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To Evaluate the Efficacy of Various Bioactive Materials in Pulpal Regeneration Treatment for Permanent Dentition in Pediatric Patients - A Systematic Review

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ABSTRACT

Background and Objectives

The current systematic review aimed to evaluate the efficacy of various bioactive materials in pulpal regeneration treatment for immature permanent dentition (6-18 years of age), according to the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) criteria.

Materials and Methods

The study protocol was registered on PROSPERO and adhered to the PRISMA guidelines. The research question was based on PICO format and an electronic search was carried out on MEDLINE/PubMed, and Cochrane databases till Oct 2024. Manual search using Google Scholar was also conducted to retrieve any additional article. A total of 22 studies that met the pre-defined inclusion criteria were then finalized for review.

Results

According to data retrieved from present review, the commonly used bioactive materials were calcium hydroxide (Ca (OH)₂), mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA), platelet-rich plasma (PRP), and platelet-rich fibrin (PRF). The final restorative materials used were glass ionomer cement and composite resin. Clinical success was reported in over 90% of cases, with consistent radiographic evidence of increased dentin thickness, closure of apical foramen, and periapical healing.

Conclusion

The review findings support the regenerative potential of biomaterials in endodontic treatment of permanent immature teeth, hence improving the overall prognosis. However, further studies are needed, through well-designed, multi-centre RCTs, that can help in the validation of these findings and standardization of treatment protocols.

Keywords:

Bioactive materials, pulp regeneration, pulp revascularization, regenerative endodontics

INTRODUCTION

Immature permanent teeth with necrotic pulp pose distinctive clinical challenges (1). These teeth are more susceptible to fracture due to incomplete root structure and thin dentinal walls, making it difficult to carry out root canal treatment (2). Regenerative endodontic therapy (RET) is a biologically driven technique to manage immature permanent teeth with necrotic pulp. It promotes dentinal wall thickening, periapical healing, and root maturation hence regenerating the pulp-dentin complex (3). Whereas traditional methods such as apexification intend to arrest root completion, RET encourages uninterrupted growth, minimizing the risk of fracture thereby improving the overall longevity & prognosis. It uses scaffolds, stem cells, and growth factors, to regenerate the tooth tissues thereby restoring the vitality (4). The key factors that determine the success of RET is the scaffold material used (5). A natural scaffold for cell growth is achieved by inducing bleeding in the root canal. This revascularization aims to restore blood flow to the pulpal canal, enhancing cell proliferation and tissue healing (6). Studies have highlighted that survival rates exceeding 93% and success rates above 80% for regenerative endodontic treatment (RET), highlighting its efficacy in comparison with the conventional methods (7). Since the formation of a stable clot is the prerequisite for the success of RET, it can't be reliably predicted in all

cases, leading to the consideration of other scaffolds such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP) and platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) (2).

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) is rich in growth factors, formed by the processing of blood with anticoagulants. It enhances cell proliferation and tissue regeneration (8). Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) is a second-generation platelet concentrate. It has the added advantages of easy preparation, being autologous, and having immune cells and cytokines that help resist infection and promote healing. No biochemical processing is required and there is a sustained release of growth factors as well (7).

Mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) is a key biocompatible material being used for the creation of apical seal. Being hydrophilic, moisture control is not necessary (9). The clinical effectiveness is highly dependent on its thickness. Excessive thickness may halt tissue growth. Despite this, its application has led to the formation of cementum-like tissue, seen radiographically (3).

This systematic review intends to evaluate the efficacy of various bioactive materials, including MTA, calcium hydroxide PRP, and PRF, for successful pulpal regeneration in immature permanent teeth. By in-depth analysis of existing evidence, this review strives to identify and ascertain the most effective materials and techniques, addressing gaps in the literature and providing the basis for optimized healthcare experiences for pediatric patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study protocol was developed before starting the literature search and was registered on PROSPERO under registration ID-CRD42024611422, focusing on the efficacy of various scaffolds and bioactive materials in the regeneration of pulpal tissues in immature permanent dentition.

The research question was designed in the PICO format and included

- P: Population was the pediatric subjects (6-18 years of age)
- I: Intervention was the use of bioactive materials and scaffolds for pulpal regeneration
- C: Comparison was no treatment
- O: Outcome is the pulpal regeneration success according to the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) criteria.

