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## Original Article

## Impact of resveratrol supplementation on inflammatory, antioxidant, and periodontal markers in type 2 diabetic patients with chronic periodontitis

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Diabetes mellitus and periodontal disease are two common and chronic diseases with bidirectional relationship influence public health and quality of life. The aims of this study was to study the impact of resveratrol supplementation in adjunct with non-surgical periodontal therapy on inflammatory, antioxidant, and periodontal markers in patients with type 2 diabetes with periodontal disease.

**Materials and methods:** In this randomized clinical trial, 43 patients with diabetes and chronic periodontitis were randomly allocated into two intervention and control groups receiving either resveratrol supplements or placebo for 4 weeks. Serum levels of interleukin 6 (IL6), tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF $\alpha$ ), total antioxidant capacity (TAC) and clinical attachment loss (CAL) as the main index of periodontal marker were measured pre-intervention and post-intervention.

**Results:** In the intervention group, the mean serum level of IL6 was reduced significantly ( $P = 0.039$ ) post-intervention ( $2.19 \pm 1.09$  and  $1.58 \pm 1.06$ ). No significant differences were seen in the mean levels of IL6, TNF $\alpha$ , TAC and CAL between two groups post-intervention.

**Conclusions:** It is suggested that daily consumption of resveratrol supplement may not change TNF $\alpha$ , TAC and CAL, but it would be beneficial in reducing serum levels of IL6. Therefore, further studies are suggested to investigate the effects of resveratrol supplementation along with NST on periodontal status.

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## 1. Introduction

The associations found recently between systemic diseases and oral health indicate that the strategies to improve oral health may increase health outcomes [1]. Diabetes mellitus (DM) is known as a systemic disease and can affect the quality of life and public health. It is associated with a high risk of complications including macrovascular disease, micro-angiopathy, neuropathy, nephropathy, and

delayed wound healing. Periodontitis is considered as the sixth diabetic complication. There is a two-way relationship suggested between diabetes mellitus and periodontal disease, so that periodontal disease may increase the risk of diabetes mellitus, and vice versa [2]. Periodontal disease is a chronic infectious disease and cause the destruction of tissue surrounding teeth, formation of periodontal pocket, gingival bleeding and tooth loss [3]. Gram-negative anaerobic bacteria *A. actinomycetemcomitans* (Aa) and *P. gingivalis* (Pg) are considered as the main causative factors of periodontal disease. In addition to these primary factors, the abnormal responses of the host to these bacteria and their products may cause more infection [4]. About 48% of American adults and the same or greater proportions of the other populations are

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infected to periodontal disease [5]. There are some evidence indicate that patients with type 2 DM who are also suffer from periodontitis have a high serum levels of oxidative stress and inflammatory markers such as IL6, TNF  $\alpha$  and IL-1B [6]. The high serum and saliva levels of oxidative stress in periodontal patients may disrupt the serum antioxidant capacity [4]. The serum concentration of major antioxidants such as carotenoids, ascorbic acid and bilirubin is decreased in periodontal patients [7,8]. There are several approaches used in the treatment procedure of periodontal disease of which using antibiotics is a common method. However, the frequent use of antibiotics may increase the bacterial resistance [9]. Moreover, “medical nutrition therapy” is considered as a safest complementary approach in the prevention and treatment of periodontal disease. Foods and dietary components with strong anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and antioxidant properties may be used as suitable and beneficial complementary treatment strategy in adjunct with the other periodontal treatments in periodontal patients [10]. Resveratrol (3, 5, 4'-trihydroxystilbene), which is a polyphenol compound, is found mainly in grapes skin. It is also available in cranberry, blueberry, pistachios and peanuts. The polygonum cuspidatum is known as the richest source of this component. Traditionally, polygonum cuspidatum roots have been used as medicine in China and Japan [11]. Resveratrol can reduce the oxidative stress and apoptosis. It is also known as an anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, anti-carcinogenic, anti-aging and anti-microbial agent [12]. Resveratrol may reduce the pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL6, IL-1B, IL8, IL12 and TNF. These inflammatory markers have adverse effects on glucose and lipid metabolism [13]. It is suggested that resveratrol may reduce the oxidative stress through several mechanisms. It eliminates reactive oxygen species (ROS), increases the metabolizing enzymes of ROS such as catalase, superoxide dismutase and glutathione transferase and also, reduces the activity of enzymes involved in the production of ROS [14]. There are few in vitro studies to show that resveratrol may improve the antioxidant defense capacity and systemic inflammation in periodontal ligament cells [12,15]. In addition, it was reported that resveratrol intake reduced plasma lipid, free fatty acids and blood glucose in diabetic patients [16]. Nutrition is considered as an important factor associated with systemic diseases. Many studies have been carried out on the relationship between nutrition and systemic diseases, however, there are few studies on the relationship between nutrition and oral health [10]. Also, there are only a few studies conducted on the impact of dietary supplements in adjunct with other periodontal treatments on periodontal status [12,13,15]. Therefore, in the present study we investigated the effects of resveratrol supplementation in adjunct with non-surgical periodontal therapy on inflammatory, antioxidant, and periodontal markers in diabetic patients with chronic periodontitis.

