

The use of concentrated growth factor in dental implantology: A systematic review

Bhavna Vasudev Lokwani, Deeksha Gupta, Reema Sarvesh Agrawal¹, Sonal Mehta, Narendra J. Nirmal

Departments of Prosthodontics and ¹Public Health Dentistry, Manubhai Patel Dental College, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Abstract

In the era of evidence based dentistry, a well-documented consolidated data about improvements in dentistry is a necessity. Concentrated growth factor (CGF) is an emerging trend in periodontology and now in implant dentistry. Various studies have been published in the literature evaluating the effect of CGF on implant osseointegration, implant stability, survival rate, sinus augmentation, and peri-implant defects. However, no systematic review has yet been documented. The present systematic review, being first of its kind, aimed to evaluate the potential outcomes of employing CGF in implant treatment. A literature search was carried out in PubMed and Google scholar for articles published between 2001 and 2019, with various keywords such as “CGF,” “dental implant,” “bone regeneration,” “CGF,” and “osseointegration.” The screening of studies was done according to PRISMA guidelines. A total of eleven studies were included in this review. Majority of the included studies pointed toward the beneficial effects of CGF in implant treatment. CGF was seen to promote osseointegration and enhance bone regeneration. Although more clinical studies are required to validate the potential merits of CGF in the long run, the preliminary results seem promising.

Keywords: Bone regeneration, concentrated growth factor and osseointegration, concentrated growth factor, dental implant

Address for correspondence: Dr. Deeksha Gupta, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown and Bridge, Manubhai Patel Dental College, Vadodara - 390 020, Gujarat, India.

E-mail: dr.deeksha.sharma@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Dental implants have come a long way in reinstating the comfort and health of the stomatognathic system. A very good success rate of 94% has been documented for implant-supported prosthesis.^[1] However, it is not uncommon to encounter cases with qualitative and quantitative reduction of alveolar bone. The best way to ensure the predictability of implant treatment in such cases is enhancing osseointegration. Various methods in the literature have been proposed to facilitate this process,

including alteration of implant topography, surface morphology, roughness, surface energy, strain hardening, chemical composition, the presence of impurities, thickness of titanium oxide layer and the presence of nonmetal and metal composites.^[2] Another method of accelerating osseointegration is the modulation of healing after the placement of implant. This is where bioactive molecules called growth factors (GFs) come in picture.^[3]

Platelets are a natural source of GFs including platelet-derived GF, transforming GF (TGF)- β 1 and β 2

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(TGF- β 2), fibroblast GF, vascular endothelial GF, and the insulin-like GF which stimulate cell proliferation, matrix remodeling, and angiogenesis.^[4] Concentrated GF (CGF) was developed by Sacco in the year 2006.^[5] It is produced by centrifuging venous blood, as a result of which the platelets are concentrated in a gel layer, comprising of a fibrin matrix rich in GFs and leukocytes.^[6] CGF acts by degranulation of the alpha granules in platelets which play a vital role in early wound healing.^[7] It has been found that CGF contains more GFs than the other platelet-based preparations such as platelet rich fibrin (PRF) and platelet-rich plasma (PRP), and unlike PRP, CGF does not dissolve rapidly following application.^[8] Qin *et al.* proved that CGF could release GFs for at least 13 days.^[9] *In vitro* studies have established the beneficial effects of CGF in promoting bone regeneration around implants.^[10,11] Animal studies have also reported its potential merits.^[6,12,13]

The literature comprises of several case reports, case series, prospective, and retrospective studies which outline the advantages of using CGF for bone regeneration.^[14-16] However, there is no systematic review analyzing the potential benefits of CGF in dental implantology. Therefore, this systematic review was planned to retrieve a detailed data pool from the published literature to consolidate information on the effects of CGF in implant dentistry.

