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Maxillary sinus augmentation in humans using cortical porcine bone: a histological and histomorphometrical evaluation after 4 and 6 months

LATERAL ACCESS SINUS LIFT

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A Scarano[1]
A Piattelli[1]
V Perrotti[1]
L Manzon[2]
G Iezzi[1]

1 | Dental School, University of Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy
2 | Department of Dental Materials, "Sapienza" University of Rome, Rome, Italy

ABSTRACT

Bone substitutes, such as allografts, xenografts, and alloplasts, have been proposed in several augmentation procedures as an alternative to autogenous bone. Although autogenous bone is considered as the gold standard, its use has several disadvantages: a limited availability, a tendency to partially resorb, the need for an additional surgery, and the increased morbidity.

Among the bone substitutes available on the market, OsteoBiol® *Apatos* (Tecnoss®, Giaveno, Italy) is a xenogeneic bone substitute consisting of sterilized cortical porcine bone in form of particles with a high porosity and with a diameter ranging from 600 to 1000 μm. This biomaterial is similar to human bone, and it has been reported, in humans, to be osteoconductive, well integrated in the host site and incompletely resorbed after 5 months, and with no signs of adverse reactions in a rabbit study. All sinuses have been augmented with porcine cortical bone particles (*Apatos*) mixed with sterile saline solution and blood. A resorbable membrane (OsteoBiol® *Evolution*, Tecnoss®) was positioned while closing the packed sinus window. The aim of the present study was to perform histologic and histomorphometric evaluation of 77 specimens retrieved 4 or 6 months after sinus augmentation using cortical porcine bone augmentation material. The specimens were processed to be observed under light microscopy. Histomorphometric measurements after 6 months showed: 31,4±2,6% newly formed bone, 34,3±3,1% marrow spaces, 37,6±2,2% residual graft.

The results of the evaluations confirmed the good biocompatibility and high osteoconductivity of this porcine biomaterial. Most of the grafted biomaterial particles were surrounded by newly formed bone, and no gaps or connective, fibrous tissues were found at the biomaterial-bone interface. There were no sign of inflammatory or other adverse reactions in the bone formed.

CONCLUSIONS

The present results show that cortical porcine bone is a biocompatible, osteoconductive biomaterial than can promote the formation of new bone, even in maxillary sinus augmentation procedures, without interfering with bone regeneration.

As this was a histological and histomorphometrical study only, in their conclusions the Authors anticipated that the long-term outcomes - that will be reported in a separate manuscript - were satisfactory in comparison to studies using other graft materials.

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