



EFFECT OF GAMMA RADIATION ON THE DENTAL PULP OF ALBINO RATS

Light and Electron Microscopic Study

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Dedication

To the souls of my parents and my dear brother, to my dear husband and my lovely kids (Noreen and Yaseen)

List of Contents

	Page
• <i>Introduction</i>	1
• <i>Review of literature</i>	3
- Overview on ionizing radiation	3
- Radiation therapy	5
- Adverse effects of radiation therapy	5
- Caspases and apoptosis	15
- Histology of human dental pulp	18
- Effects of Gamma rays on pulp tissue	28
• <i>Aim of the Study</i>	33
• <i>Materials and methods</i>	34

● <i>Results</i>	
i. Histological results	41
- Toluidine blue results	49
ii. Ultra-structural results	56
iii. Immunohistochemical results	92
iv. Statistical results	99
● <i>Discussion</i>	103
● <i>Summary</i>	115
● <i>Conclusions</i>	120
● <i>References</i>	121
● <i>Arabic Summary</i>	

List of Abbreviations

Rad	Radiation absorbed dose
Gy	Gray
cGy	Centi-Gray
γ-rays	Gamma rays
μm	micrometer
EDTA	Ethylene diamine tetra-acetic Acid
Fig.	Figure
Gp	Group
wks	Weeks
H&E	Haematoxylin and Eosin
mm	millimeter

TMJ	Temporo-Mandibular Joint
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscope
LM	Light microscopy
Od	Odontoblasts
F	Fibroblasts
RBCs	Red blood cells
bv	Blood vessel
CFZ	Cell free zone
CRZ	Cell rich zone
M	Mitochondria
rER	Rough endoplasmic reticulum
V	Vacuolation

C Cytoplasmic clumping

e.c Endothelial cells

nu Nucleus

L Lymphocyte

n Neutrophil

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Fig. No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	A dighram showing the role of Caspase -3 in apoptosis	17
2	A photomicrograph of pulp tissue of the control group (H&E, x 200).	43
3	A photomicrograph of Gp IA pulp tissue (H&E, x200).	44
4	A photomicrograph of Gp IIA pulp tissue (H&E, x 200).	45
5	A photomicrograph of Gp. IB (H&E, x200)	46
6	Aphotomicrograph of pulp tissue of Gp. IIB (H&E, x200)	47
7	A photomicrograph of Gp IC pulp tissue (H&E, x200)	48
8	A photomicrograph of Gp IIC pulp tissue (H&E, x 200)	49
9	A photomicrograph of pulp tissue of the control group (Toluidine Blue, x 200).	50
10	A photomicrograph of Gp IA pulp tissue (Toluidine Blue, x 200).	51
11	A photomicrograph of Gp IIA pulp tissue (Toluidine Blue, x 200).	52
12	photomicrograph of Gp. IB (Toluidine Blue, x200)	53
13	Aphotomicrograph of pulp tissue of Gp. IIB (Toluidine Blue, x200).	54
14	A photomicrograph of Gp IC pulp tissue (Toluidine Blue, x200).	55
15	A photomicrograph of Gp IIC pulp tissue (Toluidine Blue, x 200)	56
16	An electronmicrograph in odontoblastic layer of the control group (x 2000).	58
17	Electronmicrograph of an odontoblast from the control group. (x 10000)	59
18	An odontoblast from the control group. (x 10000)	59
19	Electronmicrograph showing cell junctions between the odontoblasts of the control group. (x 10000)	60
20	Electronmicrograph from pulp core of the control Gp. (x 4000)	60
21	A photomicrograph of a single fibroblast of control Gp. (x 10000)	61
22	Electrommicrograph of control Gp. showing collagen fibers around a fibroblast . (x 15000)	61
23	Blood vessels in control group. (x 2000)	62
24	Myelinated nerves in control group. (x 1500)	62
25	Higher mag. of a nerve fiber from the control Gp. (x 60000)	63
26	Electronmicrograph of Gp IA showing odontoblasts. (x	64

	1200)	
27	Electronmicrograph of single odontoblasts from Gp IA. (x 2000)	64
28	Electronmicrograph of Gp IA showing, fibroblasts.(x 2000)	65
29	Electronmicrograph of a single fibroblast of GP IA. (x 6000)	66
30	Electron micrograph of Gp IA showing blood vessel.(x 2500)	67
31	Electron micrograph of Gp IA showing, A nerve fiber. (x 2500)	67
32	Electronmicrograph of Gp IIA showing, irregular odontoblasts .(x 1200)	68
33	Electronmicrograph of a single odontoblast of Gp IIA. (x 2000)	69
34	Electronmicrograph of Gp IIA showing Fibroblasts. (x1500)	70
35	Electronmicrograph of Gp IIA showing a mast cell (x 1200)	71
36	Electronmicrograph of Gp IIA showing inflammatory cells. (x 1500)	71
37	Electronmicrograph of Gp IIA showing blood vessel. (x750)	72
38	Electronmicrograph of Gp IIA showing the nerve fibers and lymphocytes (L). (x 1500)	72
39	Electronmicrograph of Gp IB at the pulp-predentin border showing, discontinuous odontoblastic layer. (x 4000)	73
40	An electronmicrograph of a retained odontoblast of Gp IB. (x 10000)	74
41	Electronmicrograph of Gp IB showing, a fibroblast from pulp core .(x 8000)	75
42	Electronmicrograph of Gp IB showing a blood vessel. (x 2000)	76
43	An Electronmicrograph of Gp IB that showed a nerve fiber. (x 3000)	76
44	Electron micrograph of Gp IIB showing remnants of widely spaced odontoblasts. (x 4000)	78
45	Electron micrograph of Gp IIB showing fibroblasts in degenerative stages.(x 8000)	78
46	Electron micrograph of Gp IIB showing blood vessel. (x 8000)	79
47	Electron micrograph of Gp IIB showing nerve fibers. (x 4000)	79
48	An electronmicrograph of Gp. IC showing continuous odontoblast layer with palisaded pattern.(x 1200)	81

