

Camila de Carvalho Almança Lopes

**Caracterização química e morfológica da cárie  
relacionada à radiação**

*Chemical and morphological characterization of radiation  
related caries*

Tese apresentada à Faculdade de  
Odontologia da Universidade Federal de  
Uberlândia, como requisito parcial para  
obtenção do Título de Doutor em  
Odontologia na Área de Clínica  
Odontológica Integrada.

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Uberlândia, 2019



**UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE UBERLÂNDIA**  
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## **ATA**

Ata da defesa de TESE DE DOUTORADO junto ao Programa de Pós-graduação em Odontologia da Faculdade de Odontologia da Universidade Federal de Uberlândia.

Defesa de: Tese de Doutorado COPOD

Data: 15/03/2019

Discente: **Camila de Carvalho Almança Lopes (11613ODO006)**

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Área de concentração: Clínica Odontológica Integrada.

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Projeto de Pesquisa de vinculação: Propriedades físicas e biológicas dos materiais odontológicos e das estruturas dentais

As **oito horas e trinta minutos** do dia **quinze de março de 2019** no Anfiteatro Bloco 4L Anexo A, sala 23 Campus Umarama da Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, reuniu-se a Banca Examinadora, designada pelo Colegiado do Programa de Pós-graduação em fevereiro de 2019, assim composta: Professores Doutores: Fabiana Sodr  de Oliveira (UFU); Paula Dechichi (UFU); Ynara Bosco de Oliveira Lima Arsati (UEFS); Marina Guimarães Roscoe (UNG); ) orientador(a) do(a) candidato(a) Verididana Resende Novais Simamoto.

Iniciando os trabalhos o(a) presidente da mesa Dra. Veridiana Resende Novais Simamoto apresentou a Comissão Examinadora e o candidato(a), agradeceu a presença do público, e concedeu ao Discente a palavra para a exposição do seu trabalho. A duração da apresentação do Discente e o tempo de arguição e resposta foram conforme as normas do Programa.

A seguir o senhor(a) presidente concedeu a palavra, pela ordem sucessivamente, aos (às) examinadore (as), que passaram a arg ir o(a) candidato(a). Finalizada a arg i  o, que se desenvolveu dentro dos termos regimentais, a Banca, em sess o secreta, atribuiu os conceitos finais.

Em face do resultado obtido, a Banca Examinadora considerou o(a) candidato(a) ( A )provado(a).

Esta defesa de Tese de Doutorado é parte dos requisitos necessários à obtenção do título de Doutor. O competente diploma será expedido após cumprimento dos demais requisitos, conforme as normas do Programa, a legislação pertinente e a regulamentação interna da UFU.

Nada mais havendo a tratar foram encerrados os trabalhos às 13 horas e 15 minutos. Foi lavrada a presente ata que após lida e achada conforme foi assinada eletronicamente pela Banca Examinadora.



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## **DEDICATÓRIA**

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Stephen Hawking



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## RESUMO

Entre os efeitos adversos da radioterapia no tratamento de neoplasias malignas na região de cabeça e pescoço, a cárie relacionada à radiação é considerada uma das mais preocupantes, pois configura uma forma de cárie com grande potencial destrutivo e de rápida progressão, podendo levar à amputação total da coroa e completa perda da dentição, interferindo na qualidade de vida desses pacientes. Possui como etiologia a combinação de efeitos indiretos da radioterapia (hipossalivação, alterações na composição e no pH da saliva, mucosites, mudanças na dieta e nos hábitos de higiene oral), somados aos efeitos diretos na estrutura dentária. Sabendo disso, trabalhos devem ser realizados com o intuito de entender melhor essa alteração, prevenir e tratá-la. Este trabalho envolveu 3 objetivos. **Objetivo 1:** avaliar a literatura buscando condensar informações sobre o emprego do FTIR na caracterização química do esmalte, dentina e osso. Identificando assim, picos do espectro e suas atribuições relacionados ao diagnóstico das alterações e patologias dos tecidos mineralizados. **Objetivo 2:** investigar o efeito da radiação ionizante e do fluxo salivar na susceptibilidade da dentina a cárie por meio de um modelo de biofilme microcosmo. **Objetivo 3:** comparar uma dentina sadia a uma dentina cariada de pacientes pré-radioterapia e de pacientes submetidos a radioterapia de cabeça e pescoço. Por meio da revisão de literatura, realizada no objetivo 1, pode-se concluir que a espectroscopia de infravermelho por transformada de Fourier (FTIR) pode fornecer informações fundamentais sobre a estrutura molecular de componentes orgânicos e inorgânicos do esmalte, dentina e osso. Além de ser uma das técnicas analíticas mais versáteis para a caracterização química não destrutiva de amostras, é capaz de detectar alterações e patologias dos tecidos mineralizados, como por exemplo a cárie dentária. O objetivo 2 mostrou que o modelo de biofilme microcosmo promoveu uma desmineralização, expôs e alterou a matriz orgânica da dentina. Com o fluxo salivar reduzido, as alterações minerais foram mais detectáveis. A radiação ionizante também promoveu alterações na matriz inorgânica e orgânica e na densidade mineral da dentina. E por último, com o objetivo 3, verificou-se que a cárie e a radiação ionizante levaram à desmineralização da hidroxiapatita e à degradação proteica. No entanto, cáries relacionadas à radiação exibiram mudanças mais pronunciadas, com um padrão de desmineralização difuso.

**Palavras chave:** Espectroscopia, Desmineralização dental, Radioterapia.

## ABSTRACT

Among the adverse effects of radiotherapy in the treatment of malignant neoplasms in the head and neck region, radiation-related caries is considered one of the most worrying, since it constitutes a form of caries with great destructive potential and rapid progression, which can lead to total amputation of the crown and complete loss of the dentition, interfering in the quality of life of these patients. It has as its etiology the combination of indirect effects of radiotherapy (hyposalivation, changes in the composition and pH of saliva, mucositis, changes in diet and oral hygiene habits), together with the direct effects on dental structure. Knowing this, studies should be done in order to better understand this change, prevent and treat it. This work involved 3 objectives. **Objective 1:** to evaluate the literature seeking to condense information on the use of FTIR in the chemical characterization of enamel, dentin and bone. Identifying in this way, spectrum peaks and their attributions related to the diagnosis of alterations and pathologies of mineralized tissues. **Objective 2:** to investigate the effect of ionizing radiation and salivary flow rate on dentin susceptibility to caries by means of a microcosm biofilm model. **Objective 3:** to compare a sound dentin to a carious affected dentin of pre-radiotherapy patients and patients submitted to head and neck radiotherapy. Through the literature review, carried out in objective 1, it can be concluded that Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) can provide fundamental information on the molecular structure of organic and inorganic of dental enamel, dentin and bone. It is one of the most versatile analytical techniques for the non-destructive, chemical characterization of samples. Moreover, it is able to detect alterations and pathologies of mineralized tissues, such as dental caries. Objective 2 showed that the microcosm biofilm model promoted demineralization, exposed and altered the organic matrix of dentin. With reduced salivary flow, the mineral alterations were more detectable. Ionizing radiation also promoted changes in the inorganic and organic matrix and the mineral density of dentin. Finally, in the objective 3, dental caries and ionizing radiation led to a hydroxyapatite demineralization and protein degradation. However, caries related to radiation exhibited more pronounced changes, with a diffuse demineralization pattern.

**Keywords:** Spectrum Analysis, Tooth Demineralization, Radiotherapy.

## ***INTRODUÇÃO E REFERENCIAL TEÓRICO***

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## 1 - INTRODUÇÃO E REFERENCIAL TEÓRICO

De acordo com o Instituto Nacional do Câncer, neoplasias malignas é um termo dado a um conjunto de mais de cem doenças que têm em comum o crescimento desordenado de células, que invadem tecidos e órgãos, com possibilidade de ocasionar metástase para outras regiões do corpo (Instituto Nacional do Câncer José Alencar Gomes da Silva - INCA) e são popularmente conhecidas como câncer. O câncer de cabeça e pescoço constitui um grupo heterogêneo de neoplasias malignas, constituído por vários sítios anatômicos. O câncer da cavidade oral é um deles, afetando lábios, estruturas da boca, como gengivas, bochechas, céu da boca, língua e a região embaixo da língua, segundo o INCA (INCA, 2018). O câncer de cabeça e pescoço tem sido reconhecido como um dos cânceres com mais alta taxa de prevalência (Jemal et al., 2008), responsável por uma incidência de 900.000 casos novos por ano no mundo (Silveira et al., 2012), sendo a sexta causa de morte por câncer em todo o mundo (Warnakulasuriya, 2009). Estima-se, para o Brasil, biênio 2018-2019, a ocorrência de 600 mil casos novos de câncer, para cada ano. 1,2 milhão de novos casos de câncer devem surgir no Brasil até 2019 (INCA, 2018). Sendo estes, 11.200 novos casos de câncer da cavidade oral em homens e 3.500 em mulheres para cada ano do biênio 2018-2019. Esses valores correspondem a um risco estimado de 10,86 casos novos a cada 100 mil homens, ocupando a quinta posição dos cânceres que mais acometem os homens; e de 3,28 para cada 100 mil mulheres, sendo o 12º mais frequente entre todos os cânceres que acometem as mulheres (INCA, 2018). O carcinoma espinocelular é a histologia predominante, representando mais de 90% dos casos (Tribius e Bergelt, 2011; Marur et al., 2016). Os fatores de risco mais comuns para o desenvolvimento de cânceres da cavidade oral são uso de cigarro e de álcool e, no caso dos cânceres orofaríngeos, a infecção pelo papiloma vírus humano (Tribius e Bergelt, 2011).

Os cânceres de cabeça e pescoço são frequentemente tratados com radioterapia, uma técnica que utiliza radiação ionizante e danifica de forma semi-seletiva material genético de células malignas vulneráveis, ou através da produção de radicais livres, levando a morte celular (de Felice et al., 2018). A radioterapia pode ser utilizada de forma exclusiva ou associada à cirurgia e à quimioterapia (Kielbassa et al., 2006; Lazarus et al., 2007; de Felice et al., 2018). A localização, o tipo e a extensão do tumor que determinam como o tratamento é conduzido, se a radiação é usada isoladamente ou em combinação

com outras modalidades de tratamento, bem como a dose de radiação necessária. A unidade empregada para medir a quantidade de radiação é o Gray (Gy), que informa a dose de radiação absorvida por qualquer material ou tecido humano (INCA, 2018). No geral, a dose total de radiação para tratamento de câncer de cabeça e pescoço varia de 30 a 72 Gy, sendo muito comum o esquema de fracionamento, com aplicação de 2 Gy diários, 5 dias por semanas até atingir a totalidade de Gy planejados (Jham & Freire, 2006; Epstein et al., 2012).

Apesar de ser um tratamento altamente eficaz para o controle do câncer e ter a vantagem de não ser invasiva, a radioterapia provoca muitas reações adversas que afetam significativamente a qualidade de vida dos pacientes (Vissink et al., 2003; Kielbassa, 2006; Ray-Chaudhuri et al., 2013; Lieshout & Bots, 2014; Deng et al., 2015; Buglione et al., 2016). Nos últimos anos, a consciência das sequelas de radioterapia tem crescido, e esforços têm sido feitos para limitar a exposição à radioterapia de estruturas essenciais para funções como deglutição, mastigação e salivação (Buglione et al., 2016). Nas últimas duas décadas, a distribuição de radiação evoluiu de um tratamento bidimensional de feixe externo convencional (2DRT) para um tridimensional conformada (3DCRT). E mais recentemente, a técnica foi aprimorada para radioterapia de intensidade modulada (IMRT). Esta técnica usa planejamento baseado em tomografia computadorizada e entrega de radiação, auxiliado pela otimização computadorizada das intensidades do feixe de radiação, com o objetivo de melhorar a conformação da dose em 3 dimensões, maximizando o controle da doença e minimizando a morbidade e toxicidade para tecidos saudáveis em torno do volume de tratamento direcionado (Tribius & Bergelt, 2011; Marta et al., 2014). No entanto, essa não é a realidade de muitos centros de tratamento oncológico no Brasil, pois se trata de um equipamento de alto custo.