The focused question was formulated according to the PRISMA Guidelines. The P: Problem/Population, I: Intervention, C: Comparison, O: Outcome, S: Study design question framed was: “Is there any additional benefit of CGF on guided bone regeneration and implant therapy over traditional approaches in terms of clinical, histological and radiographic outcomes?” The study designs of interest were randomized controlled clinical studies, prospective and retrospective studies [Table 1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Our study was conducted based on the guidelines of the Cochrane Collaboration.^[17]

Search strategy

The initial electronic literature search was independently conducted by two investigators (BL and DG) from January 2001 to October 2019, using MEDLINE (PubMed) and Google Scholar for articles in English language published in journals of dentistry using following search terms: “CGF and dental implants,” “CGF and dental implants and bone regeneration,” “CGF and osseointegration” “CGF in implant dentistry,” “CGF and dental implant NOT plasma rich fibrin.” The search filters were not restricted by design or

Table 1: PICOS Question for the Study

Domain	Description
Focus question	Is there any additional benefit of CGF on guided bone regeneration and implant therapy over traditional approaches in terms of clinical, histological, and radiographic outcomes?
Population	Human subjects with lack of alveolar bone and need of implant therapy (immediate placement or conventional)
Intervention	Use of CGF alone or in combination with a graft material in guided bone regeneration techniques and implant therapy
Comparison	Respective surgical procedure without CGF or change in baseline data using CGF
Outcome	Alveolar bone regeneration, soft tissue healing, osseointegration, implant stability, vertical bone gain, and implant survival rate
Study design	Randomized controlled clinical trials, prospective study, and retrospective study

CGF: Concentrated growth factor

region. The results were limited to human studies. For Google scholar, the keywords were identified through the “advanced search” option appearing “anywhere in the article.”

The “related articles” option in the search engines was used. An additional hand search was carried out including the bibliographies of the selected papers and other narrative and systematic reviews.

Inclusion criteria

1. Studies designed as randomized controlled trials (RCTs), retrospective and prospective clinical studies
2. Studies evaluating placement of dental implant/s in human participants
3. Studies with an observation time of at least 3 months after implant placement
4. Studies evaluating clinical and radiographic changes after use of CGF.

Exclusion criteria

1. Implant studies carried out on animal subjects
2. *In vitro* or bench research studies including finite element analysis
3. Case series, case reports, or review articles
4. Studies which did not have full text retrievable
5. Duplicate studies.

Screening and selection of studies

Publication records and titles identified by the electronic search and hand search were independently screened by two reviewers (BL and DG) based on the inclusion criteria. Discrepancies were solved by discussion including a third reviewer (Rheumatoid arthritis [RA]). Cohen’s Kappa coefficient was used as a measure of agreement between the readers. Thereafter, full texts of the selected abstracts were obtained. The two reviewers independently performed the

screening process, and then, articles that met the inclusion criteria were processed for data extraction.

Data extraction and quality assessment

The data extraction was done based on the inclusion criteria. The studies were classified according to study design and outcome variables. Then, outcomes were compiled in tables. All extracted data were double-checked, and any questions that came up during the screening and the data extraction were discussed within the authors to aim for consensus. Two reviewers (BL and DG) independently evaluated the methodological quality of all included studies. Any disagreement was discussed with the third reviewer (RA) until consensus was achieved.

The Newcastle–Ottawa scale was used to assess the methodological quality of the included prospective and retrospective cohort and case–control studies [Table 2].^[18] The Jadad scale was used for assessing RCTs [Table 3].^[27]

RESULTS

After the independent screening process by two reviewers, the inter-rater agreement was calculated by Cohen’s Kappa coefficient as 0.82 indicative of almost perfect agreement.

Selection of studies

A total of 2029 studies were identified from the initial search through the databases. After removal of the duplicate records ($n = 944$), 388 articles were screened. Twenty-two full-text articles were then assessed for eligibility separately by two different authors (BL and DG), of which 11 were selected to be included in the final review [Figure 1 and Table 4].

For all the included studies, the data were tabulated with information about the type of study, year of publication, duration of study, number of patients and implants, site of operation, the test and control group of each study, and the result obtained. Because of high heterogeneity present in the included studies with regard to outcome measures and study designs, a meta-analysis was not feasible. The included studies were divided into different categories depending on the outcome variables they measured [Tables 5–8].