A detailed search was conducted by two independent reviewers (GK and KR) on two databases i.e. PubMed Medline and Cochrane. A Google search was also conducted to find any relevant articles.

Inclusion Criteria

- Articles available in the English language
- Articles from the last 10 years (up to Oct 2024).
- Studies that focused on pediatric patients who underwent pulpal regeneration treatment, aged 6-18 years
- Study designs included were case-control, case report, case series, randomized controlled trials, and clinical trials.

Exclusion Criteria

- Articles whose full text wasn't available or couldn't be retrieved.
- Studies that didn't involve the pulpal regeneration treatment using bioactive materials.

Data Extraction

Data collection was independently performed on a predesigned proforma, proposed by two independent reviewers (GK and KR), and in case of disagreements, a third reviewer (SF) was involved, and potential conflict was resolved via dialogue. From the included studies, only data that met pre-defined inclusion criteria was retrieved and analyzed. The key findings are summarized in Table 1.

RISK OF BIAS ASSESSMENT:

It was carried out as follows:

For Randomized Controlled Trials, the Cochrane Rob 2 tool was used.

For Case Series/Case Reports: Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal Checklists were followed.

The findings are summarized in Table 2.

Table 1: Clinical characteristics of the studies included in the review

STUDIES	POPULATION	TEETH CHARACTERISTICS	SIGN/SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT WITH RET	POST TREATMENT RESULTS
<p>First Author: Gamze Topcuoglu (10) Year: 2016 Journal: Journal of Endodontics Funding: None reported</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report (3 cases) Sample Size: 3 patients Gender Ratio: 2 females, 1 male Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Mandibular first molars Stage of Root Development: Immature roots with open apices</p>	<p>Negative responses to cold and electric pulp tests. No sensitivity to percussion or palpation. Radiographic examination indicated healthy periapical tissues.</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Single visit for all cases Bioactive Material Used: Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) and Bio dentine Final Restorative Material: Composite resin</p>	<p>Follow-Up Duration: 18 months Clinical Success: All teeth remained asymptomatic throughout the follow-up period. Negative responses to cold and electric pulp tests at follow-ups. Periapical Healing: Radiographic evidence showed thickening of canal walls and apical closure at the end of the follow-up period. Additional Outcomes: No complications reported. Physiologic mobility and normal probing depth around treated teeth.</p>
<p>First Author: Majed A. Almalki (11) Year: 2024 Journal: American Journal of Case Reports Funding: None declared</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report (1 case) Sample Size: 1 patient (female) Gender Ratio: 1 female Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Right mandibular first molar Stage of Root Development: Immature roots with open apices</p>	<p>No symptoms reported. Negative responses to cold and electric pulp tests. No tenderness to percussion or palpation. Radiographic examination showed deep caries and apical radiolucency.</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Multi-visit (3 visits) Bioactive Material Used: Triple antibiotic paste (TAP) and Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA) Final Restorative Material: Composite resin</p>	<p>Follow-Up Duration: 5 years Clinical Success: The tooth remained asymptomatic upon follow-up. Positive response to electric pulp test, negative response to cold test at the final visit. Periapical Healing: Radiographic examination revealed complete periapical healing, apical closure, increased root length, increased dentin thickness, and narrowed canal spaces. Additional Outcomes: No complications reported during the follow-up period.</p>
<p>First Author: Hengameh Bakhtiar (12) Year: 2017 Journal: Journal of Endodontics (JOE) Funding: Not declared</p>	<p>Study Design: Case series Sample size: (4 cases) Gender ratio: 1 male: 3 females Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch: maxillary central incisors. Stage of root development: Teeth had immature roots with open apices.</p>	<p>All cases showed no response to cold pulp tests. All cases showed no response to electric pulp tests. Tenderness to percussion was noted in all cases. Pain on palpation was present in all cases. Swelling and sinus tract were observed in all cases. Periapical lesions were identified in all case</p>	<p>Number of visits: The treatment involved multiple visits for follow-up assessments. Bioactive material used: Bio dentine was used as the bioactive material. Final restorative material: Injectable light cure glass ionomer cement was the final restorative material</p>	<p>Follow-up Duration: 18 months. Clinical success: Vitality tests showed responsiveness in adjacent teeth. Periapical healing: Apex closure was observed after 6 to 18 months. Root lengthening was not consistently evident in all cases. Root thickening occurred at 9 and 18 months. Additional outcomes: Minimal discoloration was noted at the 18-month follow-up</p>