A radioterapia está tipicamente associada a toxicidades agudas e tardias aos tecidos saudáveis localizados no campo da radiação. As toxicidades agudas mais comuns da cavidade oral incluem mucosite, disfagia, hipossalivação, tecidos moles sensíveis ou dolorosos, infecções por fungos (Vissink et al., 2003; Jham & Freire, 2006). Outras consequências têm um caráter mais tardio como o trismo, a hipossalivação, a osteorradionecrose da mandíbula, as alterações nas estruturas dentárias e a cárie relacionada à radiação (Jham & Freire, 2006; Kielbassa et al., 2006; Tolentino et al., 2011;

Jawad et al., 2015; Hong et al., 2017). Por isso, é tão importante e necessário o acompanhamento clínico odontológico de pacientes submetidos à radioterapia na região de cabeça e pescoço antes, durante e após o tratamento (Vissink et al., 2003; Beech et al., 2014; Devi & Singh, 2014; Jawad et al., 2015).

A radiação pode causar alterações nas propriedades mecânicas e químicas, na microestrutura/morfologia, na estrutura cristalina, na solubilidade do esmalte e da dentina (Vissink et al., 2003; Soares et al., 2010; Gonçalves et al., 2014; Lieshout & Bots 2014; Qing et al., 2015; Reed et al., 2015; Liang et al., 2016; Novais et al., 2016; Qing et al., 2016; Thiagarajan et al., 2017; Campi et al. 2018; de Miranda et al., 2018; Lopes et al., 2018; Queiroz et al., 2018; Rodrigues et al., 2018; Seyedmahmoud et al., 2018; Velo et al., 2018; Lu et al., 2019).

A gravidade e a extensão dos efeitos da radiação dependem do conteúdo mineral e orgânico das estruturas do dente, sendo que a dentina pode ser mais vulnerável aos efeitos da radiação (Gonçalves et al., 2014). Dessa forma, o conhecimento sobre a estrutura dentinária é importante para melhor compreender os efeitos da radioterapia. A dentina é um tecido de origem mesenquimal, constitui o corpo do dente e tem como funções principais proteger a polpa e dar suporte para o esmalte sobrejacente. A dentina madura é composta de aproximadamente 70% mineral, 20% matriz orgânica e 10% de água (Tjaderhane, 2016). Seu componente inorgânico consiste em hidroxiapatita e a parte orgânica é fundamentalmente composta de colágeno (principalmente tipo I com pequenas quantidades dos tipos III e IV), que proporciona a resiliência necessária para a coroa suportar o ato mastigatório. Ela apresenta menor conteúdo mineral do que o esmalte e maior incorporação de magnésio e carbonato, o que leva ao aumento da sua solubilidade (Hoppenbrouwers, Driessens & Borggreven, 1987). Em relação à parte orgânica, o colágeno tipo I age como suporte que acomoda e mantém juntos os cristais de apatita nos orifícios e poros das fibrilas, alguns dos quais estão precipitados dentro da fina estrutura de hélice de colágeno. Com essa estrutura há sinergia entre matriz e apatita (Nanci & Ten Cate, 2008).

A literatura mostra que a radioterapia é capaz de produzir radicais livres a partir da radiólise de moléculas diferentes, como a água que produz os íons  $H^+$  e  $OH^-$ , e os últimos são altamente instáveis e reativos. Esses íons se ligarão a outras moléculas, que



serão danificadas e perderão a função, ou produzirão mais radicais livres. Esse mecanismo de radiação sustenta o consenso na literatura de que a radioterapia dos tecidos dentais tem maiores efeitos deletérios quando maiores concentrações de conteúdo orgânico estão presentes no tecido (Pioch, Golfels, & Staehle, 1992; Soares et al., 2010). Este processo também pode causar desnaturação dos componentes orgânicos das estruturas dentárias alterando sua estrutura e causando a fragmentação das fibras colágenas (Pioch et al., 1992; Gonçalves et al., 2014; de Miranda et al., 2018; Velo et al., 2018; Lu et al., 2019). A degeneração dos componentes orgânicos enfraquece a sua interação com os cristais de hidroxiapatita, levando à diminuição da cristalinidade da apatita e maior solubilidade na saliva em pH baixo (Lu et al., 2019).

Vários estudos *in vitro* e *in situ*, com dentina bovina e humana, mostraram uma diminuição da microdureza entre a dentina irradiada e não irradiada (Markitziu, 1986, Kielbassa 1997; Kielbassa et al., 2002; Franzel et al., 2006; Gonçalves et al., 2014; Liang et al. 2016; Novais et al. 2016; Qing et al. 2016; Velo et al. 2018); alteração do comportamento de desgaste (Qing et al. 2016); diminuição da solubilidade da dentina irradiada (Markitziu, 1986); diminuição da resistência a tração (Soares et al., 2010; Soares et al., 2011); aumento da rigidez próximo a junção amelo-dentinária, o que pode levar a delaminação do esmalte (Reed et al. 2015); alterações morfológicas, como a obliteração dos túbulos dentinários, precedida de degeneração dos processos odontoblásticos (Grötz et al., 1997, Soares et al., 2011; de Siqueira Mellara et al., 2014; Gonçalves et al., 2014; Velo et al. 2018; Lu et al., 2019); alterações químicas (Reed et al. 2015; Qing et al. 2016; Campi et al. 2018; de Miranda et al. 2018; Rodrigues et al., 2018; Velo et al. 2018), aumento da atividade das metaloproteinases (Queiroz et al., 2018). Sendo que o aumento das doses cumulativas de radiação resulta em alterações micro-morfológicas progressivas das estruturas de esmalte e dentina (Gonçalves et al., 2014; Liang et al., 2016).

Os primeiros sinais de deterioração do tecido duro dos dentes podem ser vistos dentro de três meses após a finalização da radioterapia (Vissink et al., 2003). Esses sinais são áreas de porosidade do esmalte, formação de cavitações com a exposição do esmalte subsuperficial, ou até mesmo da dentina subjacente. À esta deterioração dá-se o nome de cárie relacionada à radiação (Vissink et al., 2003; Kielbassa et al., 2006). Assim como a cárie convencional, a cárie relacionada à radiação possui etiologia multifatorial e é

resultante do desequilíbrio no balanço entre o mineral do dente e o fluido do biofilme. A produção de ácido por meio da metabolização de nutrientes pelas bactérias do biofilme e consequente baixa do pH são os fatores responsáveis pela desmineralização do tecido dentário que pode resultar na formação da lesão de cárie, com a perda de cálcio e fosfato dos tecidos dentais mineralizados para o meio bucal (Maltz, 2016).

No entanto, a cárie relacionada à radiação se diferencia da cárie convencional pois se desenvolve rapidamente, é altamente destrutiva e na maior parte manifesta-se sem dor (Jansma et al., 1993; Walker et al., 2001; Kielbassa et al., 2006, Abdalla et al., 2018). Quanto à localização, as cáries relacionadas à radiação tendem a ocorrer na região cervical (próximo à junção entre a coroa e a raiz), podendo se estender para mesial e distal (Jawad et al., 2015). Ela também se difere em relação à sua aparência. Na maioria das vezes, essas lesões de cáries relacionadas à radiação apresentam-se com uma coloração marrom e com alteração da translucidez da estrutura dentária. É muito comum observar uma área de desmineralização circunferencial na cervical do dente, afetando superfícies lisas do esmalte que normalmente são resistentes à cárie dentária, bem como superfícies expostas de cimento (Abdalla et al., 2017). Podendo até mesmo levar a fratura da coroa nesta região, afetando severamente a mastigação e a estética desses pacientes (Andrews et al., 2001; Franzel et al., 2006).

Os efeitos da radioterapia no início e na progressão de uma lesão de cárie podem ser de origem direta, alterando os tecidos dentários, ou de origem indireta (de Siqueira Mellara et al., 2014). Os efeitos diretos sobre os tecidos duros dentais já foram discutidos acima. Dentre os efeitos indiretos, pode-se citar as alterações nas glândulas salivares, como por exemplo a hipossalivação (diminuição do fluxo salivar), reduzindo assim a efetividade da saliva em promover suas atividades tampão e de limpeza nos dentes e mucosa (Jensen et al., 2010), além de mudanças na sua composição, no pH e da microbiota bucal (Gaetti-Jardin et al., 2018). Somado a isso, modificações induzidas no meio oral pela radiação, como alterações gustatórias e dietéticas levando a preferência por alimentos macios e ricos em carboidratos, e o aparecimento de mucosites, gerando dor e sensibilidade nas mucosas, dificultando a higienização, tornam o meio oral desses pacientes altamente cariogênicos (Kielbassa et al., 2000; Vissink et al., 2003; Kielbassa et al., 2006; Walker et al., 2011; Jawad et al., 2015).

A cárie relacionada à radiação representa um desafio para o dentista, porque o acesso às lesões cervicais é frequentemente restrito, a escavação da cárie pode se dar de forma incompleta, as margens da preparação da cavidade podem ser difíceis de definir e os preparos podem fornecer pouca retenção mecânica para as restaurações (Hu et al., 2005). Além disso, a restauração fica comprometida pelo efeito prejudicial da radiação ionizante na resistência de união ao esmalte e à dentina humanos, quando o procedimento restaurador adesivo é realizado após a radioterapia (Naves et al., 2012; Rodrigues et al., 2018). Assim, algumas das medidas recomendadas incluem higiene bucal rigorosa, auto-aplicação diária tópica de gel de fluoreto de sódio (NaF) a 1,0% (Jansma et al., 1989), limitação de alimentos cariogênicos, enxáguate bucal remineralizador e preparações de saliva artificial. Este regime preventivo, no entanto, é muitas vezes dificultado pela má adesão nesta categoria de pacientes (Vissink et al., 2003).

Diante desse cenário, uso de métodos capazes de detectar mínimas alterações, torna-se de grande relevância para a compreensão de como a radioterapia altera os tecidos dentais, de como a cárie relacionada à radiação se inicia e progride, e de como ela se difere da cárie convencional. A espectroscopia de infravermelho por transformada de Fourier (FTIR) tem se mostrado uma ferramenta muito importante na detecção de alteração da composição química tecidos dentários, uma vez que quando associado a técnica de reflectância total atenuada (ATR) nenhum ou pouco preparo da amostra é necessário, e pelo fato de que componentes como água, fosfato, carbonato e colágeno absorvem fortemente na região do infra-vermelho (Lopes et al., 2018).

## ***OBJETIVOS***

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## **2. OBJETIVOS**

### **Objetivo geral**

O objetivo geral deste trabalho foi revisar a literatura quanto a composição química dos tecidos mineralizados (esmalte, dentina e osso) por meio do FTIR e caracterizar química e morfológicamente a cárie relacionada à radiação.

### **Objetivos específicos**

#### **Objetivo específico 1**

*Capítulo 1 - Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) application chemical characterization of enamel, dentin and bone*

Este objetivo específico avaliou a literatura buscando condensar informações sobre o emprego do FTIR na caracterização química do esmalte, dentina e osso. Identificando picos e/ou bandas do espectro e suas atribuições relacionados ao diagnóstico das alterações e patologias dos tecidos mineralizados.

#### **Objetivo específico 2**

*Capítulo 2 - Effect of radiotherapy and salivary flow rate on root dentin caries susceptibility*

Este objetivo específico investigou o efeito da radiação ionizante e do fluxo salivar na susceptibilidade da dentina radicular à cárie por meio de um modelo de biofilme microcosmo.

#### **Objetivo específico 3**

*Capítulo 3 - Chemical and morphological characterization of radiation related caries*

Este objetivo específico comparou dentina sadia à dentina cariada de pacientes não irradiados e de pacientes submetidos à radioterapia de cabeça e pescoço.