Alveolar bone gain:

Six included studies depicted alveolar bone regeneration which could easily be identified through subsequent radiographs.^[19–23,28] The bone gain was seen in various forms such as decrease in the vertical defect depth after 12 months as analyzed through computer software,^[28] or simply as vertical bone gain by increase in bone height around the implants measured from specific points^[19–23]

Table 2: Quality assessment of the prospective and retrospective nonrandomized studies using Newcastle–Ottawa scale

Study (year)	Selection	Comparability	Outcome
Kim <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[19]	***	*	***
Manoj <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[20]	***	**	***
Shetty <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[21]	***	**	***
Yang <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[22]	***	*	***
Chen <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[23]	***	*	***
Özveri Koyuncu <i>et al.</i> (2019) ^[24]	***	**	***
Pirpir <i>et al.</i> (2017) ^[25]	***	**	***
Sohn <i>et al.</i> (2017) ^[26]	***	*	***

*, **, *** is the quality assessment score according to Newcastle-Ottawa Scale

Table 3: Quality assessment of Randomized controlled studies using Jadad scale

	Isler <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[28]	Inchingolo <i>et al.</i> (2017) ^[29]	Forabosco <i>et al.</i> (2019) ^[30]
Jadad score	1	1	1
Quality of study	Low	Low	Low

Table 4: List of excluded articles with reasons for exclusion

Excluded articles	Reason for exclusion
Anitua <i>et al.</i> , 2008 ^[31]	Modified implant surface with growth factors
Mansour and Kim 2010 ^[32]	Review article
Anitua 2001 ^[33]	Case series
Gheno <i>et al.</i> , 2014 ^[34]	Case series
Neamat <i>et al.</i> , 2017 ^[35]	Case report
Sohn 2009 ^[36]	Case series
Del Fabbro <i>et al.</i> , 2009 ^[37]	Coated implant surface with platelet rich growth factors
Huang <i>et al.</i> , 2018 ^[38]	Study does not use implants
Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2011 ^[39]	Full text in Chinese language, only abstract available in English
Javid <i>et al.</i> , 2019 ^[40]	Case series

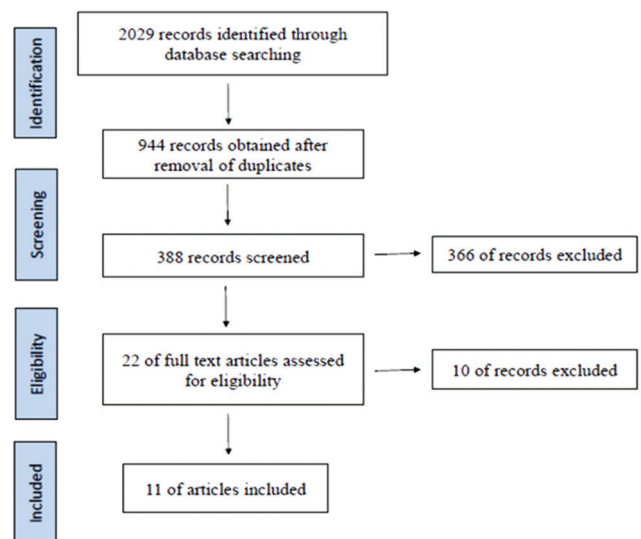


Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart for study selection

Table 5: Included studies: Bone gain around implant

Study (year)	Type of study	Duration of study	No. of patients (implants)	Site of operation	Groups T: Test group C: Control group	Outcome (mean±SD)
Isler S <i>et al</i> (2018)	RCT	12 months	52 (52)	Not specified	T=CGF C=Collagen membrane (Bio Guide)	T=1.63±1.00 mm C=1.98±0.75 mm P=0.154 (NS)
Kim J <i>et al</i> (2014)	Retrospective study	23.8 weeks	10 (16)	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF No control group	T=8.236±2.88 mm, varying from 4.2-12.7 mm. P<0.05 (S)
S Manoj <i>et al</i> (2018)	Prospective study	6 months	10 (10)	Mandibular posterior	T=CGF No control group	T=2.7 mm (mesial), 4.26 mm (distal), 2.3 mm (buccal) and 1.52 mm (lingual), P<0.05 (S)
Shetty M <i>et al</i> (2018)	Prospective study	6 months	20	Maxillary posterior	T: CGF C: Without CGF	T=1.932±2.22 (mesial), 2.621±1.76 (distal), 3.864±1.51 (palatal), 4.417±2.01 (buccal)
Yang L <i>et al</i> (2014)	Prospective study	12 months	20 (20)	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF C=Bio-oss	T=0.85±0.25mm C=0.35±0.25mm. P<0.05 (S)
Chen Y <i>et al</i> (2016)	Retrospective study	2 years with follow up at 19.88 months	16 (25)	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF No control group	T=9.21±0.66 mm. P<0.05 (S)