<p>First author Maria-Elpida Miltiadous (13) Year 2015 Journal Brazilian Dental Journal Funding Not declared</p>	<p>Study Design Case report Sample size One female only Gender ratio N/A Comorbidities None reported</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Maxillary right central incisor (tooth #11) Stage of root development Teeth had immature roots with open apices.</p>	<p>History of trauma, crown discoloration, moderate palpation pain, severe percussion pain, intraoral swelling, no mobility, radiographic evidence of open apex and thin dentinal walls, radiolucency around the apex</p>	<p>Number of visits: Two Bioactive material used Triple antibiotic paste (ciprofloxacin, metronidazole, amoxicillin), collagen membrane, mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) Final restorative material Glass ionomer cement and composite resin</p>	<p>Follow-ups: 12, 24, and 36 months Clinical Success: Asymptomatic, no sensitivity to percussion or palpation, negative response to cold test Periapical Healing: Resolution of the periapical lesion, apical closure, no increase in root length or thickness of canal walls Additional Outcomes: Presence of a radiopaque mass in the vicinity of the root apex, no recurrence of swelling, functional tooth</p>
<p>First Author: Claudio Maniglia-Ferreira (14) Year: 2020 Journal: Brazilian Dental Journal Funding: None reported</p>	<p>Study Design: Case Report Sample Size: 1 patient Gender Ratio: Female Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Permanent upper central incisors Stage of Root Development: Immature roots with thin dentinal walls and wide-open apices</p>	<p>Negative responses to pulp tests (cold stimuli) Swelling and tenderness to percussion and palpation Purulent secretion on access cavity preparation</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Three Blood clot used as a scaffold Bioactive Material Used: Double antibiotic paste (metronidazole/ciprofloxacin) Calcium hydroxide with 2% chlorhexidine gel Mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) Final Restorative Material: Glass ionomer cement</p>	<p>Follow-Up: 12 years Clinical Success: Asymptomatic throughout the follow-up Negative responses to pulp tests after five years but maintained healthy periapical tissues Periapical Healing: Radiographs showed root development, apical closure, and calcifications CBCT revealed root defects and calcifications after 12 years Additional Outcomes: No complications; evidence of tissue invagination and increased root calcification</p>
<p>First Author: Saeed Asgary (15) Year: 2022 Journal: Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Funding: None reported</p>	<p>Study Design: Case Report Size: 1 patient Gender Ratio: Female Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Permanent maxillary right central incisor Stage of Root Development: Immature root with an open apex</p>	<p>Negative responses to sensibility tests Tenderness to percussion and palpation Two large periapical lesions detected on CBCT Swelling on the palatal mucosa</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Two Bioactive Material Used: Modified triple antibiotic paste (penicillin G, metronidazole, ciprofloxacin) Calcium-enriched mixture (CEM) cement Final Restorative Material: Light-cured resin-bonded dental composite</p>	<p>Follow-Up: 2 years Clinical Success: Asymptomatic and functional tooth Resolution of swelling and symptoms after the first week Periapical Healing: Complete healing of endodontic lesions Evidence of dentinal bridge formation beneath CEM cement and apical maturation No response to sensibility tests Additional Outcomes: CEM cement was effective in promoting root development and healing</p>
<p>First Author: Loai Alsofi (16) Year: 2019 Journal: The Journal of</p>	<p>Study Design: Case Report Sample Size: 1 patient Gender Ratio: Female</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Upper permanent central incisors (right and left)</p>	<p>Negative cold test responses for both central incisors No discoloration, tenderness to percussion, or palpation</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Single visit for revascularization, with follow-up over three years Bioactive Material Used: Mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA)</p>	<p>Follow-Up: 3 years Clinical Success: Initial root maturation and apical closure in the upper right central incisor</p>

