI, -6.37 to 9.48; $P > .05$; Fig 8).

Indirect measurement of bone metabolism. Two studies measured bone metabolism by bone scintigraphy at the fourth postoperative week.^{46,51} The meta-analysis showed that bone metabolism was similar for the APC and control groups, even when using 2 different APCs (mean difference, 0.20; 95% CI, -0.14 to 0.54; $P > .05$; Fig 9).

Bone density. Bone density was measured on bidimensional radiographs at the first, third, and sixth postoperative months in 2 studies.^{43,49} Bone density was statistically better for the APC group for all 3 periods (mean difference, 5.06; 95% CI, 1.45-8.66; $P < .05$; mean difference, 6.66; 95% CI, 3.11-10.21; $P < .05$; mean difference, 7.29; 95% CI, 4.31-10.28; $P < .05$; Figs 10-12).

Discussion

Tooth extraction induces several changes in the oral physiology. The main immediate effect is a decrease in the patient's quality of life in the postsurgical period because of pain, swelling, or inflammation and sometimes alveolar infection. However, the most challenging and lasting negative effects are probably caused by alveolar bone resorption, which decreases the size of the alveolar ridges in the vertical and, mainly, horizontal dimensions.⁵³ According to a recent review, the resorption process, triggered after tooth extraction, can cause a decrease on average of 3.79 mm in the horizontal dimension and a decrease of 1 mm in the vertical dimension at 6 months after

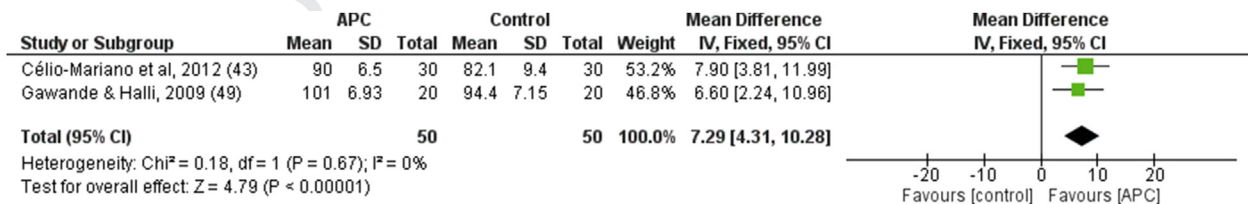


FIGURE 12. Meta-analysis of studies evaluating bone density at the sixth postoperative month. APC, autologous platelet concentrate; CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

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1345 extraction.⁵³ Moreover, it is expected to last for the pa-
1346 tient's entire lifetime.³

1347 Immediate and gradual effects decrease patient
1348 satisfaction with the treatment and make subsequent
1349 rehabilitation treatments difficult. Previous evidence
1350 has suggested that alveolar preservation techniques,
1351 applied soon after tooth extraction, considerably
1352 decrease bone resorption and improve the patient's
1353 quality of life.²⁵ In this scenario, the use of APCs as a
1354 preservation technique for postextraction sockets
1355 represents a valuable, safe, and cost-effective option.

1356 APCs are heme components (actual blood-derived
1357 products) obtained by centrifugation of the patient's
1358 own blood. What is common to all APCs is the pres-
1359 ence of an above-baseline concentration of platelets
1360 and, hence, an increased number of growth factors
1361 available at the surgical area.⁵⁴ The growth factors
1362 are endogenous soluble mediators capable of modi-
1363 fying the cellular response to a given stimulus. They
1364 act as intercellular signals that modulate cell function
1365 by binding to specific receptors on the cell surface
1366 of target cells. Thus, APCs promote chemotaxis, angio-
1367 genesis, proliferation, differentiation, and modulation
1368 of cells involved in the healing process.

1369 Some APCs (PRP and PRGF) can be produced with
1370 the use of an anticoagulant and an activator and others
1371 (PRF) can be produced without the use of any additive.
1372 Thus, PRF is a complete autologous preparation.
1373 These APCs differ not only in the method for prepara-
1374 tion but also in their biological properties.