Table 6: Included studies: Implant stability quotient measurement

Study (year)	Type of study	Duration of study	No. of patients (implants)	Site of operation	Groups T: Test group C: Control group	Outcome (mean±SD)															
Koyuncu B <i>et al</i> (2019)	Prospective study	4 weeks	12 (24)	Mandible	T=CGF C=Without CGF	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>T</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Immediate:</td> <td>67.75 ± 10.074</td> <td>62.08 ± 7.489</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st week:</td> <td>64.00 ± 10.081</td> <td>62.67 ± 6.213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd week:</td> <td>63.00 ± 9.313</td> <td>61.75 ± 7.162</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th week:</td> <td>67.00 ± 4.573</td> <td>64.75 ± 5.065</td> </tr> </table>		T	C	Immediate:	67.75 ± 10.074	62.08 ± 7.489	1 st week:	64.00 ± 10.081	62.67 ± 6.213	2 nd week:	63.00 ± 9.313	61.75 ± 7.162	4 th week:	67.00 ± 4.573	64.75 ± 5.065
	T	C																			
Immediate:	67.75 ± 10.074	62.08 ± 7.489																			
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2 nd week:	63.00 ± 9.313	61.75 ± 7.162																			
4 th week:	67.00 ± 4.573	64.75 ± 5.065																			
Pirpir C <i>et al</i> (2017)	Prospective study	4 weeks	12 (40)	Maxillary anterior and premolar region	T=CGF C=without CGF	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>T</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Immediate:</td> <td>78.00 ± 2.828</td> <td>75.75 ± 5.552</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st week:</td> <td>79.40 ± 2.604</td> <td>73.50 ± 5.226</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd week:</td> <td>78.60 ± 3.136</td> <td>73.45 ± 5.680</td> </tr> </table>		T	C	Immediate:	78.00 ± 2.828	75.75 ± 5.552	1 st week:	79.40 ± 2.604	73.50 ± 5.226	2 nd week:	78.60 ± 3.136	73.45 ± 5.680			
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1 st week:	79.40 ± 2.604	73.50 ± 5.226																			
2 nd week:	78.60 ± 3.136	73.45 ± 5.680																			

or even as increase in bone width measured from implant shoulder to the apical point [Table 5].^[22]

Implant stability quotient:

Two of the included studies measured implant stability quotient (ISQ).^[24,25] Measurements were taken through resonance frequency analysis using the Osstell® device at the time of implant placement and at the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks^[24] and at the 1st and 4th weeks after implant placement [Table 6].^[25]

Bone density around implant threads:

The quality of bone formed around implant threads was assessed through radiographic analysis in two studies.^[20,21] Another study employed the texture analysis of panoramic radiographs comparing the results obtained immediately after implant placement and after 8 months postoperatively as area under curve.^[29] All the three studies concluded that CGF had a positive impact on the quality of bone formed around implants [Table 7].

Implant survival rate:

The survival rate of implants was measured in six of the included studies.^[19-21,23,26,30] It was determined on the basis of number of complications during the follow-up period of the study. All the studies showed a high survival rate of almost 100% for implants placed along with CGF [Table 8].

DISCUSSION

The literature has a dearth of studies determining the effects of CGF and their potential role in implant dentistry. The present systematic review, being first of its kind, was conducted to contribute to the literature of evidence-based dentistry. The aim was to evaluate the clinical indications of CGF in all fields of dental implantology such as alveolar bone gain, improved bone quality around implants, enhancement of osseointegration, maxillary sinus augmentation, achievement of implant stability and implant survival rate.