<p>Contemporary Dental Practice Funding: None reported</p>	<p>Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Stage of Root Development: Immature roots with open apices and thin walls</p>	<p>Diagnosed with necrotic pulp and normal apical tissues</p>	<p>Final Restorative Material: Bonded resin restorations</p>	<p>Development of periapical radiolucency after three years, requiring conventional root canal treatment Periapical Healing: Resolution of periapical radiolucency after root canal treatment Continuous root growth in the left central incisor's apical fragment embedded in bone Additional Outcomes: Demonstrated the potential of single-visit revascularization to achieve root maturation</p>
<p>First Author: Jing Lu (17) Year: 2020 Journal: Journal of Endodontics Funding: None reported</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report Sample Size: 1 female Gender Ratio: 1 female Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Maxillary central incisors Stage of Root Development: Immature roots with open apices</p>	<p>Tooth #9 had a sinus tract, was tender to percussion and palpation, and did not respond to pulp sensibility tests. Tooth #8 initially responded to pulp sensibility tests but became nonresponsive after 12 months post-treatment.</p>	<p>Number of Visits: two Bioactive Material Used: Calcium hydroxide, and Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA) Final Restorative Material: Glass ionomer cement and composite resin</p>	<p>Follow-Up Duration: Tooth #9 followed for 30 months. Tooth #8 followed for 18 months. Clinical Success: Both teeth were asymptomatic post-treatment. Periapical Healing: Tooth #9 showed resolution of the periapical lesion, arrest of external root resorption (ERR), and repair of root perforation at follow-ups. Tooth #8 developed a periapical lesion post-treatment but was treated with regenerative endodontic procedures later. Additional Outcomes: Both teeth demonstrated canal obliteration by hard tissue formation at the final follow-ups.</p>
<p>First Author: Herbert L Ray Jr (18) Year: 2015 Journal: Dental Traumatology Funding: Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report Sample Size: 1 patient (11-year-old male) Gender Ratio: Not applicable (single patient) Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Permanent maxillary left central incisor (tooth #9) Stage of Root Development: Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>History of sports-related trauma, non-responsive to cold testing, insensitive to percussion, tender to palpation, Class II mobility, deep pockets, intruded 3 mm, luxated buccally, periapical radiolucency, thin dentinal walls, incomplete root development, external root resorption</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Two Bioactive Material Used: Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) Final Restorative Material: Composite resin restoration</p>	<p>Follow-ups: 12, 24, and 36 months Clinical Success: Negative to cold testing, positive to EPT testing at 24 and 36 months, no abnormal pocketing or probing depths Periapical Healing: Radiographic evidence of root length increase, intact lamina dura, osseous healing Additional Outcomes: Continued root growth, thickening of root dentinal walls, narrowing of root canal space, closure of root apex after 12 months</p>
<p>First Author: N B Nagaveni (19) Year: 2016 Journal: Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report Sample Size: 1 patient (11-year-old boy) Gender Ratio: Not applicable (single patient)</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Right maxillary central incisor Stage of Root Development: Incompletely formed root with thin dentinal</p>	<p>The crown exhibited discoloration, indicating non-vitality and necrosis of the tooth. The tooth was tender to percussion and did not respond to cold and electric pulp tests.</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Two Bioactive Material Used: Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) Final Restorative Material: Glass Ionomer Cement (GIC)</p>	<p>Follow-ups: 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months Clinical Success: Positive response to cold and electric pulp tests, no sensitivity to percussion and palpation tests, normal pocket probing depths Periapical Healing:</p>