## ***CAPÍTULOS***

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### **3. CAPÍTULOS**

#### **3.1 Capítulo 1**

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Veridiana Resende Novais & Paula Dechichi

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## Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) application chemical characterization of enamel, dentin and bone

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### ABSTRACT

Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) has been used extensively for chemical characterization of mineralized tissues in the past few decades. FTIR is an ideal technique to analyze chemical structural properties of natural materials, since the frequencies of several vibrational modes of organic and inorganic molecules are active in the infrared. This review discusses the use of FTIR methodology, highlighting the attenuated total reflection (ATR) sampling mode, particularly for characterization of enamel, dentin and bone tissues. Enamel, dentin and bone, are composed of an organic and a mineral phase. The mineral phase is characterized essentially as nonstoichiometric substituted apatite, being the carbonate and phosphate spectral peaks the main representative of these phase. Organic matrix of the post-eruptive enamel is small (»1% weight (wt)). The dentin and bone organic phases are mainly composed of type I collagen that appears as spectral bands of amide I, amide II, amide III bands. Furthermore, synthetic apatite materials are being designed for total or partial replacement, restoration or augmentation of these biological tissues with FTIR assistance.

### KEYWORDS

Spectroscopy, fourier transform infrared; dental enamel; dentin; bone and bones; dentistry

## 1. Introduction

Enamel, dentin and bone are considered mineralized tissues that are widely studied in medicine and dentistry. Their characterization is based on experimental methods, which leads to the dissemination of relevant scientific knowledge. The most frequently analyzed characteristics of these tissues are their mechanical properties, morphology, structure and chemical analysis. Among the methods that determine the chemical composition of enamel, dentin and bone are energy dispersive X-ray (EDX/EDS) (1–6), Raman spectroscopy (7–12) and Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy (8, 13–57).

Energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) spectroscopy is a surface analysis method that provides semi-quantitative chemical analysis of the sample. This method relies on the radiation of samples with high-energy electrons and observation of X-ray emissions resulting from the core-hole via de-excitation of electrons. The X-ray energies emitted will generally differ

from element to element considering that each element has a unique atomic structure. Some limitations, for example, are relatively poor spectral resolution and high detection limits (58).

Raman and FTIR are complementary vibrational spectroscopic techniques. In Raman spectroscopy, a change is observed in the polarization of molecules; that is, a visible or ultra-violet photons interacts with the vibrating molecular bonds, gaining or losing part of their energy, thereby generating the spectrum. An advantage of Raman spectroscopy is that the spectral analysis is carried out in reflection mode, so tissues can be probed in their native state without any, or minimal preparation.

Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy is a widely used vibrational spectroscopic technique for chemical analysis in biomedical samples (59), since most inorganic and organic components in the environment are active in infrared (IR) radiation because they have dipole moments (60). This spectroscopic technique refers to absorption of IR radiation and relies on the absorption of energy from a photon that subsequently promotes the transition from a lower-energy state to a higher-energy, or an excited state (61). The excited states result in vibrations of molecular bonds (i.e., stretching, bending, twisting, rocking, wagging, and out-of-plane deformation) occurring at varying wavenumbers (or frequencies) in the IR region of light spectrum (59). The wavenumber of each IR absorbance peak is determined by the intrinsic physicochemical properties of the corresponding molecule. Therefore, this is diagnosed as a fingerprint of that particular functional group (e.g., C–H, O–H, C=O, etc.) (62).

FTIR spectra can be acquired by means of different techniques: transmission, specular reflectance, diffuse reflectance, photoacoustic infrared spectroscopy and attenuated total reflectance (ATR) (63, 64). Transmission has been widely used for biological samples. In this approach, a pellet has to be prepared and the sample has to be deposited on infrared trans-parent windows, such as calcium fluoride or barium fluoride windows, or potassium bromide (KBr). The pellet is processed by preparing a homogenous mixture of KBr with a pulverized sample, under high pressure until the pellet becomes transparent (62). One issue with this technique is to estimate the right proportion of the sample material in the pellet, so the resulting peak absorbance is not too weak or too intense (preferably between 0.2 to 0.7 absorbance units) (62). The advances in FTIR spectroscopy allowed the development of diffuse reflectance, photoacoustic infrared spectroscopy and attenuated total reflectance (ATR), requiring little or almost no sample preparation.

In specular reflection, IR spectra are generated based on the IR specular reflection light from a polished surface, thereby eliminating the need for thin specimens as in the case of the transmission mode (65). This technique is seldom used, because biological material polishing is not easy or desirable and the samples are often non-reflective (63). Diffuse reflectance refers to the light that has been reflected from within the object, rather than from its surface (66). This reflectance mode is often used for heterogeneous samples or powders and solids that have a rough surface, used in mid (MIR) and near infrared (NIR) spectroscopy. When using MIR, powders have to be diluted with KBr.

A photo-acoustic signal is generated when infrared radiation absorbed by a sample is converted into heat within the sample. This heat diffuses to the sample surface and into the adjacent atmosphere, and the thermal expansion of gas produces a photo-acoustic signal. Samples can be analyzed in their physiological condition and also in different depths (64). ATR is a form of internal reflection spectroscopy, in which a sample is placed in contact with an internal reflection element (IRE) with a high refractive index, for example, a diamond

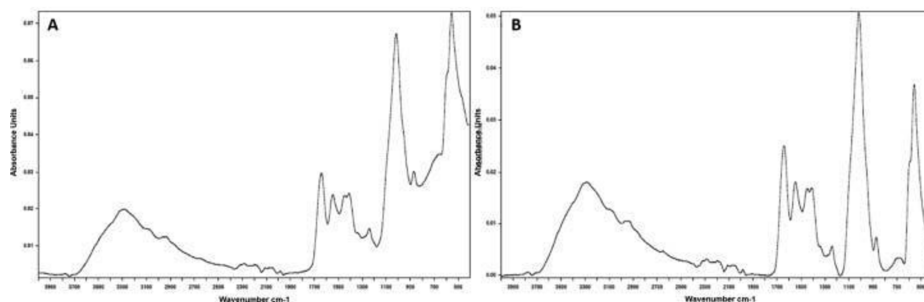


Figure 1. Baseline correction: (A) Original spectrum; (B) Spectrum after baseline subtraction.

crystal. A complete internal reflection occurs at the sample–IRE interface and after this, infra-red radiation is directed to a detector. Since infrared light is transmitted through the sample, little or almost no preparation is needed (62), thus it is considered a non-destructive method (59). Moreover, the presence of the ATR crystal allows IR spectra to be obtained with improved signal-to-noise ratios. An additional advantage is that it enables the collection of quality data of aqueous systems at crystal interfaces (63). ATR also has a small and well controlled depth of penetration, which implies it measures a relatively thin layer of the sample that is in contact with the ATR element surface (59). Because of the small depth of penetration, some contact pressure is necessary on samples that do not self-adhere to the ATR crystal to obtain a quality spectrum (63).

Infrared radiation is located between visible light and microwaves in the spectrum, and can be divided into three regions: near infrared 12800–4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , medium infrared 4000–200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and far infrared 200–100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (67). The majority of articles in the dental literature have evaluated the samples in the middle of the infrared region (approximately 4000 to 400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) (62). The absorbance units of molecular vibrations under IR radiation are proportional to the abundance of the functional groups. To calculate the absorbance units after spectrum generation, a baseline correction must be made to make the base level value constant (68). Several baseline algorithms are available, but in general, a constant value is only found by joining the points of lowest absorbance on a peak, preferably in reproducibly flat parts of the absorption line (Figure 1). The absorbance of each vibrational band is often measured by the maximum height or the integrated area between the peaks (Figure 2) (62). This article reviews FTIR spectroscopy applications in dentistry and identifies important peaks and the related assignments in the spectrum of FTIR spectroscopy to diagnose

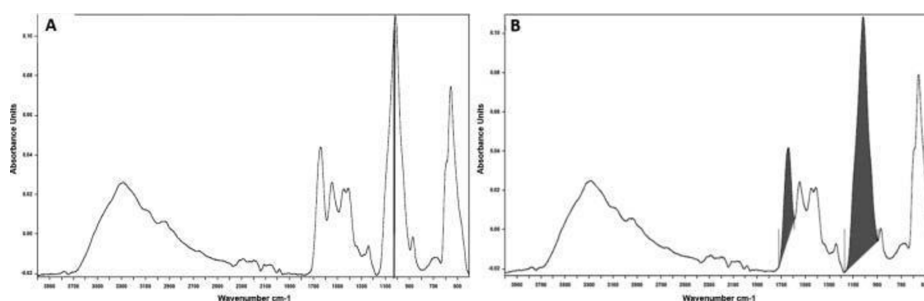


Figure 2. Calculation of the absorbance. (A) By the maximum height (absorbance intensity) (gray line) and (B) By integrated area (gray region).

mineralized tissue alterations and pathologies. By identifying the relevant peaks, this article serves as a guide for further studies with mineralized tissues using FTIR spectroscopy.

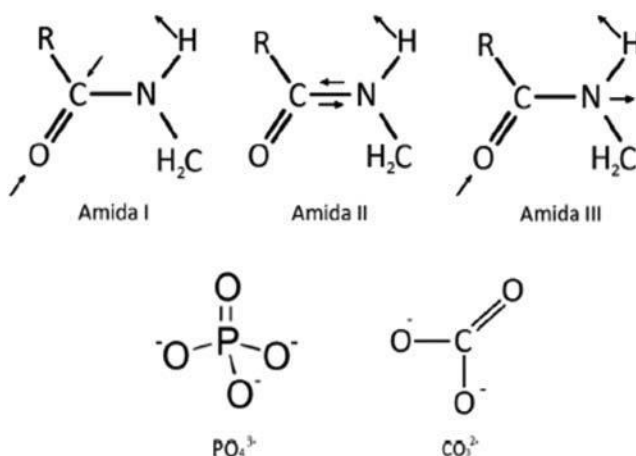
## 2. FTIR dentistry applications

### 2.1. Mineralized tissues characterization

Enamel, dentin and bone tissues are composed of water, organic and a mineral phase. The mineral matrix of these hard tissues is mainly composed of phosphate and calcium ions that form hydroxyapatite crystals –  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_5(\text{OH})_2$ , in addition to bicarbonate, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and citrate ions in small amounts. These crystals differ in size and quantity for each mineralized tissue (69). Bone and dentin organic matrix is mainly composed of type I collagen, and small quantities of other components (70). However, the enamel organic matrix in post-eruptive tissue is small (~1% weight (wt)), containing proteolyzed fragments and an insoluble protein matrix distributed along the dentin enamel junction (71). Differences in chemical composition between the depth and surface can occur in the same tissue (72, 73) or between different individuals and animals (69).

The chemical components present in these hard tissues such as water, phosphate, carbonate and collagen components strongly absorb IR region (Figure 3). The precise identification of chemical components depends on some details, such as sample preparation or the age of the subject/animal from which the sample is withdrawn, but despite these variables, the values remain very similar (72).

The water is present in two forms, adsorbed water, that is weakly bound to the structure, and structural water, that is strongly bound to the tissue (74). The most intense band can be observed at  $3398\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , assigned to the  $\nu_1$ ,  $2\nu_2$  and  $\nu_3$  vibrational modes. Another band can be observed at  $1643\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , associated to  $\nu_2$  mode, however in dentin and bone, this band shifts its position to  $1660\text{ cm}^{-1}$  because it overlaps with the collagen band (69). Masked with the broad  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  absorptions, the stretching vibration of the structural hydroxyl group of hydroxyapatite can be observed at  $3569\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the carbonated apatites (64).



**Figure 3.** Structural formula with the vibrational modes of amide I, amide II, amide III, phosphate and carbonate.

Phosphate ions have four vibrational modes,  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_2$ ,  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$ . All these modes are IR active and observed in enamel, dentin and bone tissues. A single intense  $\nu_3$  band is present at about  $1046\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $\nu_3$  band overlaps with the  $\nu_1$  band, being the first one of greater intensity (75). Phosphate  $\nu_1$  band is present at  $960\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The phosphate  $\nu_4$  band is present in the region of  $660\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $520\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and is a sharp well-defined band (64). Lastly, the weak phosphate  $\nu_2$  band is observed in the region of  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (69).