CGF is now emerging as a viable treatment option due to various reasons. First, it has the capability for

Table 7: Included studies: Bone density around implants

Study (year)	Type of study	Duration of study	No. of patients (implants)	Site of operation	Groups		Outcome (mean±SD)															
					T: Test group	C: Control group	First two threads		Last two threads													
S Manoj <i>et al</i> (2018)	Prospective study	6 months	10 (10)	Mandibular posterior	T=CGF No control group	Apical 2 nd last thread	Apical last thread	Crestal 1 st thread	Crestal 2 nd thread	11.5 ± 11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	-580.9 ± 516.98 ± -295 ± 520.55 ± -475.2 ± 638.65 ± -552.3 ± 696.36 ± P<0.05	-801.9 ± 568.526 ± -371.8 ± 844.40 ± -360.5 ± 662.286 ± -513.5 ± 347.91 ± P<0.05	except in lingual (S)	except in lingual and mesial (S)							
																Buccal:	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	-580.9 ± 516.98 ± -295 ± 520.55 ± -475.2 ± 638.65 ± -552.3 ± 696.36 ± P<0.05	-801.9 ± 568.526 ± -371.8 ± 844.40 ± -360.5 ± 662.286 ± -513.5 ± 347.91 ± P<0.05	except in lingual (S)	except in lingual and mesial (S)
																Lingual:	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	-580.9 ± 516.98 ± -295 ± 520.55 ± -475.2 ± 638.65 ± -552.3 ± 696.36 ± P<0.05	-801.9 ± 568.526 ± -371.8 ± 844.40 ± -360.5 ± 662.286 ± -513.5 ± 347.91 ± P<0.05	except in lingual (S)	except in lingual and mesial (S)
																Mesial:	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	-580.9 ± 516.98 ± -295 ± 520.55 ± -475.2 ± 638.65 ± -552.3 ± 696.36 ± P<0.05	-801.9 ± 568.526 ± -371.8 ± 844.40 ± -360.5 ± 662.286 ± -513.5 ± 347.91 ± P<0.05	except in lingual (S)	except in lingual and mesial (S)
																Distal:	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	-580.9 ± 516.98 ± -295 ± 520.55 ± -475.2 ± 638.65 ± -552.3 ± 696.36 ± P<0.05	-801.9 ± 568.526 ± -371.8 ± 844.40 ± -360.5 ± 662.286 ± -513.5 ± 347.91 ± P<0.05	except in lingual (S)	except in lingual and mesial (S)
																Distal:	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	11.5 ± 559.55 ± 175.5 ± 501.12 ± 64.8 ± 352.89 ± 276 ± 520.95 ± 520.95 ± P>0.05 (NS)	-580.9 ± 516.98 ± -295 ± 520.55 ± -475.2 ± 638.65 ± -552.3 ± 696.36 ± P<0.05	-801.9 ± 568.526 ± -371.8 ± 844.40 ± -360.5 ± 662.286 ± -513.5 ± 347.91 ± P<0.05	except in lingual (S)	except in lingual and mesial (S)
Shetty M <i>et al</i> (2018)	Prospective study	6 months	20	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF C= Without CGF	Test group	Control group	Test group	Control group	874.2 ± 338.84 ± 1049.8 ± 434.12 ± 593.3 ± 406.75 ± 597.6 ± 315.38	531.8 ± 151.12 ± 652.5 ± 147.30 ± 573.5 ± 150.83 ± 485 ± 98.88	1027.1 ± 325.89 ± 1020.7 ± 249.16 ± 838.5 ± 372.89 ± 764.8 ± 340.62	569.3 ± 167.36 ± 655.3 ± 225.74 ± 550.7 ± 81.34 ± 472.6 ± 83.66									
																Buccal:	874.2 ± 338.84 ± 1049.8 ± 434.12 ± 593.3 ± 406.75 ± 597.6 ± 315.38	531.8 ± 151.12 ± 652.5 ± 147.30 ± 573.5 ± 150.83 ± 485 ± 98.88	1027.1 ± 325.89 ± 1020.7 ± 249.16 ± 838.5 ± 372.89 ± 764.8 ± 340.62	569.3 ± 167.36 ± 655.3 ± 225.74 ± 550.7 ± 81.34 ± 472.6 ± 83.66		
																Palatal:	874.2 ± 338.84 ± 1049.8 ± 434.12 ± 593.3 ± 406.75 ± 597.6 ± 315.38	531.8 ± 151.12 ± 652.5 ± 147.30 ± 573.5 ± 150.83 ± 485 ± 98.88	1027.1 ± 325.89 ± 1020.7 ± 249.16 ± 838.5 ± 372.89 ± 764.8 ± 340.62	569.3 ± 167.36 ± 655.3 ± 225.74 ± 550.7 ± 81.34 ± 472.6 ± 83.66		
																Mesial:	874.2 ± 338.84 ± 1049.8 ± 434.12 ± 593.3 ± 406.75 ± 597.6 ± 315.38	531.8 ± 151.12 ± 652.5 ± 147.30 ± 573.5 ± 150.83 ± 485 ± 98.88	1027.1 ± 325.89 ± 1020.7 ± 249.16 ± 838.5 ± 372.89 ± 764.8 ± 340.62	569.3 ± 167.36 ± 655.3 ± 225.74 ± 550.7 ± 81.34 ± 472.6 ± 83.66		
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Inchingolo <i>et al</i> (2017)	RCT	8 months	19	Not specified	T=CGF C= Without CGF	T= 0.82 AUC (Area Under Curve) C= 0.51-0.68 AUC (Area Under Curve)																