<p>Funding: Not specified</p>	<p>Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>walls and wide open apex</p>	<p>Periodontal probing depth was within normal limits. Diagnosed as pulp necrosis with symptomatic apical periodontitis.</p>		<p>Radiographic evidence of root elongation, root end closure, continued thickening of the root dentinal walls, obliteration of root canal space, and normal peri radicular anatomy Additional Outcomes: Continued root growth, thickening of root dentinal walls, narrowing of root canal space, and closure of root apex after 12 months</p>
<p>First Author: G S Sachdeva (20) Year: 2014 Journal: International Endodontic Journal Funding: Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report Sample Size: 1 patient (16-year-old male) Gender Ratio: Not applicable (single patient) Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Maxillary left lateral incisor (tooth 22) Stage of Root Development: Incompletely developed root with an open apex</p>	<p>History of trauma, discolored crown, tenderness to percussion and palpation, draining sinus tract, no response to thermal and electric pulp tests, large radiolucency associated with the open apex</p>	<p>Number of Visits: two visits Bioactive Material Used: Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) Final Restorative Material: Glass ionomer cement and composite resin</p>	<p>Follow-ups: 3, 6, 12, 24, and 36 months Clinical Success: Asymptomatic, no sensitivity to percussion or palpation, delayed positive response to electric pulp testing Periapical Healing: Resolution of the periapical lesion, increased thickening of the root walls, further root development, continued apical closure Additional Outcomes: Continued root growth, thickening of root dentinal walls, narrowing of root canal space, closure of root apex after 12 months</p>
<p>First Author: Raji Viola Solomon (21) Year: 2015 Journal: Indian Journal of Dental Research Funding: Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design: Case report Sample Size: 1 patient (15-year-old male) Gender Ratio: Not applicable (single patient) Comorbidities: None reported</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch: Maxillary right central incisor (tooth #11) Stage of Root Development: Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>History of trauma, discolored crown, tenderness to palpation, negative pulp sensitivity tests, large periapical radiolucency</p>	<p>Number of Visits: Two Bioactive Material Used: Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) Final Restorative Material: Glass ionomer cement (GIC) and composite resin</p>	<p>Follow-ups: 1 week, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 18 months Clinical Success: Asymptomatic, no sensitivity to percussion or palpation Periapical Healing: Complete regression of the periapical lesion, initiation of root end closure Additional Outcomes: Continued root growth, thickening of root dentinal walls, narrowing of root canal space, closure of root apex after 18 months</p>
<p>First Author Hazim Mohamed Rizk (22) Year: 2020 Journal Saudi Dental Journal Funding Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design Double-blinded randomized controlled trial Sample Size 25 Gender Ratio 13 males:12 females Comorbidities None specified</p>	<p>Tooth Position in the Arch Maxillary central incisors Stage of Root Development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, mobility, swelling, sinus/fistula</p>	<p>Number of Visits: 2 Bioactive Material Used Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) and Platelet Rich Fibrin (PRF) Final Restorative Material glass ionomer, composite</p>	<p>Follow-ups Every 3 months for one year Clinical Success 100% survival rate of teeth during the 12-month follow-up period Periapical Healing Marginal increase in radiographic root length and width, periapical bone density, and decrease in apical diameter Additional Outcomes PRF displayed higher crown discoloration compared to PRP</p>

<p>First author Rasha Adel Ragab (20) Year 2019 Journal The Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Funding Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design Double blinded Parallel Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Sample size 22 Gender ratio 15 males :7 females Comorbidities None specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Maxillary anterior teeth Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, swelling, apical periodontitis, abscess, fistula, discoloration</p>	<p>Number of visits: Two Bioactive material used Platelet rich fibrin (PRF) Final restorative material Glass ionomer cement</p>	<p>Follow ups: 6 months and 1 year Clinical success Most cases showed clinical success with continued root development Periapical healing Radiographic evidence of periapical healing in most cases Additional outcomes Formation of calcific bridges (cervical and/or apical)</p>
<p>First author Tugba Bezgin (23) Year 2015 Journal Journal of Endodontics Funding Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Sample size20 teeth in 18 children Gender ratio 8 girls, 10 boys Comorbidities Not specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Maxillary incisors and premolars Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, swelling, fistula, sensitivity to percussion, apical abscesses</p>	<p>Number of visits:2 Bioactive material used Platelet-rich Plasma (PRP) Final restorative material White Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA), Glass Ionomer Cement, Composite Resin</p>	<p>Follow-ups Every 3 months for 18 months Clinical success Most cases showed clinical success with continued root development Periapical healing Radiographic evidence of periapical healing in most cases Additional outcomes Formation of calcific bridges, pulp canal obliteration in some cases</p>
<p>First author Mohamed A Asal (24) Year2024 Journal The Journal of Contemporary Dental Practice Funding Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT), Single blinded Sample size 24-children Gender ratio 8 males, 16 females Comorbidities Not specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Upper central incisors Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, swelling, sinus tract, percussion tenderness, tenderness to palpation</p>	<p>Number of visits: 2 Bioactive material used Platelet-rich Fibrin (PRF), Treated Dentin Matrix (TDM) Final restorative material Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA), Resin-modified Glass Ionomer, Composite Restoration</p>	<p>Follow-ups Every 3 months for 15 months Clinical success 100% clinical success in both groups Periapical healing Significant reduction in lesion size in both groups, with PRF showing better outcomes Additional outcomes Significant increase in root length and radiographic root area (RRA) in both groups, with PRF showing better outcomes</p>
<p>First author Burc Pekpinarli (25) Year 2024 Journal Journal of Applied Oral Science Funding Ege University Scientific Research Project Fund (Project number 18-DIS-002)</p>	<p>Study Design Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) Sample size 20 patients Gender ratio 9 females, 11 males Comorbidities Not specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Mandibular first molars Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, swelling, apical periodontitis, abscess, fistula, discoloration</p>	<p>Number of visits :2 Bioactive material used Calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), Double antibiotic paste (DAP) Final restorative material Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA), Resin-modified Glass Ionomer, Composite Restoration</p>	<p>Follow-ups 12 months Clinical success Significant increase in root length, root width, and radiographic root area (RRA) in both groups, with Ca(OH)₂ showing better outcomes Periapical healing Radiographic evidence of periapical healing in most cases Additional outcomes Significant increase in MMP-8 levels in both groups, with Ca(OH)₂ showing better outcomes in root length increase</p>