Carbonate ions also have four vibrational modes, three of which are observed in infrared spectrum ( $\nu_2$ ,  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$ ) and two of which are observed in the Raman spectrum ( $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_4$ ) (64). The carbonate  $\nu_4$  bands are seldom seen in the infrared spectrum and beyond that have very low intensity (22, 64). The  $\nu_3$  vibrational mode corresponds to the bands assigned in the region of  $1650$  to  $1300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the peak at  $873\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is due to the  $\nu_2$  vibrational mode. The bands raised from  $\nu_3$  vibrational mode are assigned to surface carbonate ions, rather than to carbonate ions in the lattice of phosphate ions.

Below, further information will be presented about each tissue, in addition to a representative spectrum and tables with the vibrational bands in the infrared region for enamel, dentin and bone tissues functional groups. A brief description of synthetic analogue materials to the mineral phase of these tissues will also be addressed.

## 2.2. Enamel chemical characterization

Enamel is the hardest tissue covering on the tooth crown surface. It consists of 96% (wt) inorganic mineralized material, 1% (wt) organic material, and 3% (wt) water by weight (76). Hydroxyapatite (HA) crystals form the large part of the inorganic structure. The remaining parts consist of water, lipids, and proteins. Histologically, the enamel tissue shows a prismatic structure. The prisms have a cylindrical shape and stretch from the enamel dentin junction through to the tooth surface. Proteins, lipids and carbohydrates are located in the interprismatic area, and so is water (76).

Enamel studies using FTIR have investigated various pathologies, such as, enamel erosion, hypomaturation and hypomineralization (20, 23, 24, 27). Enamel erosion caused by acids originating from acidic foods or beverages, promotes enamel demineralization (77). FTIR was found to be highly sensitive for detecting changes in enamel erosion, in which the phosphate content was changed and its peak was shifted (20, 24). Amelogenesis imperfecta (Hypomaturation) is a hereditary enamel disorder with a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations, including a discolored appearance; radiodensity similar to that of dentin; a soft texture, and it is highly vulnerable to dental caries (78). Sa et al. (23) attributed the change in the crystallinity, crystal size and solubility of hydroxyapatite crystals to the high carbonate content in hypomaturation enamel. Molar Incisor Hypomineralization (MIH) is a developmental disturbance of the enamel in permanent first molars and incisors. This pathology is associated with a number of subjective and objective problems and complications, such as dental fear and anxiety, severe enamel loss, hypersensitivity, increased treatment need and problems in performing proper filling therapy (79). Hypomineralization was characterized by FTIR as a decrease in mineral phase and larger amide bands (27).

Substances for prevention of enamel demineralization and for enamel remineralization have been investigated by FTIR (15, 21). These substances (asparagine–serine–serine peptide and zinc) commonly act predominantly on enamel surfaces at phosphate sites in the hydroxyapatite lattice reducing enamel demineralization or improving its remineralization.

Lasers for increasing enamel acid resistance with the purpose of preventing dental caries also have been investigated by FTIR (13, 16–18, 22). CO<sub>2</sub>, Nd:YAG and Er,Cr:YSGG lasers promoted water and carbonate loss, and were proved to be effective for controlling dental caries.

One of the most investigated subjects using FTIR is tooth whitening. Studies noted a decrease in the amount of phosphate and carbonate mineral content and in protein concentrations, proportional to treatment time and peroxide concentration (8, 14, 19, 25, 26, 45).

IR absorption frequencies of fundamental organic and inorganic functional groups in enamel are listed in Table 1, and typical ATR-FTIR enamel spectra are shown in Figure 4. The organic matrix bands are weak in comparison with mineral bands, especially relative to their lower content.

### 2.3. Chemical characterization of dentin

Comprising the greatest part of the dental tissue, dentin is a hard, elastic, avascular mineralized tissue supporting enamel and enclosing the central pulp chamber (80). It contains approximately (by weight) 70% mineral, 20% organic matrix, and 10% fluids (32). The major component of dentin organic matrix is heterotrimeric fibrillar type I collagen (90%) that serves as an oriented scaffold for mineral crystal deposition and packing of noncollagenous matrix (81). The deposition of minerals into and between collagen fibrils leads to the construction of a hard, resilient and resistant matrix. The histologic dentin architecture shows dentinal tubules, peritubular dentin and intertubular dentin (80). Dentinal tubules have an S-shaped path observed in a cross section of the long axis, from the outer surface of the dentin to the area nearest the pulp chamber. The density and diameter of the tubules are greatest near the pulp. Peritubular dentin is found around the lumen of the tubules thus, in a cross-section the structures appear to be ring-like (82). Intertubular dentin that comprises the main body of dentin, is less mineralized than peritubular dentin (80, 82).

Dentin can be changed by physiological and pathological processes that cause modifications in its structure and biological behavior (83). Knowledge about dentin molecular structure associated with its histological, microscopic and mechanical aspects is important for full understanding of its properties and role (36). In this respect, FTIR is a powerful methodology for generating direct information about the chemical composition of dentin samples and indirectly, about their molecular structure.

Studies have used FTIR spectroscopy to investigate the influence of lasers and plasma on dentin (28, 31–34, 39, 41). The studies showed collagen structure loss (31–33, 39, 41), and that this loss after plasma/ laser treatment enhanced adhesive/dentin interface bonding (31, 33, 39). After erbium laser irradiation, loss of water, change in collagen structure and composition, and increase in the OH<sup>-</sup> radicals were observed (28). Lin et al. (34) investigated whether it would be possible to fuse a root fracture by Nd:YAG laser. In this study, FTIR detected two different absorption bands at 2200 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2015 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the spectrum, which suggested that a reaction had occurred in the organic matrix or between the organic matrix and minerals. Furthermore, FTIR showed that radiotherapy changed the absorption bands of dentin, with increased bands of amide I (18.8%), amide II (1.51%), amide III (38%), phosphate (20%), and proline and hydroxyproline (4.94%), suggesting changes in dentin properties (40).

Moreover, in endodontic research, Yassen et al. and Yassen et al. (46, 47) showed a superficial collagen degradation or demineralization of radicular dentin caused by calcium hydroxide Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, or antibiotic pastes, medicaments used in endodontic regeneration.

**Table 1.** Absorption bands and/or range of chemical components presented in human enamel.

Assignment	Absorption peaks and/or bands (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>2</sub>	470 (25)
Symmetric angular deformation	469 (69)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>4</sub>	568 e 602 (27)
Antisymmetric angular deformation	450–700 (23)
	500–650 (19)
	500–650 (26)
	582 (45)
	568 and 603 (25)
	520–650 (69)
	604, 564 (600–560) (13)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>1</sub>	958 (27)
Symmetric stretching	958 (25)
	960 (13)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>3</sub>	1040 (27)
Antisymmetric stretching	1100 and 1042 (45)
	1040 (25)
	1030–1160 (1035) (13)
	1100–1000/1220–900 (69)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>2</sub>	875 (22)
Symmetric angular deformation	872 (27)
	845–890 (23)
	850–890 (19)
	850–890 (26)
	890 e 860 (69)
	879 type A (69)
	873 type B (69)
	870–960, 872 (13)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>3</sub>	1415, 1460 (22)
Antisymmetric stretching	1420 (27)
	1350–1520 (23)
	1405 (19)
	1540 (25)
	1415, 1450–1550 (13)
	1544, 1530 (69)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>4</sub>	1560 (22)
Structural OH	3448, 3569 (22)
Stretching mode	3565 (27)
	749, 3570 (69)
	3793–2652 (17, 18)
	3800–3000 (15)
	3450–3570 (26)
	3570; 3500–2900 (69)
	3600–2400 (13)
Amide III	1202 (27)
Carbonate + Amide II	1540 A site (27)
N-H bending	1453 B site (27)
C-N stretching vibrations	1540 (27)
	1540 (26)
	1550 (45)
	1453 (25)
	1544, 1530–1380 (69)
	1640–1600 (69)
	1450–1425- Carbonate; 1550 – Amide II (13)
H <sub>2</sub> O + Amide I	1646 (15)
	1642 (69)
	1630 (13)
	1638 (22)
	1653 (27)
	1575–1730 (23)

(Continued on next page)



Table 1. (Continued )

Assignment	Absorption peaks and/or bands (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
	1660 (1400–1700) (19)
	1700–1600 (26)
	1650 (45)
	1673 (25)
	1690–1650 (69)
	1660 (13)

Neelakantan et al. (38) investigated the influence of irrigation on the chemical interaction between root canal sealers and dentin by means of FTIR. They observed a new peak formed at 1735 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C D O stretch) suggesting a chemical interaction between AH Plus root canal sealer and collagen when 3% NaOCl, 17% EDTA, water and 3% NaOCl, QMix, water were used as irrigation solutions.

Dental caries has been characterized by Liu et al. and Maske et al. in their studies (36, 37). Liu et al. (36) analyzed dentin transitions from the transparent zone (TZ) into the normal zone (NZ) regarding structural changes in collagen and hydroxyapatite, by using FTIR imaging system. They showed that collagen in TZ is hardly altered. Moreover, the resemblance between the STZ and NZ in terms of carbonate-rich A-type carbonate content, suggested that the mineral that initially occluded dentin tubules was hydroxyapatite. Maske et al. (37) developed a biofilm cariogenic challenge model and showed carries-affected dentin had lower mineral and amide I content. This was in agreement with Ramakrishnaiah et al. (84)

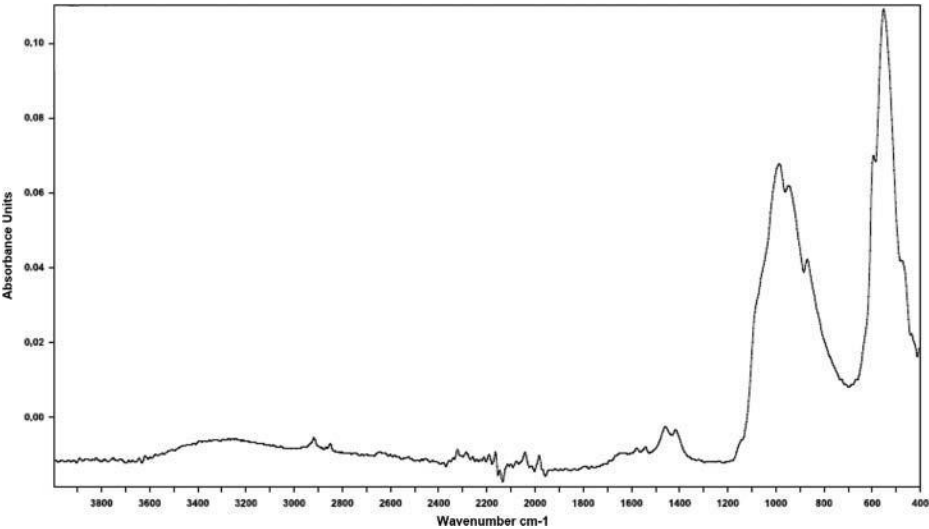


Figure 4. Typical ATR-FTIR spectrum of dental enamel.



who described dental caries as the demineralization of inorganic substances (hydroxyapatite crystals) and destruction of organic substance (collagen matter).

FTIR spectroscopy is also useful in demonstrating reduced mineral and organic content in tooth whitening (25, 45). Moreover, it can be used to evaluate dentin collagen for various other reasons, such as heated and rehydrated dentin; demineralized dentin and deproteinized dentin; and substances against collagen degradation (29, 30, 35, 42–44, 85).

IR absorption frequencies of fundamental organic and inorganic functional groups in dentin are listed in Table 2, and typical ATR-FTIR dentin spectra are shown in Figure 5.

## 2.4. Bone

Bone tissue is a connective tissue with mineralized extracellular matrix that provides bone with hardness and resistance. The biomechanical properties of bone result from a complex structural arrangement between organic and inorganic components (86). Bone organic matrix is composed of collagen, noncollagenous proteins, and lipids, with 85–90% of the total bone protein being type I collagen (87). The hydroxyapatite crystal is the main inorganic matrix component. In bone, the hydroxyapatite has a structure similar to the mineral calcium hydroxyapatite,  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$ , however, it is considered a carbonated and poorly crystalline hydroxyapatite (55). This is due to substitution and aggregation of small amounts of other ions, such as magnesium ( $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ), potassium ( $\text{K}^+$ ), and/or sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , acidic phosphate ( $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ) for  $\text{PO}_4$ , and carbonate ( $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ), which can actually substitute either  $\text{OH}^-$  (type A), or  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  (type B), or be loosely bound on the crystal surface (55). The type and extent of substitutions influence the crystal solubility as well as the size and shape, usually referred to as crystallinity (55). The carbonate is predominantly present as B-type carbonate, which increases the crystal solubility (88).