Table 8: Included studies: Implant survival rate

Study (year)	Type of study	Duration of study	No. of patients (implants)	Site of operation	Groups		Outcome
					T: Test group	C: Control group	
Forabosco A <i>et al</i> (2019)	RCT	12 months	50 (106)	Maxillary posterior	T=xenograft + CGF C=xenograft alone		T=96.4% survival rate C=96.1% survival rate P>0.05 (NS)
Sohn D <i>et al</i> (2011)	Prospective study	10 months	53 (113)	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF No control group		T=98.2% survival rate
S Manoj <i>et al</i> (2018)	Prospective study	6 months	10 (10)	Mandibular posterior	T=CGF No control group		T=100%
Shetty M <i>et al</i> (2018)	Prospective study	6 months	20	Maxillary posterior	T: CGF C: Without CGF		T=100% C=100%
Kim J <i>et al</i> (2014)	Retrospective study	23.8 weeks	10 (16)	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF No control group		T=100%
Chen Y <i>et al</i> (2016)	Retrospective study	2 years with follow up at 19.88 months	16 (25)	Maxillary posterior	T=CGF No control group		T=100%

extended release of GFs, presenting a stronger effect on enhancement of wound healing around implants.^[9] Second, it can be used alone or in combination with synthetic graft materials and facilitate osseointegration.^[20,21] Third, it is easy to prepare and manipulate, and it is inexpensive.^[41] The various outcomes discussed in the included studies show a positive trend toward the use of CGF in implant dentistry, although statistically significant conclusion cannot be drawn.

Alveolar bone regeneration

The primary aim to employ CGF for bone augmentation is to facilitate implant placement in a prosthetically driven position. Two studies^[19,23] evaluated the vertical bone gain after sinus augmentation and reported positive outcomes. In both the studies, the technique used for sinus augmentation was different, but the graft material utilized was CGF. Sohn *et al.*^[15] reported that CGF induced fast new bone formation in sinus augmentation. Furthermore,

Sohn *et al.* proved in a clinical and histological evaluation that CGF, as a sole material, when inserted alone in sinus augmentation, induced rapid new bone formation in the new compartment under the elevated sinus membrane through the transcresal and the lateral approaches.^[26,42] As the result, bone regeneration along the implant body was evident radiographically and statistically significant.

Two other studies^[21,28] revealed new alveolar bone formation for CGF group at the follow-up period of 12 months when compared to baseline values. Although the control group exhibited greater bone formation than the test group, the results were not statistically significant.