49	Another electronmicrograph of odontoblasts of Gp IC. (x10000)	82
50	An electronmicrograph of Gp. IC showing showing a fibroblast. (x 4000)	82
51	An electronmicrograph of Gp. IC showing collagen fibers. (x 7500)	83
52	An electronmicrograph of Gp. IC showing blood vessel and nerve fiber. (x 8000)	83
53	An electronmicrograph of Gp. IC showing plasma cell. (x 4000)	84
54	An electronmicrograph of Gp. IC showing mast cell. (x 4000)	84
55	Odontoblastic layer of Gp. IIC .(x 5000)	86
56	Electronmicrograph of Gp. IIC showing a fibroblast surrounded by collagen fibers. (x 15000)	87
57	Electronmicrograph of Gp. IIC showing a blood vessel. (x 750)	87
58	Electronmicrograph of Gp. IIC showing nerve fibers. (x 1500)	88
59	Electronmicrograph of Gp. IIC showing lymphocytes. (x 2000)	88
60	Electronmicrograph of Gp. IIC showing an eosinophil with its characteristic ovoid granules (Peroxisomes). (x 4000)	89
61	Electronmicrograph of Gp. IIC showing a neutrophil with its characteristic granules. (x 4000)	89
62	Electronmicrograph of Gp.IIC showing a macrophage with many lysosomes in the cytoplasm . (x 2500	90
63	Coronal pulp of the immunostained control group (x 400).	93
64	A photomicrograph of immunostained coronal pulp of Gp IA (x 400).	94
65	A photomicrograph of immunostained coronal pulp of Gp II A (x 400)	95

66	A photomicrograph of immunostained coronal pulp of Gp I B (x 400)	96
67	A photomicrograph of immunostained coronal pulp of Gp II B (x 400)	97
68	Photomicrograph of immunostained coronal pulp of Gp IC (x 400)	98
69	Immunostained section of pulp tissue of Gp II (x 400).	99
70	A histogram showing the mean area percentage difference between groups in their immunopositivity for active caspase-3.	102

INTRODUCTION

Radiation therapy for malignant tumors of the head and neck is widely accepted as an efficient mode of treatment, when used alone or in combination with surgery and/or chemotherapy. Unfortunately, radiation injury is not limited to tumor cells but it also affects to varying degrees all cells in the beam field (**Timothy Sweeney et al., 1977**). In the oral and paraoral region this iatrogenic injury may take the form of xerostomia secondary to salivary gland injury, osteoradionecrosis secondary to bone injury and growth disturbances associated with injury of the cartilage at condylar growth center (**Constantino et al., 1995**), mucositis due to damage to oral mucosa and disturbances in the formation of developing teeth (**Scully and Epstein, 1996**).

From many perspectives, dental health is directly related to the health of a unique tissue; that is, dental pulp. Dentin and pulp are anatomically and functionally integrated, they are often referred to as the pulpodentin complex. The pulp also interacts with other tissues such as the periodontium and even the central nervous system. In addition to its clinical implications, dental pulp is worthy of study from a scientific

perspective. Basic science research on dental pulp has recognized several unique features of this tissue. Its location within relatively hard, unyielding walls, its particular vascular supply and dynamic cellular content have led to an increasing interest in its responses to various types of injuries and bacterial infection (**Pashley 1996**).

There was a contradictory and scarce finding in the literature regarding the effect of ionizing radiation on dental pulp tissue. However, any disturbance in the pulp tissue leading to infection may pre-dispose to osteoradionecrosis, which is the most serious complication of head and neck radiotherapy (**De Moor 2000**).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The ionizing radiation is emitted by radio-active elements and by equipment such as X-ray and radiation therapy machines. Radiation includes either high energy electromagnetic waves as x-rays and gamma rays), or particles a alpha particles, beta particles and neutrons (Nussbaum and Wolfgang 1994).

Measurements of radiation according to Canadian Center for occupational health & safety are classified into: Radiation absorbed dose (Rad): is the amount of radiation energy absorbed per unit mass.

Gray (Gy): equals 100 rads.

Centigray (cGy): equals 1/10 Gy.

Gamma rays (denoted as γ) were discovered by Paul Villard, a French chemist and physicist, in 1900, while studying some radioactive materials. Gamma rays are form of electromagnetic radiation which has the highest frequency and the shortest wavelength within the electromagnetic spectrum. These rays consist of high energy photons with energies above about 100 kV.