Understanding the physical and chemical properties of bone is important to enable researchers and practitioners to fully exploit this vital material. However, since bone is a complex heterogeneous material, analysis of these properties becomes somewhat problematic (89). ATR-FTIR spectroscopy has been successfully used, because in this technique, there is no need for sample preparation and spatial variation is not lost (90).

The first bone analyses using FTIR spectroscopy were performed to confirm the x-ray diffraction findings, in which a similar microstructure was observed between the bone mineral matrix and the mineral hydroxyapatite (90, 91). At present, this technique is being used to investigate different conditions that can change bone composition and structure, and thus affect its mechanical properties.

FTIR studies revealed increased mineral crystal sizes and decreased carbonate content for diabetic femur and tibia, suggestive of osteoporosis (92). Gong et al. (51) conducted a review that described new technologies for their diagnosis and treatment, including postmeno-pausal osteoporosis fracture risk (51). FTIR is an important methodology, because it helps to understand bone quality and fracture risk in osteoporotic patients by calculating parameters related to bone quality, such as mineral-to-matrix ratios, carbonate-to-phosphate ratios, mineral crystallinity, and/or collagen maturity (55). Higher collagen maturity and lower mineral-to-matrix ratio and ratio heterogeneity have been found in women with femoral fractures than in women without these (50). Lower carbonate-to-phosphate heterogeneity and crystallinity variability have also been found in fracture cases (51).

**Table 2.** Absorption bands and/or range of chemical components present in human dentin.

Components	Absorption (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>2</sub>	470 (25)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>4</sub>	568 and 603 (25)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>1</sub>	958 (25)
	960 (37)
	961 (46)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>3</sub>	1005 (35)
	1013 (46)
	1025 (39)
	1035 (36, 37, 41)
	1040 (25)
	1042 and 1100 (45)
	1000–1100 (34)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>2</sub>	870 (34, 39, 46)
	872 (35, 36)
	875 (41)
	820–920 (36)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>3</sub> overlapped with collagen	1410 (36)
	1411–1451 (46)
	1410–1560 (41)
	1425–1450 (34)
	1540–1453 (25)
	1450–1640 (43)
Amide III	1230 (39, 45)
N-H deformation	1232 (30)
C-N stretching	1235 (32, 35, 36, 85, 86)
	1240 (41)
	1046 (46)
Scissoring CH <sub>2</sub>	1450 (35, 36, 85)
	1460 (45)
Carbonate + Amide II:	1540 (33)
N-H bending	1542 (32)
C-N stretching	1544 (35, 85)
CNH	1550 (33, 34, 41, 45, 86)
	1551 (30, 46)
	1500–1600 (39)
H <sub>2</sub> O + Amide I	1600–1700 (37)
C = O stretching	1630 (30, 39)
	1633 (35)
	1643 (33)
	1645 (46)
	1650 (33, 45)
	1653 (32)
	1655 (36)
	1660 (41)
	1673 (25)
H <sub>2</sub> O v <sub>2</sub> overlap by the collagen band	1660 (69)
Structural OH	634 (34) and 2400–3600 (41)
Adsorbed H <sub>2</sub> O (v <sub>2</sub> )	1643 (69)
H <sub>2</sub> O v <sub>1</sub> , v <sub>2</sub> , v <sub>3</sub>	3398 (69)
Free OH	3596 (32)
hydroxyapatite, and amide N–H stretch	3433 (43)
H-bonded OH	3443 (32)
Amide A and amine N–H	3260; 3309 (30)
Amide B: COH	2930 (30)
CO <sub>3</sub>	2300–2400 (43)
A-type carbonate	897 (36)
B-type carbonate	872 (36)

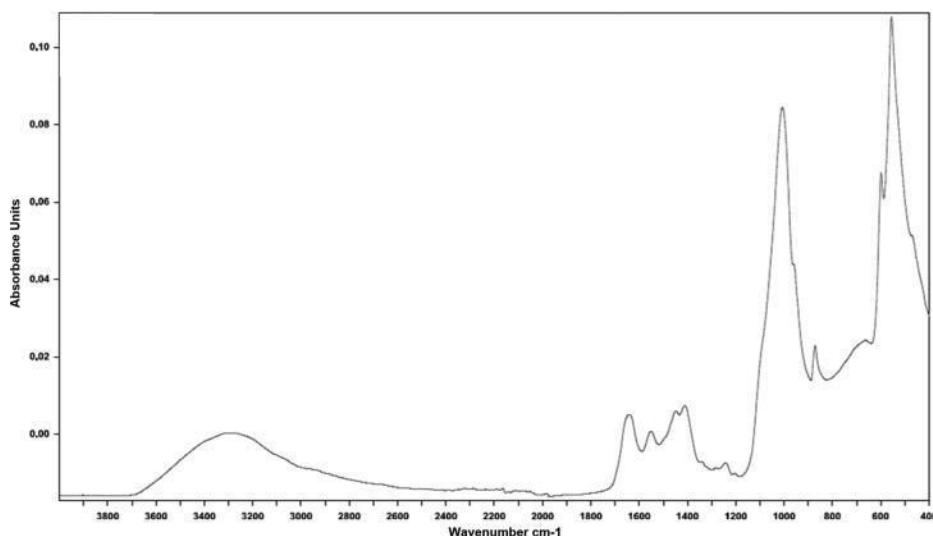


Figure 5. Typical ATR-FTIR dentin spectrum.

FTIR has been used to assess the effect of irradiation on bone, arising from medical therapy or bone-allograft sterilization causing loss and damage of bone collagen (87). FTIR showed increased glycosaminoglycan bands and decreased hydroxyapatite bands in bone and cartilage tissues. This possibly occurred because of glycosidic bond disruption, H<sub>2</sub>O radiolysis and formation of amyloid-like proteins due to oxidative stress and free radical reactions.

Ellingham et al. (93) conducted a methodological review to estimate the temperature to which burnt bone was exposed. FTIR was used to assess bone crystallinity and the authors found that the crystallinity index increased with increasing temperature up to 800 C. From which point onwards, however, the values decreased due to the fusion of crystals as an effect of sintering (89). This topic is especially important to forensic anthropologists.

Another topic addressed in the studies with FTIR was sample preparation – longitudinal or cross-sections of human bone and compositional mapping of the cartilage-to-bone interface considering tissue region and age (53, 72). Gu et al. (53) showed stoichiometric changes resulting from mineral-collagen interactions in the two orientations. Furthermore, Khanarian et al. (72) observed tissue-dependent and age-related changes at the cartilage-to-bone interface, with relative increase in collagen content from cartilage to bone, whereas proteoglycan peaked within the deep zone of cartilage. In addition, irrespective of age, mineral content increased exponentially across the calcified cartilage interface.

Literature studies have also investigated the thermal effects on bone produced by the laser irradiation. Benetti et al. (48) showed by FTIR analysis that Er,Cr:YSGG laser promoted changes in bone tissue in both the mineral and organic components depending on the laser energy density. The carbonate to phosphate ratio showed a decreasing trend with a rise in energy density; however, there was no change in mineral crystallinity (48). Organic components significantly decreased with the increase in the energy density used, possibly due to the increase in the temperature of the tissue (48).

IR absorption frequencies of fundamental organic and inorganic functional groups in bone are listed in Table 3, and typical ATR-FTIR bone spectra are shown in Figure 6.

**Table 3** – Absorption bands and/or range of chemical components present in bone tissue.

Components	Absorption (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>2</sub>	470 (53)
Symmetric bending	
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>4</sub>	480–770 (87)
Antisymmetric bending	565 and 605 (90)
	500–660 (93)
	606, 567 (53)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>1</sub>	960 (90)
	960 (53)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>3</sub>	1035 (94)
Antisymmetric stretching	1028–1100 (90)
	1100–1180 (53)
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>1</sub> c PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> v <sub>3</sub>	900–1200 (87)
	916–1180 (52)
	900–1200 (93)
	900–1200 (72)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>2</sub>	900 (94)
	874 (90)
	840–892 (52)
	850–890 (93)
	850–890 (72)
	875 (53)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> v <sub>3</sub>	1415(94)
	1400–1550 (90)
Amide III	1210–1280 (48)
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + Amide II	1550(94)
protein N-H bending C C-N stretching	1492–1590 (72)
	1546–1506 (53)
H <sub>2</sub> O + Amide I	1585–1720 (87)
protein C = O stretch	1592–1712 (52)
	1650 (94)
	1590 – 1720 (72)
	1654 (53)
	1630–1660 (90)
Amide I	1660 (88)
Pyridinoline collagen crosslinks	1660 (52)
Amide I	1690 (88)
DHLNL collagen crosslinks	1690 (52)
OH	573, 632–650, 3400 (90)
	~2100, 3328, 3570 (53)

### 2.4.1. Synthetic analogue materials

Synthetic calcium phosphate bioceramics are common alternatives to autogenous bone, xenograft or allograft materials due to their biocompatibility and chemical similarity to the inorganic matrix of bone, and of tooth enamel and dentine (94). They have gained acceptance for various dental or medical applications that include, e.g., fillers for periodontal defects, alveolar ridge augmentation, maxillofacial reconstruction, and coatings for metallic implants (95–97). Different phases and forms of calcium phosphates, including b-tricalcium phosphate (β-TCP), α-tricalcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite (HA), biphasic calcium phosphate and monocalcium phosphate monohydrate are commonly used as blocks, cements, pastes, powders or granules (98). The biological performance of a synthetic material depends on fundamental parameters: chemical composition, morphology and biodegradability (99).

The tricalcium phosphate (TCP) has received great attention as grafts for bone regeneration applications due to its excellent biocompatibility and biodegradability (100, 101). Its capacity for dissolution and adsorption in biological tissues is 12 times higher than HA, since

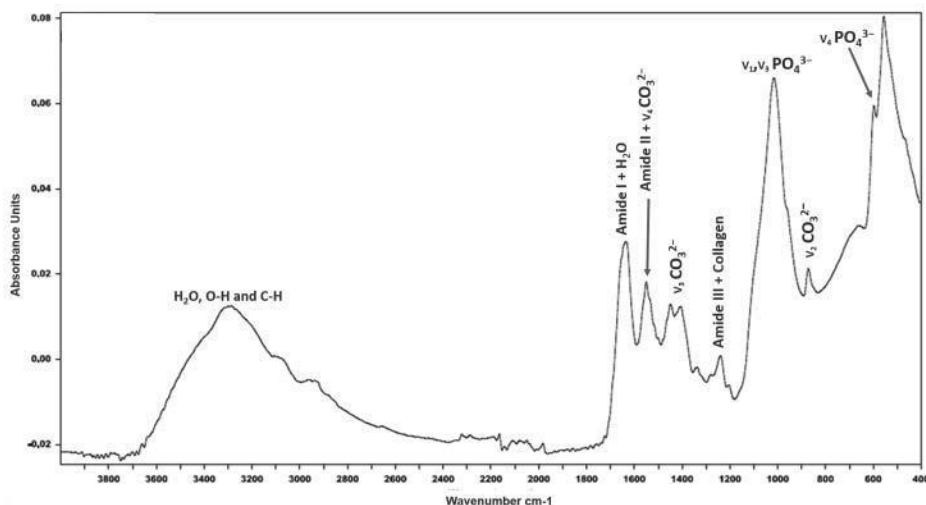


Figure 6. Typical ATR-FTIR bone spectrum.

it is not stable in aqueous solution or in the presence of humidity. Naturally, TCP is found in pathological calcifications, such as dental and urinary calculi, besides being the main inorganic constituent in dental caries lesions. Due to its biodegradable behavior, TCP in allotropic forms  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  has become an object of interest in the area of biomaterials, being used in dentistry as filling material in cavities, regions with bone defects and fixation of soft tissues (102). FTIR spectra of commercially available  $\beta$ -TCP ceramics are shown in Figure 7, identifying the calcium phosphate bands.