1375 PRP and PRGF concentrates have a relatively short
1376 duration of action because the activator induces a
1377 fast release of the granule content. Thrombin activa-
1378 tion causes 81% of total growth factors to be released
1379 within the first day, with considerably decreased
1380 release at 3, 7, and 14 days.⁵⁵ This causes a massive,
1381 fast, and short-term effect that makes the incorpora-
1382 tion of cytokines difficult. In contrast, PRF does not
1383 need an activator to produce fibrinogen polymeriza-
1384 tion, because this occurs naturally during centrifuga-
1385 tion. A progressive or relatively slow polymerization
1386 mode can increase the incorporation of circulating cy-
1387 tokines in the fibrin matrix.⁵⁶ PRP releases the largest
1388 amounts of growth factors (transforming growth
1389 factor-1 [TGF-1] and platelet-derived growth factor
1390 [PDGF]) on the first day, followed by considerably
1391 decreased release at later time points. PRF releases
1392 the largest amount of TGF-1 at day 14 and the largest
1393 amount of PDGF at day 7.⁵⁶ It would be interesting
1394 to evaluate whether there are differences among the
1395 different types of concentrates for the clinical out-
1396 comes; however, this was not the objective of this
1397 study; therefore, it is not possible to recommend any
1398 specific APC preparation. In this review, 14 included
1399 studies used PRP, 13 used PRF, and 7 used PRGF or
1400 modified PRGF (Table 2). Most of the variation in

1401 outcomes among studies could be related to the use
1402 of different products that have different compositions,
1403 features, and likely different biological activities.

1404 The objective of this systematic review was to eval-
1405 uate the effect of APCs on a patient's quality of life and
1406 on soft and hard tissue healing after tooth extraction.
1407 The performed meta-analysis showed benefits of
1408 APCs for hard and soft tissue healing; bone density
1409 measured by bidimensional radiographs at 1, 3, and
1410 6 months, index of Landry at 7 days, and probing
1411 depth at 3 months were improved. However, indirect
1412 measurement of bone metabolism, percentage of new
1413 bone, postoperative complications, and probing
1414 depth at 1 month were similar between the APC and
1415 control groups. Qualitative analysis of the outcomes
1416 reported by the included studies in general was posi-
1417 tive for the APC group (Table 3). Decreased swelling
1418 was found in 4 of 5 studies and decreased trismus
1419 was found in 2 of 3 studies (Table 3).

1420 The heterogeneity among studies and the lack of re-
1421 ported standard deviations in several studies made it
1422 impossible to perform a meta-analysis for some out-
1423 comes. For example, a marked decrease in pain for
1424 the APC group was found in 7 studies and no statistical
1425 differences for this outcome were found in 5 studies
1426 (Table 3). However, as previously described, some
1427 studies reported medians¹⁷ and others reported
1428 means,^{18,25} and some studies reported pain daily²⁴
1429 and others reported the mean of several days.^{29,30}
1430 Moreover, of the comparable studies, only 1
1431 provided the standard deviation,²⁵ which is an essen-
1432 tial element to perform a meta-analysis. Therefore, it
1433 was not possible to perform a formal meta-analysis
1434 for this outcome, as stated in previous systematic re-
1435 views.^{15,57} Thus, the actual effect of APCs on
1436 decreasing pain in extraction sockets is still not
1437 quantifiable. In the same way, bone density was
1438 measured using different techniques such as cone-
1439 beam computed tomograms,²⁵ bidimensional radio-
1440 graphs,¹⁷ and micro-computed tomographic
1441 methods,⁴⁰ preventing a direct comparison. Neverthe-
1442 less, it was possible to observe a substantial contribu-
1443 tion of APCs to other aspects of a patient's quality of
1444 life and, mainly, to soft tissue healing after tooth extrac-
1445 tion, which most investigators found to be enhanced.

1446 Another common impediment for performing a
1447 meta-analysis was the heterogeneity in the follow-up
1448 duration or the postsurgical timing of when the out-
1449 comes were assessed. All these factors should be taken
1450 into consideration for future clinical studies when re-
1451 porting outcomes on this subject.

1452 Although not evaluated by the clinical studies consid-
1453 ered, another important property of APC is its anti-
1454 microbial activity, which has been highlighted by a
1455 recent review focused on preclinical studies.⁵⁸ The pos-
1456 sibility of controlling postoperative infections is an

important feature that could explain in part the lower incidence of complications such as alveolar osteitis and that makes APCs a clinically useful adjunctive tool.

The use of APCs can be advantageous for some relevant clinical and radiographic outcomes after a dental extraction procedure, such as increased bone density and soft tissue healing according to the performed meta-analysis and a decrease in swelling and trismus according to the qualitative analysis. The results of this systematic review showed that APCs should be used in postextraction sites to improve these clinical outcomes. The actual effect of APCs on decreasing pain in extraction sockets is still not quantifiable.

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