## 2. Material and methods

### 2.1. Subjects and study design

In this randomized double-blind and placebo-controlled clinical trial, the diabetic patients with primary symptoms of chronic periodontitis who were recruited from Ahvaz Golestan hospital, were referred to the dental clinic (in Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Iran) for further confirmation of periodontal disease. Totally, 50 diabetic patients with chronic periodontal disease were recruited. A signed consent form was collected from all subjects. The recruited subjects were randomly allocated into control ( $n = 25$ ) and intervention ( $n = 25$ ) groups based on the block design. The inclusion criteria were as: subjects with known type 2 diabetes mellitus (no more than 5 years since diagnosis) and chronic periodontal disease, aged between 30 and 60 years, both

gender, body mass index (BMI) between 18.5 and 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and fasting blood glucose (FBS) lower than 22 mmol/L. The exclusion criteria were as: pregnancy, breastfeeding, smoking, having type 1 diabetes mellitus; using insulin; suffering from any complications of diabetes mellitus such as kidney failure, using immunosuppressive medications, treatment history of periodontal disease during the last six months, using any antioxidant supplement, following any specific diets beyond their usual diets during the last six months.

Subjects in the intervention and control groups received either 480 mg/d resveratrol or placebo capsules (2 pills) along with the non-surgical periodontal therapy (NST) for 4 weeks. Resveratrol capsules were purchased from *HerbaFit* company. Each resveratrol capsule provided 480 mg Polygonum Cuspidatum containing 240 mg resveratrol. The resveratrol capsules contained Polygonum Cuspidatum extract (72%), microcrystalline cellulose (filler), gelatin and magnesium stearate. Placebo capsules contained 480 mg starch. The non-surgical treatment was provided for all patients during the intervention period. It comprised the instructions on dental hygiene (such as advising how to brush and to use mouthwash and dental floss correctly), removing dental plaque, scaling and root planning of supragingival using ultrasonic Gracey curettes and scalers (at sites with the probing depth greater than 4 mm). All patients were allowed to use any usual prescribed oral hypoglycemic treatment. The compliance of subjects in this study was double checked through counting the remaining capsules and contacting with telephone. All patients were called three times a week by telephone during the study. For nutritional assessments, a 24-h dietary recall was obtained at baseline and at the end of the study. The dietary intakes of energy, macronutrients, and micronutrients was analyzed using a software called “Nutritionist 4”. This clinical trial study was registered in the “Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials” with the IRCT number of [IRCT2015012420765N1](https://www.irct.ir/IRCT2015012420765N1). This study was approved by the ethics committee of the Research Deputy of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (reference No. UR1393.364ajums.rec).