HA is an ideal phase of calcium-phosphate for application in the human body due to its biocompatibility, osteoconductivity, bioactivity and minimal risks of allergic reactions (103). In Figure 8, the spectra of a synthetic hydroxyapatite powder shows a number of spectral details indicating some similarities with the carbonated apatite.

The FT-IR assay has been most frequently used for the assignment of the substitution types of ions in synthetic apatite products (103–106) and in the structural modifications

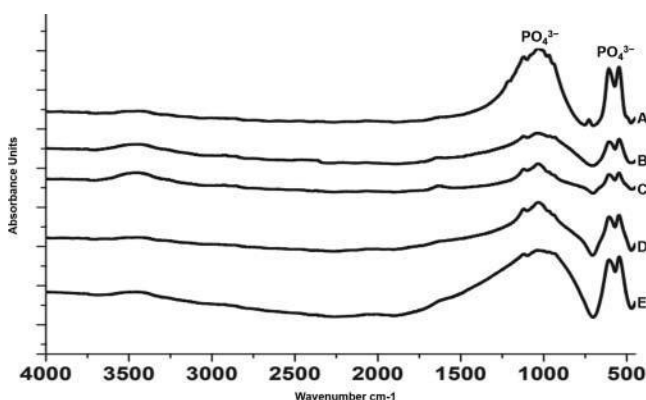
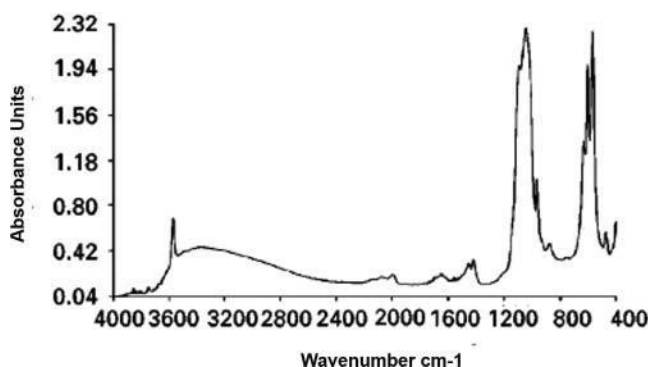


Figure 7. FTIR spectra of commercially available TCP ceramics. A - Vitoss , B - Cerasorb , C - Ceros , D - Chronos , E - Bioresorb .



**Figure 8.** FTIR spectrum of synthetic hydroxyapatite powder.

related processing of HA-based materials (107). Doping of the original sites of HA can induce improved biological responses, adding new characteristics and properties, capable of increasing the degree of biocompatibility of these materials. Substitutions within the HA lattice are observed both for naturally occurring and synthetic HA (108). HA can be substituted by numerous ions such as cations  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and anions  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ . The most common are substitutions involving fluoride and carbonate ions (109). When  $\text{F}^-$  substitutes for the hydroxyl ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) group, makes the structure more hexagonal and less soluble than pure hydroxyapatite at  $\text{pH} = 5\text{--}7$  (108). The presence of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  in the structure is a para-mount importance because it is the main source of distortion of the crystalline network, creating micro-stresses and defects in its vicinity, greatly influencing its solubility (110). The  $\text{CO}_3^-$  ion can substitute for either the hydroxyl groups (type A) or the phosphate (type B) of HA (103). Type A causes augmentation of the a-axis and decrease of the c-axis in the HA unit cell. The incorporation of type B carbonate can cause the following effects: decrease in the a-axis and increase of the c-axis in the unit cell, decrease in crystal size, change in crystal morphology and decrease of crystallinity and increase of solubility of the material (97).

#### 2.4.2. Parameters that are commonly assessed for enamel, dentin and bone and their importance

In FTIR spectroscopy, the area under a band is directly proportional to the concentration of the chemical species that gives rise to the specific band. However, it is sometimes preferable to use ratios between reference areas or peak heights, since the comparison parameters resulting from single bands are subject to uncertainties arising from sample to sample variations (54).

#### 2.4.3. Mineral to matrix ratio

This ratio directly measures the amount of organic matrix in the volume analyzed (50, 86). The division of the integrated areas of the  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{PO}_4^{3-}$  (stretching and bending vibrations) to amide I (mainly from the peptide bond  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  stretching vibration with minor contributions from the out of phase CN stretching vibration, the CCN deformation and the NH in-plane bend) provides what is commonly reported as mineral/matrix ratio or phosphate to amide I ratio (Figure 9) (86). A further way of obtaining the mineral/matrix ratio is by dividing  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{PO}_4^{3-}$  by amide II (out of phase combination of the NH in-plane bend and the CC

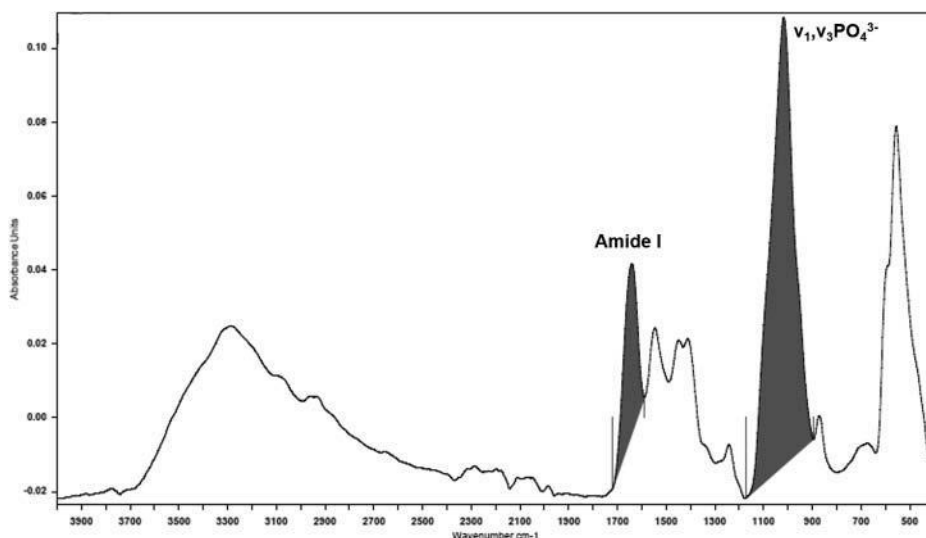
and NC stretching vibration with smaller contributions from the CO in-plane bend and the CC and NC stretching vibrations) (48, 50), either  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{ PO}_4^{3-}$  by amide III (48).

#### 2.4.4. Carbonate to phosphate ratio or carbonate to mineral ratio

Carbonate to phosphate ratio indicates the extent of carbonate incorporation into the hydroxyapatite lattice. In FTIR, two bands are assigned to carbonate, nonetheless they are overlap with acidic phosphate peaks ( $850\text{--}890 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) or noncollagenous protein peaks ( $1400\text{--}1500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Therefore, it is necessary to perform second derivative spectroscopy (Figure 10) followed by curve-fitting routines to gain information on the extent and the type of carbonate substitution (54). Curve-fitting of the carbonate band reveals two types of substitution, A-type and B-type, which is designated to carbonate ions occupying the positions of hydroxide whereas the latter designates phosphate ions, respectively (36, 56). A-type carbonate ( $878 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) occurs at a significant level in dental enamel and B-type carbonate ( $871 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), and represents the major substitution site in bone and dentin (54). This substitution causes deformations in the crystalline lattice and results in less stable phases that are more soluble in acid (111).

#### 2.4.5. Mineral maturity/crystallinity

The crystallinity index (CI) is defined as the crystallinity volume fraction of one phase in a given sample and represents a measure of the average crystallite size, perfection, and ordering (91). In biologic mineralized tissues, the hydroxyapatite crystals are poorly crystalline since they contain impurities (50, 112). As a result, efforts have been made to extrapolate these values from the direct measure of FTIR spectroscopy, which is the mineral maturity to mineral crystallinity ratio. This is measured by the ratio of the peak height intensities of the  $1030$  and  $1020 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 11). Mineral crystallinity correlates linearly with HA crystal size and perfection in the c-axis direction is determined by X-ray diffraction analyses (57).



**Figure 9.** Calculation of the Mineral to Matrix Ratio by the integrated areas from  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{ PO}_4^{3-}$  and amide I (gray region).

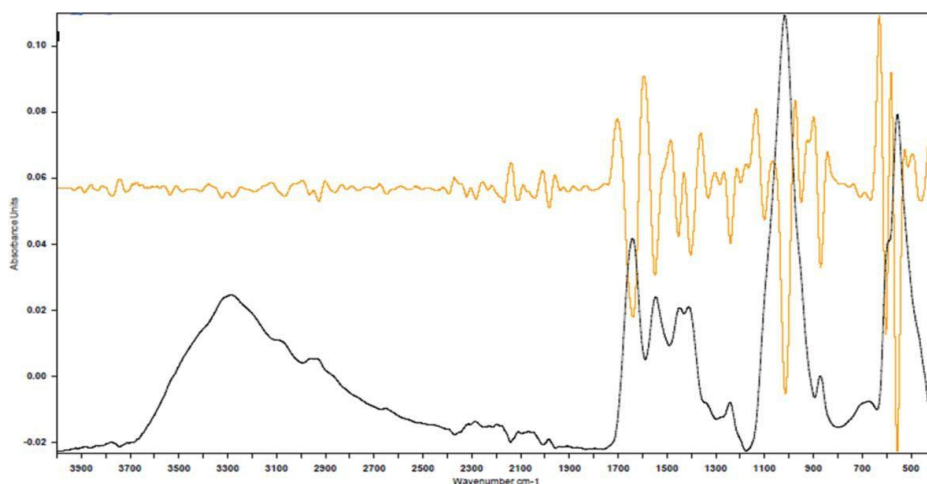


Figure 10. Example of the second derivative of a spectrum: Absorption spectrum (black); Second derivative of the spectrum (orange line).

#### 2.4.6. Collagen cross-links

One of the most abundant proteins in mineralized connective tissues is type I collagen. A distinct feature of collagen is its cross-linking chemistry and molecular packing structure (113). This arrangement is responsible for mechanical properties such as tensile strength and viscoelasticity of the fibrillar matrix. To date, seven major collagen cross-links have been established as naturally occurring intermolecular cross-links (112). Vibrational spectroscopic analysis is able to describe the spatial distribution of two types of the collagen cross-links, namely pyridinoline and divalent cross-links (50, 112). In FTIR this parameter is determined through the resolution and quantification of the amide I peak (peptide C = O stretch,  $1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) by means of second derivative spectroscopy and curve-fitting routines (112,

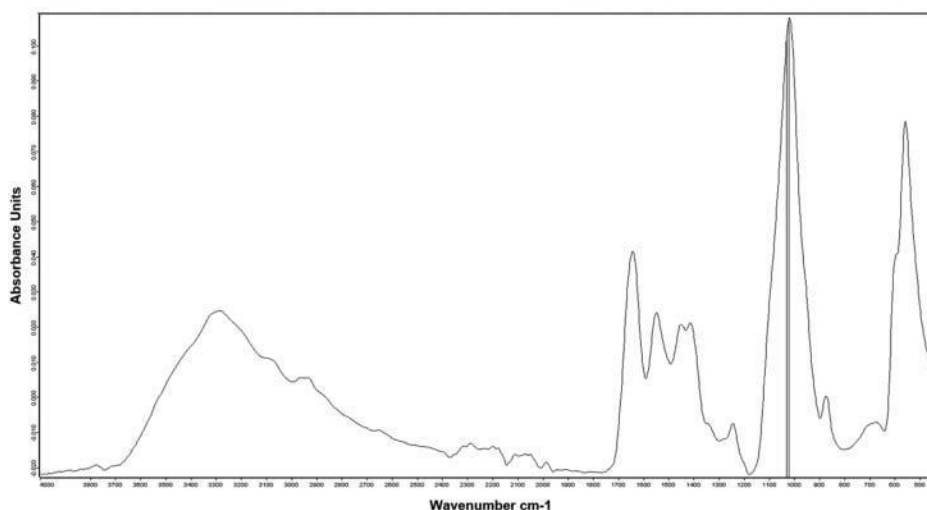


Figure 11. Calculation of the Mineral Maturity by peak height intensities of the 1030 and 1020  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (gray lines).