<p>First author Hazim Mohamed Rizk(26) Year 2019 Journal International Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Funding Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design Split Mouth Double-blinded Randomized Controlled Trial Sample size 13 patients Gender ratio 7 males, 6 females Comorbidities Not specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Maxillary central incisors Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, mobility, swelling, sinus/fistula</p>	<p>Number of visits :2 Bioactive material used Platelet-rich Plasma (PRP), Blood Clot Final restorative material Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA), Glass Ionomer, Composite</p>	<p>Followups 3, 6, 9, and 12 months Clinical success 100% success rate in both groups Periapical healing Significant increase in radiographic root length, width, periapical bone density, and decrease in apical diameter in PRP group compared to blood clot group Additional outcomes PRP group showed less crown discoloration compared to the other group</p>
<p>First author Hazim Mohamed rizk (27) Year2020 Journal International Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Funding Not specified</p>	<p>Study Design Split-mouth Double-blind Randomized Controlled Trial Sample size13 patients Gender ratio 7 males, 6 females Comorbidities Not specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Maxillary central incisors Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, mobility, swelling, sinus/fistula</p>	<p>Number of visits:2 Bioactive material used Platelet-rich Fibrin (PRF), Blood Clot (BC) Final restorative material Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA), Glass Ionomer, Composite</p>	<p>Follow-ups 3, 6, 9, and 12 months Clinical success 100% success rate in both groups Periapical healing Significant increase in radiographic root length, width, periapical bone density, and decrease in apical diameter in PRF group compared to BC group Additional outcomes PRF group showed less crown discoloration compared to BC group</p>
<p>First author Yanfei Zhang (28) Year 2024 Journal Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Funding Health Science and Technology Project of Shaoxing (2022KY059), Science and Technology Foundation Public Welfare Project of Shaoxing (2022A14035)</p>	<p>Study Design Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT), Single blinded Sample size56 patients (7-16 years old) Gender ratio 25 males, 31 females Comorbidities Not specified</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Mandibular premolars Stage of root development Incomplete root development with an open apex</p>	<p>Pain, swelling, apical periodontitis, abscess, fistula, discoloration</p>	<p>Number of visits: 2 Bioactive material used Concentrated Growth Factor (CGF), Blood Clot (BLC) Final restorative material Resin-modified Glass Ionomer Cement (RMGIC)</p>	<p>Follow-ups 6 months and 12 months Clinical success 92.59% clinical success in both groups Periapical healing Significant increase in root length and radiographic root area (RRA) in CGF group compared to BLC group Additional outcomes CGF group showed better radiographic outcomes and periapical healing</p>
<p>First author Ahmad Abdel Hamid Elheeny (29) Year</p>	<p>Study Design Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Sample size</p>	<p>Tooth position in the arch Mature incisors</p>	<p>Periapical radiolucency, chronic apical abscess, asymptomatic apical periodontitis</p>	<p>Number of visits:2 Bioactive material Clot (BC) Final restorative material</p>	<p>Followups 6 months and 12 months Clinical success93.9% in REPs group, 97% in NS-RCR group Periapical healing</p>

Table 2(b) : Risk of bias assessment for case reports.