### 2.2. Biochemical and clinical measurements

A fasting blood sample (5 ml) was collected from subjects at baseline and the end of intervention. Blood samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 5 min and then the supernates were stored at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis. The serum samples were used to analysis IL6, TNF $\alpha$  and TAC. Serum levels of IL6, TNF $\alpha$  and TAC were measured using ELISA method by laboratory kits (eBioscience, Germany for IL6 and TNF $\alpha$ ; and LDN, PLabor Diagnostika Nord GmbH, Germany for TAC).

Periodontal status was evaluated in this study by probing depth (PD) and CAL (clinical attachment loss) which are the main periodontal indices. PD and CAL were evaluated by a University of North Carolina No. 15 (a UNC-15) manual periodontal probe and measured at six sites of a tooth (midbuccal, mesiobuccal, mesiolingual, distobuccal, distolingual, and midlingual sites). The CAL and PD were determined by measuring the distance from the cement–enamel junction to the bottom of the pocket/sulcus and evaluated using the distance between free gingival margin and the base of the pocket/sulcus, respectively [16].

### 2.3. Statistical analysis

Considering 95% confidence with an estimated standard deviation and difference of HOMA-IR [17] as the primary outcome, the sample size was calculated and 20 subjects in each group were determined. Regarding with a possible withdrawal of subjects during the study, 25 subjects were considered in each group. The

statistical analyses were performed using SPSS (version 19). The results presented as mean  $\pm$  SD. Differences were considered as significant if the P-value was lower than 0.05. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to assess the normal distribution of variables. The Paired sample *t*-test was used to compare the results within groups and the independent sample *t*-test was used to compare the results between groups.

### 3. Results

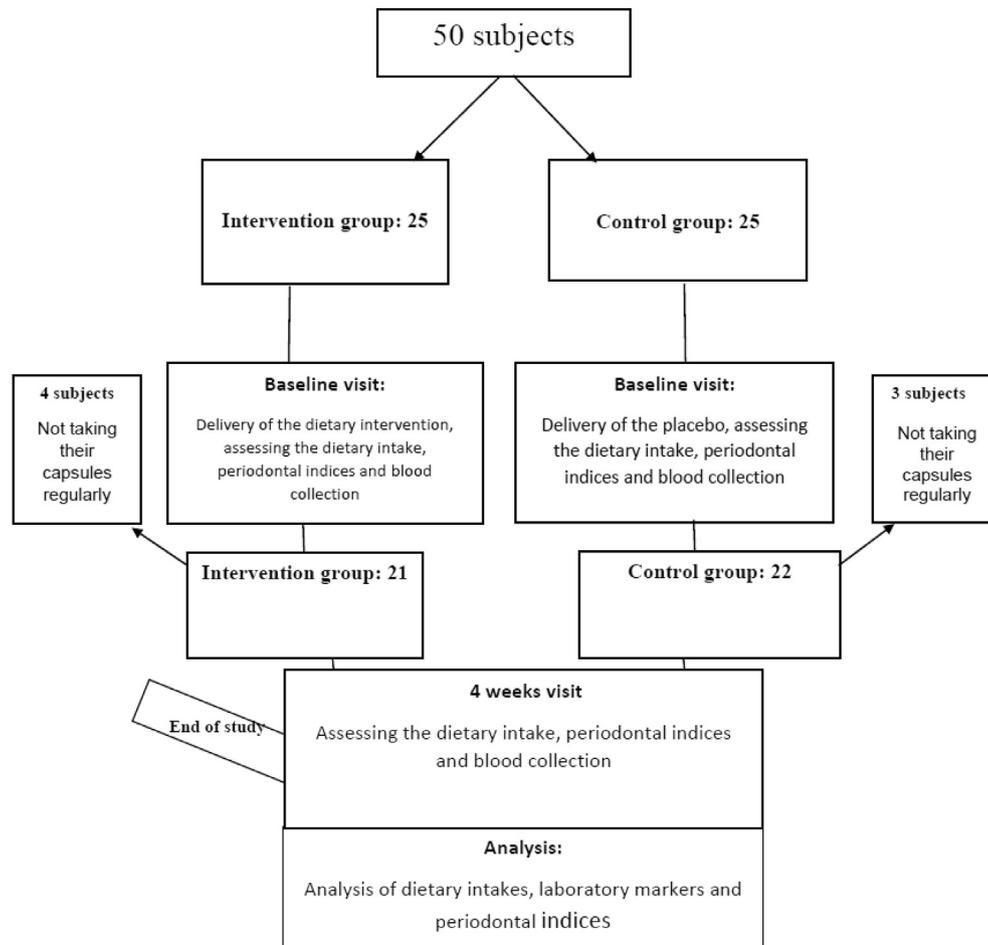
Fig. 1 shows the flow chart of this study. Totally 50 patients were recruited of whom 43 subjects ( $n = 21$  subjects received resveratrol and  $n = 22$  subjects received placebo capsules) completed the study. The compliance procedure showed that 7 subjects did not use the capsules regularly and therefore were excluded. The characteristics of subjects are shown in Table 1. No significant differences were seen between two groups in the mean IL6, TNF $\alpha$  and CAL at baseline. However, a significant difference was observed in TAC between two groups at baseline (Table 1). The other data of the demographic characteristics of subjects were presented in the previous study [18]. Moreover, there were no significant differences seen between two groups for micronutrients with antioxidant properties including vitamins A, C, E, beta-carotene,  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, and selenium at baseline and end of the study (The data are available in our pervious study [18]). Table 2 shows the biochemical and clinical parameters at baseline and post intervention in two groups. IL6 levels statistically ( $P = 0.03$ ) decreased in the