114). Two sub-bands of amide I are of particular interest in collagen denaturation: one at  $1660\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and one at  $1690\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to the nonreducible and reducible collagen, respectively (112). Cross-linking is important for the development of the underlying matrix, which in turn is essential for initial mineral formation and crystal growth in mineralized connective tissue (52). Changes in this network can result in severe dysfunction of the tissue and may be associated with the age-related increase in fracture and diseases (115–117). Furthermore, the ratio of amide I to amide II band areas can be used to determine collagen fiber orientation (118).

### 3. Conclusion

FTIR spectroscopy has been shown to be an advantageous technique since it provides a fast, convenient, and accurate quantitative approach to investigating mineralized tissues and its synthetic analogues. Moreover, it provides insightful information on the chemical structure at the molecular scale. At present, this technique has been used to investigate different conditions that can change enamel, dentin and bone chemical composition and structure. FTIR can be utilized in hard dental tissue research for the investigation of development disturbances (such as amelogenesis imperfect, hypomineralization); diseases that lead to tooth structure loss (erosion, dental caries); tooth whitening; the mechanism of action of lasers and plasma on enamel and dentin, among others. In the same way, FTIR can be used in bone studies to examine diseases that affect bone remodeling (diabetes and osteoporosis), the action of lasers and raio-x, and age-related changes, etc. In addition, several studies have used FTIR in the analysis of ionic substitution types and of the structural modifications related to the processing of synthetic apatite products applied in dental or medical areas.

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### **3.2 - Capítulo 2**

Effect of radiotherapy and salivary flow rate on root dentin caries progression

Artigo a ser submetido para o periódico Clinical Oral Investigation



## **Title**

Effect of radiotherapy and salivary flow rate on root dentin caries progression

## **Abstract**

**Objectives:** To evaluate the effect of ionizing radiation and salivary flow rate on the initial development of artificial induced root dentin caries lesions.

**Materials and methods:** Microcosm biofilms were grown under two different protocols of salivary flow rate ( $0.06 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$  and  $0.03 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ , study 1 and 2, respectively) on non-irradiated and irradiated root dentin blocks for up to seven days. Root dentin's vibration modes, matrix/mineral (M/M) and carbonate/mineral (C/M) ratios were evaluated by FTIR. The mineral density was assessed by micro-ct.

**Results:** In study 1, FTIR revealed an increase in amide III and  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{ PO}_4^{-3}$  values and a decrease in amide II,  $\nu_4, \nu_2 \text{ PO}_4^{-3}$  and C/M ratio in caries affected dentin (CAD). In addition, significantly lower  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{ PO}_4^{-3}$ ,  $\nu_2 \text{ CO}_3^{-2}$  and C/M values were found for irradiated dentin. Differences in mineral density were not significant. In study 2, FTIR also revealed a decrease in amide II and  $\nu_4, \nu_2 \text{ PO}_4^{-3}$ , as well as in  $\nu_2 \text{ CO}_3^{-2}$  with CAD. Higher  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{ PO}_4^{-3}$  was found for irradiated dentin ( $p=0.019$ ) with no differences between sound and CAD. Irradiated CAD presented higher values of amide III than non-irradiated CAD. Irradiated dentin presented lower mineral density.

**Conclusions:** Initial caries lesions differed between non-irradiated dentin and irradiated dentin and between normal and reduced salivary flow rate. Alterations in the inorganic and organic matrix and in mineral density was found for irradiated dentin. With reduced salivary flow, mineral alterations were more detectable in the caries lesions.

**Clinical relevance:** Ionizing radiation and low salivary flow rate enhanced root dentin caries susceptibility.

**Key-words:** Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy, ionizing radiation, mineral density, root dentin caries, salivary flow

## Introduction

Dental caries is one of the most common oral diseases in humans (1), and its development is associated to a sucrose-rich diet and to an undisturbed microbial biofilm growth on teeth surface (2). Patients with head and neck cancer may have an unusual type of caries among long term effects (3). Radiation-related caries (RRC) have a rapid progression and is highly destructive (4-6). A wide discussion has been made on this topic, whether RRC is originated from a direct or indirect effect of radiation on teeth (5-7). However, other disorders that cause hyposalivation, like diabetes, Sjogren's syndrome, aging, the use of chemotherapy agents, anti-hypertensives and psychiatric agents, do not produce similar lesions to RCC (6, 7). This aspect leads to an understanding that the disease is due to both effects (6, 7). In vitro and in situ studies showed altered morphological, chemical, and mechanical properties of mineralized teeth tissues as well as increased susceptibility of enamel delamination (8-15). Among the indirect effects, it can be mention salivary changes, such as hyposalivation, reducing the effectiveness of saliva in promoting buffer and cleaning activities (16), as well as changes in its composition, pH and oral microbiota (17).

RCC usually presents a circumferential demineralization on the cervical area of the tooth, affecting smooth enamel surfaces that are usually resistant to dental caries, as well as exposed cement surfaces (18). Root dentin caries represents a challenge due to its greater susceptibility to demineralization and treatment when compared to enamel caries (6, 7). Dentin vulnerability to acidic dissolution is because of its higher critical pH for demineralization (6.2 - 6.4) than that of enamel (5.5) (19) and structural morphology (20). The dentin contains a considerable amount of organic material, so the tilt in the balance between demineralization and remineralization towards demineralization process can not explain the dentin caries by itself. The collagen degradation (proteolysis theory) might also play a role in dentin caries development (21).

The development of laboratory models that let biofilm formation for extended periods under controlled conditions have been useful for simulating the oral environment in vitro (22). Dynamic biofilm models presents some advantages, once it allows the manipulation of the variables and the simulation of the physiological and dynamic conditions of the oral environment, such as pH oscillations from the exposure to carbohydrate source, salivary flow rate that might influence bacterial adherence (22).

Bacterial methods approach from reality, the lesions formed mimic the natural morphology of caries lesions, with the presence of an irregular surface, demineralization of intertubular dentin, degradation of collagen fibrils, discreet opening of dentinal tubules (23).

Since the literature shows that there is radiation-induced damage increasing susceptibility to caries, it is expected a different pattern of demineralization in irradiated dentin (24) *in vitro*. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to compare the initial development of dentin caries in irradiated and non-irradiated dentin by a dynamic microcosm biofilm model and the influence of a normal and a reduced salivary flow rate. The null hypothesis tested was that artificial caries lesion would not differ between non-irradiated dentin and irradiated dentin, neither between normal and reduced salivary flow rate.

## **Material and Methods**

After approval from the Research Ethics Committee (No. 37868814.6.0000.5152), freshly extracted human third molars were collected, cleaned and stored in refrigerated deionized water (4°C), up to 3 months after extraction. Before the experimental procedures, the teeth were examined under a stereoscopic microscope (Leica MS5, Leica Microscopy Systems Ltd; Heerbrugg, Switzerland) to show evidence of caries, enamel hypoplasia and other defects. Forty sound teeth were selected and randomly divided into two studies according to the flow rate of the dynamic microcosm biofilm model: 0.06 ml min<sup>-1</sup> (normal salivary flow rate) and 0.03 ml min<sup>-1</sup> (reduced salivary flow rate), simulating a normal and a reduced salivary flow, respectively. For each study, the teeth were divided as follows (n=10): non-irradiated and irradiated.

The teeth of the irradiated group were subjected to fractionated x-ray radiation of 2 Gy per day, applied 5 days per week, during 7 weeks, totalizing 70 Gy. The x-rays source was a linear accelerator (Clinac 600C Varian®— Palo Alto, CA, EUA, Beam 6 MV). Samples were submerged in distilled water during radiotherapy.

## **Specimen preparation**

The teeth were cut at the cemento-enamel junction using a water-cooled diamond saw (Isomet, 15HC diamond; Buehler Ltd., Lake Bluff, IL, USA) mounted on a precision saw

(Isomet 1000; Buehler Ltd., Lake Bluff, IL, USA). Another section was made 3 mm below, obtaining a slice of root dentin. The slices were cut into a 2 mm x 4 mm x 2 mm dentin block. Root dentin was wet ground with 600, 1200, 2000 and 2500 grit silicon carbide papers, to obtain a plan surface. Nail varnish (Colorama Maybelline; São Paulo, SP, Brazil) was applied to the sides and bottom of the block, leaving half of the vestibular dentin exposed. Thus, the root dentin blocks were divided into two subgroups (n=10) according to cariogenic challenge: sound (nail varnish protected surface) and caries affected dentin (exposed surface). The blocks were fixed on the removable device placed in the independent units of the culture chamber with high temperature neutral silicone (Wurth do Brazil Peças de Fixação Ltda, São Paulo, SP, Brazil). The culture chamber with the samples inside was sterilized by autoclaving (121 °C for 15 min) (25).

### **Microcosm Biofilm Model – artificial dentin caries lesions**

Fresh whole saliva stimulated by paraffin film chewing was collected from a healthy volunteer (male, aged 24), who had not been under antibiotic therapy at least 6 months. The volunteer abstained from oral hygiene for 24 h and food ingestion for 2 h before saliva collection. The saliva (20 ml) was collected directly into a sterile tube kept on ice and immediately used for baseline analysis (baseline microbial composition – CFU ml<sup>-1</sup>) and inoculation procedures for biofilm growth (26).

For the inoculation procedures, 12 ml of the saliva was immediately added to 240 ml of sterile defined medium enriched with mucin (DMM) (pH=7.0). The solution was gently homogenized and placed in the culture chamber. Twenty-one ml of DMM/saliva solution were injected into each sample-accommodating independent unit through the specific inoculum-feeding inlet. One hour after initial microbial inoculation, sterile DMM was pumped at a flow-rate of 0.06 ml min<sup>-1</sup> and 0.03 ml min<sup>-1</sup>, study1 and study 2, respectively, simulating a normal and a reduced salivary flow. Sucrose pulses started 2 h later (5% sucrose solution, 0.25 ml min<sup>-1</sup>, 6 min exposure, three times daily with 8 h intervals). The experiments were carried out for up to seven days (26).

### **Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)**

Chemical composition of sound and caries affected dentin was determined for each group using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR Vertex 70 – Bruker; Ettlingen,

Baden-Württemberg, Germany) with an attenuated total reflectance (ATR) accessory. The testing surface was positioned against the diamond crystal of the ATR unit and pressed with a force gauge at constant pressure. Then, the spectra were acquired in the absorbance mode using 32 co-added scans acquired at a frequency range between 400–4,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Spectra were recorded and analyzed by OPUS 6.5 software (Bruker, Ettlingen, Germany). After baseline correction and normalization, the integrated areas of specific bands of organic and inorganic dentin content were calculated: the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$  vibration modes of phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ) (1300-900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), amide I (1680-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), the superposition of the carbonate ( $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ) + amide II (1580-1480  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), amide III + collagen structure (1200-1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), the  $\nu_2$  vibration mode of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  (around 870  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), the superposition of the stretching  $\nu_3$  and bending  $\nu_4$  vibration mode of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  (between 1600-1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and the  $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_2$  vibration mode of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  (617-472  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The following parameters were also evaluated: (1) mineral/matrix ratio – M/M (the ratio between integrated areas of the C=O stretching of collagen amide I to  $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_2$   $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ); (2) carbonate/mineral ratio C/M (the ratio of the integrated areas of  $\nu_2$   $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  to the  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_3$   $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ) (27, 28).