The study by Yang *et al.*^[22] showed improved buccal bone width after 1 year of immediate implant placement. This has been attributed to the GFs in CGF which regulate wound healing, cell proliferation, and cell migration. Furthermore, another study revealed vertical bone gain on all four aspects (buccal, lingual, mesial, and distal) after immediate implant placement.^[20] The jumping distance was filled with CGF because it provides for higher fibrin tensile strength and stability due to agglutination of fibrinogen, factor XIII and thrombin.^[43] Furthermore, CGF acted as barrier membrane to accelerate soft tissue healing, and when mixed with bone graft, it could accelerate new bone formation.^[20]

Implant stability quotient

Investigators have recommended that implants with ISQ <49 measured when placed should not be loaded during the 3-month healing period; implants with ISQ \geq 54 may be loaded.^[25] In some studies, there is a meaningful reduction in ISQ values measured sometime after the placement of implants.^[44-46] Subsequently, there can be an increase in the value indicating greater stability. This increase or decrease is due to continuous alveolar bone remodeling during healing. In one of the included studies, an increase in the ISQ values was seen in the test group.^[25] This suggested that CGF administration improved the implant primary stability by accelerating the osseointegration process. However, another study did not report any significant benefits of CGF on improving Implant stability.^[24] Similarly, Ergun *et al.*^[47] evaluated the effect of local application of PRP on the outcome of early loaded implants and found no statistically significant differences between ISQ values of PRP and non-PRP implants in the follow-up periods. However, Dohan Ehrenfest DM.^[48] reported in a different experimental study that L-PRF usage during implant placement may enhance and increase the wound healing and early implant stability. Hence, while studies may indicate the use of CGF for

implant stability, conclusive results can still not be drawn. Therefore, the use of CGF remains questionable with regard to implant stability.

Bone density around implants

The quality of bone formed around implants is indicative of implant osseointegration activity. In two studies,^[20,21] bone density of the newly formed bone around implants was measured using CBCT in Hounsfield units. Both the studies revealed a significant increase in bone volume. The test group showed better statistically significant bone quality as compared to the control group which was attributed to the faster bone formation with CGF as observed by Kim *et al.*^[6] Another study^[29] employed textural analysis (an intensity based registration method that utilized the mean square error metric) to compensate any minor geometrical distortions between the two panoramic radiographs (preoperative and postoperative) of each patient. The results revealed that the CGF group exhibited higher values indicating increased osseointegration activity in the bone-to-implant region. Thus, the positive outcome obtained from the three studies could be attributed to the fact that CGF induced increased osteoblastic differentiation promoting early osseointegration.

Implant survival

The success of implant restorations is determined on the implant stability and absence of complications during the follow-up period. Six studies measured the implant survival rate.^[19-21,23,26,30] Two studies^[20,21] reported a 100% survival rate at 6 months. One retrospective study^[23] concluded that all implants were stable and pain free with 100% survival rate over a period of around 20 weeks. However, in a RCT,^[30] two implants were lost in both, the test group and the control group, indicating a survival rate of 96.4% in test group and 96.1% in control. After maxillary sinus augmentation, a survival rate of 98.2% has been reported after 10 months in a study^[19] because of membrane perforation occurring in a few cases. Very similar outcomes were also obtained in an investigation, in which autologous fibrin-rich blocks with CGFs without grafting materials were used in the sinus augmentation by lateral window approach.^[49] Another study has demonstrated that both PRF and CGF preparations contain significant amounts of GFs capable of stimulating periosteal cell proliferation,^[50] suggesting that PRF and CGF preparations act not only as a scaffolding material but also as a reservoir to deliver certain GFs at the site of application.^[26]

Although statistically significant conclusions cannot be drawn, a higher recovery limit of CGF (due to its

osseoinductive platelet factors and osseointegrative fibrin grid) can still be considered as a potential benefit for use in dental implantology.^[51]

CONCLUSION

Based on limited studies with a limited statistical power, the present systematic review suggests that:

1. CGF might aid in obtaining vertical bone gain around implants, when used alone or in combination with allogeneous and xenogeneous grafts
2. The quality of new bone formed around implants is significantly improved with the use of CGF
3. There is lack of adequate studies evaluating the effect of CGF on implant stability, sinus floor augmentation, soft tissue healing and implant survival *per se*, although the preliminary data seems promising.

Future directions

The studies included in this review are limited, and thus, the clinical relevance of the measured outcomes remains questionable. Some may suggest the use of CGF in all fields of implant dentistry, but the potential benefits cannot yet be established. Well-designed RCTs with long-term follow-ups are required to substantiate the findings due to the present study limitations.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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