**Table 1**  
Baseline characteristics of the subjects.

P-value	Intervention group (n = 21)	Control group (n = 22)	variable
0.71	2.19 $\pm$ 1	2.08 $\pm$ 0.8	IL-6 (pg/ml)
0.6	10.49 $\pm$ 0.47	10.56 $\pm$ 0.6	TNF- $\alpha$ (pg/ml)
0.03	1.08 $\pm$ 0.37	0.81 $\pm$ 0.42	TAC (mmol/L)
0.05	2.35 $\pm$ 0.6	2.72 $\pm$ 0.5	CAL(mm)

Values are expressed as means  $\pm$  SD,  $P < 0.05$  was considered as significant.  $P < 0.05$  was considered as significant using Independent T-test between the two groups at baseline.

intervention group ( $1.58 \pm 1.06$  and  $2.19 \pm 1.09$  respectively), but no significant ( $P = 0.3$ ) difference was detected in the mean levels of IL6 between two intervention and control groups ( $1.58 \pm 1.06$  and  $1.85 \pm 0.59$  respectively) post intervention. Regarding with the serum levels of TNF $\alpha$ , the change was not significant ( $P = 0.25$ ) between intervention and control groups ( $10.33 \pm 0.66$  and  $10.57 \pm 0.68$  respectively). Also both within intervention and control groups, there were no significant changes in the mean levels of TNF $\alpha$  post intervention compared with baseline. Regarding with serum levels of TAC, there was no significant (0.05) difference between intervention and control groups ( $1.35 \pm 0.62$  and  $1.02 \pm 0.43$ ) post intervention. No significant changes were also seen in the mean serum levels of TAC in intervention and control groups post intervention. Regarding with CAL, there was no significant (0.06) difference shown between intervention and control groups ( $2 \pm 0.4$  and  $2.2 \pm 0.5$ ) post intervention. However, the CAL was significantly



**Fig. 1.** Flowchart of the study design.

**Table 2**  
Biochemical and clinical variables at baseline and post intervention.

P-value **	Intervention group (n = 21)			Control group (n = 22)			variable
	P-value *	After 4 weeks	Baseline	P-value *	After 4 weeks	Baseline	
0.3	0.039	1.58 ± 1.06	2.19 ± 1.09	0.1	1.85 ± 0.59	2.08 ± 0.82	IL-6 (pg/ml)
0.25	0.2	10.33 ± 0.66	10.49 ± 0.47	0.93	10.57 ± 0.68	10.56 ± 0.61	TNF-α (pg/ml)
0.05 <sup>†</sup>	0.1	1.35 ± 0.62	1.08 ± 0.37	0.08	1.02 ± 0.43	0.81 ± 0.42	TAC (mmol/L)
0.06	0.002	2 ± 0.4	2.35 ± 0.6	0.001	2.2 ± 0.5	2.72 ± 0.5	CAL(mm)

Values are expressed as means ± SD.