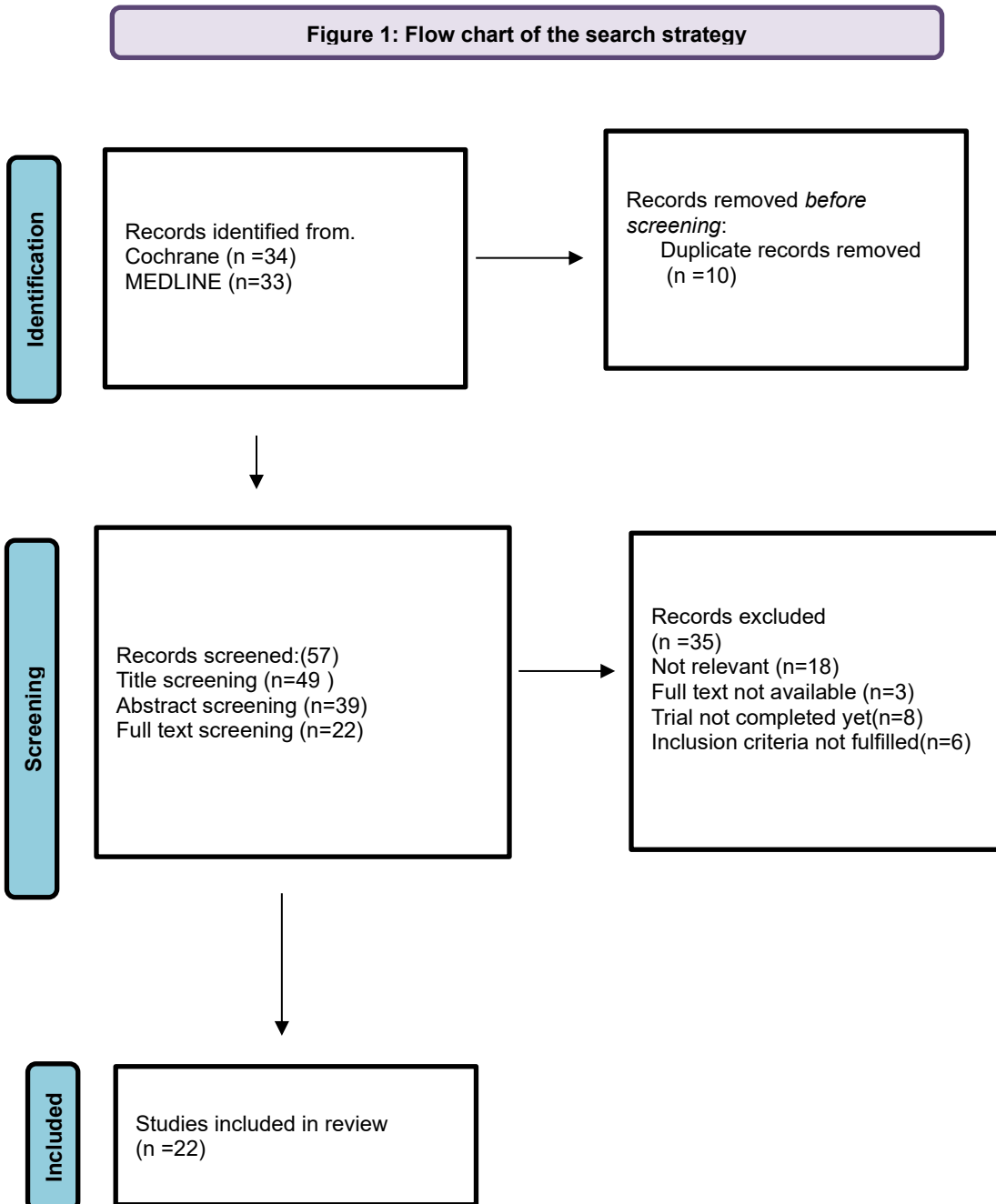
	DOMAIN 1	DOMAIN 2	DOMAIN 3	DOMAIN 4	DOMAIN 5	DOMAIN 6	DOMAIN 7	DOMAIN 8	OVERALL RISK
Topçuoğlu et al 2016	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Malki et al 2024	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Elpida et al 2015	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Ferreira et al 2020	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Asgary et al 2022	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Loai Alsof 2019	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Lu et al 2020	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Nagaveni et al 2016	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Ray et al 2015	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	MODERATE
Sachdeva et al 2014	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW
Solomon et al 2015	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	LOW

table 2(c): Risk of bias assessment for case series

	DOMAIN 1	DOMAIN 2	DOMAIN 3	DOMAIN 4	DOMAIN 5	DOMAIN 6	DOMAIN 7	DOMAIN 8	DOMAIN 9	DOMAIN 10	OVERALL RISK
Bakhtiar et al 2016	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	LOW

RESULTS

The electronic search was completed on 22nd November,2024. A total of 67 articles were retrieved, and 10 duplicates were removed. 57 articles were title screened. After title screening, 49 articles were selected for abstract screening. 39 articles were found suitable for full-text screening. After full-text screening, 22 articles that met the predefined inclusion criteria were found fit for further analysis in the current systematic review. The manual search using Google Scholar didn't retrieve any additional articles. The search strategy is summarized in the Prisma flow diagram (Fig 1).



DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

This systematic review extracted 22 studies aimed at pulpal regeneration treatments, using bioactive materials, for permanent dentition in pediatric subjects. There was heterogeneity in the study designs including case reports, case series, and randomized controlled trials (RCTs). The commonly used bioactive materials were calcium hydroxide (Ca (OH)₂), mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA), platelet-rich plasma (PRP), and platelet-rich fibrin (PRF). The final restorative materials used were glass ionomer cement and composite resin. Clinical success was reported in over 90% of cases, with consistent radiographic evidence of increased dentin thickness, closure of apical foramen, and periapical healing. For simple cases, the single visit was opted whereas for complex cases with significant periapical lesions multi-visit treatment protocol was followed. Follow-up durations ranged from 6 months to 12 years, exhibiting clinical and radiographic success in most cases.

DISCUSSION

This systematic review highlights the innovative capacity of various bioactive materials in pulpal regeneration treatment for permanent teeth in pediatric patients. They have opened a new era to endodontics by their regenerative potential achieving remarkable clinical results, periapical healing, and root maturation. Amongst the reviewed materials, platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) have a slow release of concentrated growth factors that enhance angiogenesis, proliferation of stem cells, and tissue regeneration(31). These results are consistent with our review findings highlighting significant improvements in root length, dentinal wall thickness, and radiographic outcomes associated with these materials. Mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) also reaffirmed its status as a cornerstone material in regenerative endodontics, credited for its biocompatibility, antimicrobial properties, and apical barrier formation (9), supporting the findings of our review.

Our study has highlighted the role of emerging materials such as concentrated growth factors (CGF) and treated dentin matrix (TDM). According to the findings, CGF was associated with superior root area development compared to traditional scaffolds like blood clots, while TDM contributed to accelerated healing and enhanced root maturation. The same findings are evident in the study by Yang et al (32). These innovations signify a shift toward biologically active and patient-specific regenerative solutions. The review also highlighted the clinical efficiency of single-visit protocols utilizing PRF or PRP, which reduce treatment burden while maintaining excellent outcomes, making them particularly suitable for less complex cases. Conversely, multi-visit protocols were indispensable in managing teeth with severe infections or extensive periapical pathology, in agreement with the findings from the existing literature (8,33) Long-term follow-ups further validated the applications of these treatments. One of the included studies in this systematic review reported periapical healing and progressive root maturation over 12 years, verifying the potential of RET as a reliable and biocompatible alternative to traditional apexification treatment. The findings observed in all the studies were, the improvement in clinical signs and symptoms along with radiographic evidence of root maturation and periapical

healing, highlighting the significance of these materials in improving the overall longevity of immature necrotic dentition.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

A major strength of this systematic review is the inclusion of widespread study designs, ranging from case reports to randomized controlled trials (RCTs), extracting information for diverse clinical applicability. Also, the long-term follow-up has further affirmed the sustainability of regenerative endodontics. Moreover, the evaluation of innovative materials like CGF and TDM adds profundity to the review, owing to its unequivocal role as a forward-looking analysis of regenerative endodontics.

However, there are certain limitations of this review. The widespread study design providing an in-depth analysis also has some disadvantages. The heterogeneity in study designs, sample sizes, and follow-up durations initiates variability that restricts the comparability of outcomes. Also, the data regarding systemic health was lacking, which could influence treatment outcomes. Another significant limitation is the inclusion of case reports and case series that included a few patients only, increasing susceptibility to publication bias. Lastly, there is little evidence in support of materials like CGF and TDM, making it necessary to carry out further research through well-designed, multi-center RCTs that can help in the validation of the findings and standardization of treatment protocols.

CONCLUSION

The review findings support the regenerative potential of biomaterials in endodontic treatment of permanent immature teeth, hence improving the overall prognosis. However, further studies are needed, through well-designed, multi-centre RCTs, that can help in the validation of these findings and standardization of treatment protocols.

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