\*P < 0.05 was considered as significant using Paired T-test.

\*\*P < 0.05 was considered as significant using Independent T-test between the two groups post intervention.

<sup>†</sup>P < 0.05 was considered as significant using univariate analysis variance test.

reduced in both intervention and control groups post intervention.

#### 4. Discussion

In this study on diabetic patients with periodontal disease, we found that receiving resveratrol supplementation for four weeks may not change TNFα, TAC and CAL, but it would be beneficial in serum levels of IL6. Recently, herbal medicine is used for the treatment and prevention of periodontitis. Polyphenolic compounds are considered as potential agents capable of reversing, retarding and inhibiting the progression of all disorders caused by inflammation and oxidative stress [9,19–21]. Resveratrol as a natural polyphenol may reduce the inflammation and oxidative stress. In addition, Resveratrol play a significant antimicrobial role against the periodontal pathogens *A. actinomycetemcomitans* (Aa) and *P. gingivalis* (Pg). These microorganisms are involved in the etiology of periodontal disease and the host response to these microorganisms may increase the production of inflammatory markers including IL6, TNFα and IL1B. These inflammatory markers disrupt lipid and glucose metabolism and are also involved in insulin resistance [21]. IL6 may induce the osteoclast formation and consequently promote bone resorption. *P. gingivalis* as a key factor in the etiology of periodontitis can increase the secretion of IL6 and is associated with hard-tissue destruction. Resveratrol may activate osteoblastogenesis and lead to formation of new bone and delay osteoblastogenesis. These properties may be very important in the treatment of periodontitis [22]. Naofumi et al. investigated the effects of resveratrol on periodontal status in Wistar male rats and found the beneficial effects of resveratrol on bone loss [15]. Furthermore, Matsuda et al. investigated the effects of resveratrol on bone loss in mice and observed that resveratrol suppressed the alveolar bone resorption by disrupting the osteoclast differentiation [23]. Moreover, in a study carried out by Orstrup et al. the effects of a high-dose resveratrol supplementation were investigated on bone in men with metabolic syndrome and it was shown that resveratrol affects positively on bone by stimulating the mineralization or formation. It is suggested that the reduction in IL6 levels observed in our study may be involved in improvement of bone resorption and the infection occurred in periodontal disease [24]. In 2014, Tamki et al. evaluated the effects of resveratrol supplementation on periodontal status in Wistar rats and detected an improvement in serum levels of IL6 and TNFα [15]. In another study carried out by Rizzo et al., the effect of resveratrol extract on human periodontal ligament cells was assessed, but no significant decrease was observed in the serum levels of IL1B, IL6 and TNFα [13]. The results of these studies are not concur with present study. Moreover, in a study by Ghanim et al. following a consumption of *Polygonum cuspidatum* (source of resveratrol), a reduction was detected in inflammatory markers including IL6, TNFα and CRP in healthy individuals [25]. Tomé-Carneiro et al. also assessed the effects of 12 months of resveratrol supplementation on diabetic

patients with hypertension and observed only a statistically significant decrease in the mean serum levels of IL6 [26]. This study was not consistent with the studies carried out by Ghanim and Tomé-Carneiro. The duration of resveratrol supplementation in these trials was greater than that of present study. In a study by Morten's, no significant reduction was detected in TNFα in healthy subjects after 4 weeks ingestion of resveratrol supplement [27]. Similarly in Chen's study, no significant reduction was seen in TNFα after periodontal therapy in diabetic patients [28]. In present study, we also found no significant reduction in serum levels of TNFα following 4 weeks ingestion of resveratrol supplement. An increase in oxidative stress may play an important role in the progression of several diseases including diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases, liver diseases, and periodontitis. In addition, oxidative stress can interpret the relationship between systemic conditions and periodontal disease [4]. Resveratrol is a known scavenger of hydroxyl radicals, superoxide, and peroxy nitrite. Resveratrol as a scavenger of ROS, increases mitochondrial biogenesis via activation of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) and sirtuin 1 (Sirt1). The ROS includes hydroxyl, nitric oxide radical species, superoxide, and non-radical derivatives of oxygen. Resveratrol can also activate the antioxidant defense pathway through the nuclear factor 2 (Nrf2). Nrf2 is considered as an important sensor of oxidants and toxic xenobiotic substances. Furthermore, resveratrol reduces nitric oxide (NO) expression which may collaborate with the reduction of oxidative status. Several effects of resveratrol, N-acetylcysteine (NAC), and quercetin on human gingival fibroblasts under oxidative stress indicated that resveratrol is the most effective agent for inhibition of ROS production [29]. In a study by Apostolidou et al. after four weeks consumption of resveratrol, no significant reduction was observed in TAC in patients with asymptomatic hypercholesterolemic (AHC). However, a significant reduction was observed in normocholesterolemic (NCs) individuals [30]. Similarly, in a study by Ghanim et al. a significant reduction was observed in TAC in healthy subjects with a high fat meal post resveratrol supplementation [31]. The findings of these two studies indicate that resveratrol supplementation may improve TAC in healthy human subjects, but not in patients. Similarly, in our study, we found no significant decrease in TAC following four weeks consumption of resveratrol in diabetic patients with periodontitis. Few studies investigated the effects of resveratrol supplementation on TAC status. Therefore, further studies in this regard are required. In a study by Zare Javid et al. the effects of a customized dietary intervention on TAC for 3 and 6 months was investigated in subjects with adult periodontitis and it was found that TAC was increased post intervention [32]. In this study the duration of the intervention was greater than that of present study. Nutritional compounds with antioxidant properties are implicated in systemic and oral diseases which may be linked to obesity, dyslipidemia and hypertension. There is an increasing interest in the links between health benefits of nutritional compounds such as nuts, berries, complex

carbohydrate, unsaturated fats, vitamin B, D antioxidants and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus and periodontitis. In our previous study resveratrol supplementation in adjunct with other periodontal treatments improved insulin resistance and pocket depth (PD) in diabetic patients with periodontal disease [18]. In the present study, we reported CAL as a marker of periodontal status. The non-surgical periodontal therapy was performed for all subjects in both intervention and control groups. There was an improvement in CAL in both groups at the end of the study, however, resveratrol supplementation alone did not significantly improve periodontal status. There is no human study investigating the effects of resveratrol supplementation on CAL. In a study by Machida et al. the relationship between plasma reactive oxygen metabolites (ROM) and periodontal condition was assessed. It was shown that increase in plasma ROM was associated with those in CAL in periodontal patients. It was suggested that periodontal treatment decreases ROM levels and increases TAC [4]. In another study by Iwasaki et al. the relationship between serum antioxidants including  $\alpha$  tocopherol, ascorbic acid and CAL was evaluated in Japanese subjects. It was found that low levels of  $\alpha$  tocopherol are associated with increased periodontal disease [33]. Moreover, in a study conducted by Iwasaki et al., the relationship between saturated fatty acids (SFAs) and CAL was investigated. They reported that high intake of SFA associated with periodontal disease [34].

## 5. Conclusion

The present study show that daily resveratrol supplementation (as a nutritional factor in adjunction with NST) may not change TNF $\alpha$ , TAC and CAL, but it would be beneficial in improvement serum levels of IL6 in diabetic patients with periodontal disease. A bidirectional relationship between diabetes and periodontitis may be mediated by several inflammatory markers which may reduce in response to common treatment. In addition, genetics, epigenetics, susceptibility, response and environmental factors are some contributing factors interfere with such results. Therefore, further studies are suggested to investigate the effects of antioxidant supplementation along with NST on periodontal status.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors have declared that there is no conflict of interest.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsx.2019.07.042>.

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