### **Micro-ct**

Four dentin blocks of each group were scanned using a micro-CT scanner (Skyscan 1272; Skyscan, Kontich, Belgium) to assess mineral density. The following parameters were applied: 70 kV, 142  $\mu\text{A}$ , 5  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel size, 0.5 mm aluminium filter, 0.4° rotation step, and frame averaging of 2. Before the acquisition of the dentin blocks, an acquisition of the HAP phantom of 8mm was done to aid the calculation of mineral density. Further, the specimens were positioned in a closed plastic tube immersed in distilled water and scanned. Scan data for each tooth were reconstructed using the NRecon software (Skyscan). Reconstructed 3-dimensional images were processed and viewed using CTAn data-analyzing software (SkyScan). After generating a correlation between the attenuation coefficient and phantom values (0.75 and 0.25), sound and caries affected dentin were analyzed. The central region of the image of each dentin block was measured, and a square region of interest (ROI) was defined - 1  $\times$  1,5 mm, being analyzed 8 slices below the surface (40 $\mu\text{m}$ ) (29). Each area of dentin exposed to the biofilm was compared to a corresponding area of sound dentine (covered with nail varnish) in the same block.

## Statistical analysis

Data were tested for normal distribution (Shapiro-Wilk,  $p > 0.05$ ) and equality of variances (Levene's test,  $p > 0.05$ ). ATR/FTIR and micro-ct data were analyzed by two-way repeated measurement (RM) ANOVA, considering the factors irradiation and cariogenic challenge, followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Sigma Plot statistical package (version 12.0, Systat Software, Inc., San Jose, CA, USA) was used for analysis and a  $p$  value of less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

## Results

### Normal salivary flow rate

The spectrum for the studied groups are shown in Figure 1. The mean and standard deviation values for the vibration modes and chemical parameters obtained by ATR/FTIR are shown in Table 1. No statistical differences were found for Amide I,  $\nu_3$ ,  $\nu_4$   $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$  and M/M ratio. For Amide III, Amide II and  $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_2$   $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$ , two-way RM ANOVA showed significant effect only for caries challenge ( $p < 0.001$ ). Tukey's post hoc test revealed increased Amide III with caries challenge, although Amide II and  $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_2$   $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$  decreased. Significantly lower  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_3$   $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$  and C/M values were found for irradiated dentin ( $p = 0.038$  and  $0.042$ , respectively). Lower C/M values were also found for caries affected dentin ( $p = 0.026$ ), whereas higher  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_3$   $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$  values were found for caries affected dentin. In addition, irradiated dentin showed a significant lower  $\nu_2$   $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$  ( $p = 0.026$ ). The differences in mineral density mean values were not statistically significant for irradiation, caries challenge and for the interaction ( $p = 0.560$ ;  $p = 0.094$ ;  $p = 0.392$ , respectively) (Figure 2-a).

### Reduced salivary flow rate

The spectrum for the studied groups are shown in Figure 3. The mean and standard deviation values for the vibration modes and chemical parameters obtained by ATR/FTIR are shown in Table 2. Regarding the Amide I,  $\nu_3$ ,  $\nu_4$   $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$  and M/M ratio, differences in the mean values were not statistically significant for both variables under analysis. The analysis of Amide II,  $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_2$   $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$ ,  $\nu_2$   $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$  and C/M ratio showed only statistically differences for caries challenge ( $p = 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $p = 0.026$  and  $p = 0.002$ , respectively). Tukey's post hoc test revealed decreased mean values with caries challenge for all these

parameters. Statistically higher  $\nu_1, \nu_3 \text{PO}_4^{3-}$  was found for irradiated dentin ( $p=0.019$ ) with no differences between sound and caries affected dentin. For Amide III, the interaction between the studied factors was significant ( $p=0.020$ ), with irradiated caries affected dentin presenting higher values than non-irradiated caries affected dentin. Mineral density showed statistical differences between non-irradiated and irradiated dentin ( $p=0.030$ ), the latter one presenting lower values (Figure 2-b).

## Discussion

The null hypothesis was rejected, since the artificial caries lesion differed between non-irradiated dentin and irradiated dentin, neither between normal and reduced salivary flow rate. The methodologies used in this study provide information about dentine, having the benefit from not being destructive. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) is a fast sampling technique which requires no or minimal preparation of samples (27, 28). The main dental hard tissues constituents can be analyzed by FTIR; phosphate and carbonate, which are related to the inorganic matrix, and the content of amides I, II and III, which are related to the organic matrix, mainly composed by type-I collagen (27, 28). Another important point is that the use of an ATR promotes a small and well controlled depth of penetration (27, 28). In this way, it is possible to evaluate the chemical changes promoted by artificial caries lesion located strictly on the surface of samples, avoiding the analysis from the untreated tissue. While micro-ct is an analytical tool particularly useful in studying mineral changes in dentin. It represents an excellent option due to its tridimensional nature, which allows analyzing the whole bulk of the specimen, obtains volumetric results, and visualizes the internal structure of an object based on a three-dimensional reconstruction (30).

In the present study, artificial caries lesions were produced using a microbial model. Compared to chemically induced artificial caries models, microbial models have the advantage of producing dentin carious lesions with both mineral loss and the destruction of the organic component, which resembles more the clinical situation (31). However, organic acid production by cariogenic bacteria takes more time to demineralize the dental tissue than does the chemical method (32). The dynamic microcosm biofilm

model used has particular advantages over other systems once it allowed independent biofilm growth and artificial caries development from the same mixed oral flora (saliva) within a common environment (26).

Two cariogenic protocols regimens were tested. In study 1, the flow of artificial saliva solution ( $0.06 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) represent in vivo unstimulated salivary flow, in which biofilm formation normally occurs (33). In study 2, the flow rate was modified ( $0.03 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) in attempt to simulate the hyposalivation conditions usually observed in post radiotherapy patients with head and neck cancer. In both of them, it was observed an initial dentin demineralization by the FTIR, detected by the reduced  $\nu_4, \nu_2 \text{ PO}_4^{3-}$  area and C/M ratio in study 1 and 2, and also reduced  $\nu_2 \text{ CO}_3^{2-}$  in study 2. The hydroxiapatite mineral loss was due to bacterial production of acid from sucrose, occurring a drop in the biofilm pH, which results in the outflow of tooth minerals (21).

In case of organic matrix modifications, the bands of amide I and III are the most sensible to protein structural changes (34). The position and the intensity of these bands are sensitive to the molecular conformation/structure of the polypeptide chains of collagen and proteins (34). The amide I is the main and the most intense band in protein and is governed primarily by the stretching vibrations of the  $\text{C=O}$  (70–85%) e  $\text{C-N}$  (10–20%) (34). No alteration was detected in amide I, this result may be explained by the fact that the induced dentin caries lesions reached only initial stages, not occurring degradation of the demineralized matrix. Greater exposure of the organic content was detected by the increased amide III areas in study 1 and only in the irradiated group in study 2. The amide III also shift to slightly different wavenumbers with the artificial caries lesion, and this revealed a change in the molecular structural or compositional differences in peptide chain. This complex band originate from the stretching vibration of  $\text{C-N}$  (appearing at  $1243 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and plane deformation vibration of  $\text{N-H}$  (appearing at  $1267 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in the peptide chain of collagen/proteins and depends on the details of the force field, the nature of side chains, and hydrogen bonding (34).

The decrease in amide II can be explained by the fact that the  $\nu_3 \text{ CO}_3^{2-}$  overlap with the amide II and it was lost in the demineralization process due to its higher solubility (27). The higher  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3 \text{ PO}_4^{3-}$  area in study 1 confirms the results of LeGeros and Al-Naimi (35, 36) who showed that in initial caries lesion there is an increase in the subband



hydrogen phosphate ( $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ) located in 1123, 1143, 1003-1005  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In study 1, there is a tendency for mineral dissolution, but it is not as strong as in study 2, resulting in a slower output of the hydroxyapatite ions, which eventually precipitate on the surface of the dentin (37).

An important aspect of radiation is radiolysis, wherein radiation interacts with water, releasing free radicals of hydrogen and hydrogen peroxide. Since dentin is a tissue with a considerable amount of water, these free radicals act as a strong oxidant that may cause denaturation of dentin molecular structures and produce new compounds (14, 38). The increase in the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$   $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  in irradiated dentin in the study 2 can be explained by the formation of a new compound. This is in accordance with previous studies that demonstrated that the ions released by water after radiation exposure induced the formation of a secondary non-apatitic calcium phosphate phase, which likely would have made the hydroxyapatite more susceptible to degradation (14, 39).

The low salivary flow rate (study 2) promoted larger dentin demineralization than normal salivary flow rate (study 1) detected by greater loss  $\nu_2$   $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  (11.76% and 5.5%, respectively). This finding suggests that the low salivary flow rate and consequently reduced salivary clearance and buffer, lead to a longer time of contact of sucrose with the dentin/biofilm, to a pronounced drop in pH in the biofilm after sucrose release, and to a prolonged duration of the minimum pH phase (37). This is not in accordance with Kielbassa et al. 2000, which have shown no differences between irradiated and nonirradiated initial dentin caries lesions. Probably because the in situ experiment was with participants in good general health and normal salivary flow rate wearing buccal appliances to produce caries lesions (24). Overall, this study strengthens the idea that radiation-related caries occurs also due to hyposalivation. In a normal salivary flow rate the demineralization-remineralization process occurs in a balanced way, which no longer exists with reduced salivary flow rate (37).

In the present study, no differences were observed in mineral density parameter with the induction of caries lesion in the first 40  $\mu\text{m}$  of the dentin. It suggests that the modifications caused by the initial dentin artificial caries lesions occurred superficially, so they were only detected by the ATR/FTIR, which has a small and well controlled penetration depth (27). However, this discrete dentin mineral disruption would not be

detected by the micro-CT resolution. Nonetheless, irradiated dentin presented low mineral density in study 2. Since the whole block was exposed to radiation, the micro-ct was able to detect these changes of mineral density in the analyzed volume, explaining the increase in caries susceptibility of this group.

Thus, the understanding of how radiation-related caries occurs is of the utmost importance since the cure and survival rates of post radiotherapy head and neck cancer patients have increased. This awareness will lead to advances in the prevention and treatment of this injury, ensuring better quality of life of patients. In the meantime, greater efforts are needed to ensure pre-treatment assessment of dentition, adequate oral hygiene techniques, diets to minimize risk of radiation-related caries and daily fluoride use.

## **Conclusions**

Initial caries lesions differed between non-irradiated dentin and irradiated dentin and between normal and reduced salivary flow rate. Alterations in the inorganic and organic matrix and in mineral density was found for irradiated dentin. With reduced salivary flow, mineral alterations were more detectable in the caries lesions.

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## Tables

**Table 1** Mean and standard deviation of the integrated area of each vibration mode and ratios (C/M, M/M) analyzed by FTIR from study 1

	Amide I		PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> v <sub>1</sub> e v <sub>3</sub>		Amide III		Amide II		CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-2</sup> v <sub>3</sub> , v <sub>4</sub>		PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> v <sub>4</sub> , v <sub>2</sub>		CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-2</sup> v <sub>2</sub>		C/M		M/M	
	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated
Control	1.93 (0.3) Aa	1.98 (0.2) Aa	12.36 (1.1) Ab	11.76 (1.0) Bb	0,26 (0,04) Ab	0.27 (0,05) Ab	0.33 (0.08) Aa	0.33 (0.07) Aa	1,64 (0.2) Aa	1.67 (0.2) Aa	5.93 (0.5) Aa	6.02 (0.6) Aa	0.2 (0.02) Aa	0.18 (0.02) Ab	0.016 (0.00) Aa	0.015 (0.00) Ba	0.33 (0.07) Aa	0.35 (0.09) Aa
Caries affected dentin	1.79 (0.3) Aa	1.90 (0.27) Aa	13.2 (0.6) Aa	12.27 (1.4) Ba	0,41 (0.13) Aa	0,40 (0,10) Aa	0.25 (0.16) Ab	0.23 (0.08) Ab	1.97 (0.4) Aa	1.62 (0.3) Aa	5.04 (0.8) Ab	4.56 (1.0) Ab	0.22 (0.04) Aa	0.17 (0.04) Ab	0.015 (0.02) Ab	0.013 (0.00) Bb	0.35 (0.0) Aa	0.42 (0.11) Aa

Different uppercase letters (analysis in rows) and lowercase letters (analysis in columns) represent significant differences (p < 0.05)

**Table 2** Mean and standard deviation of the integrated area of each vibration mode and ratios (C/M, M/M) analyzed by FTIR from study 2

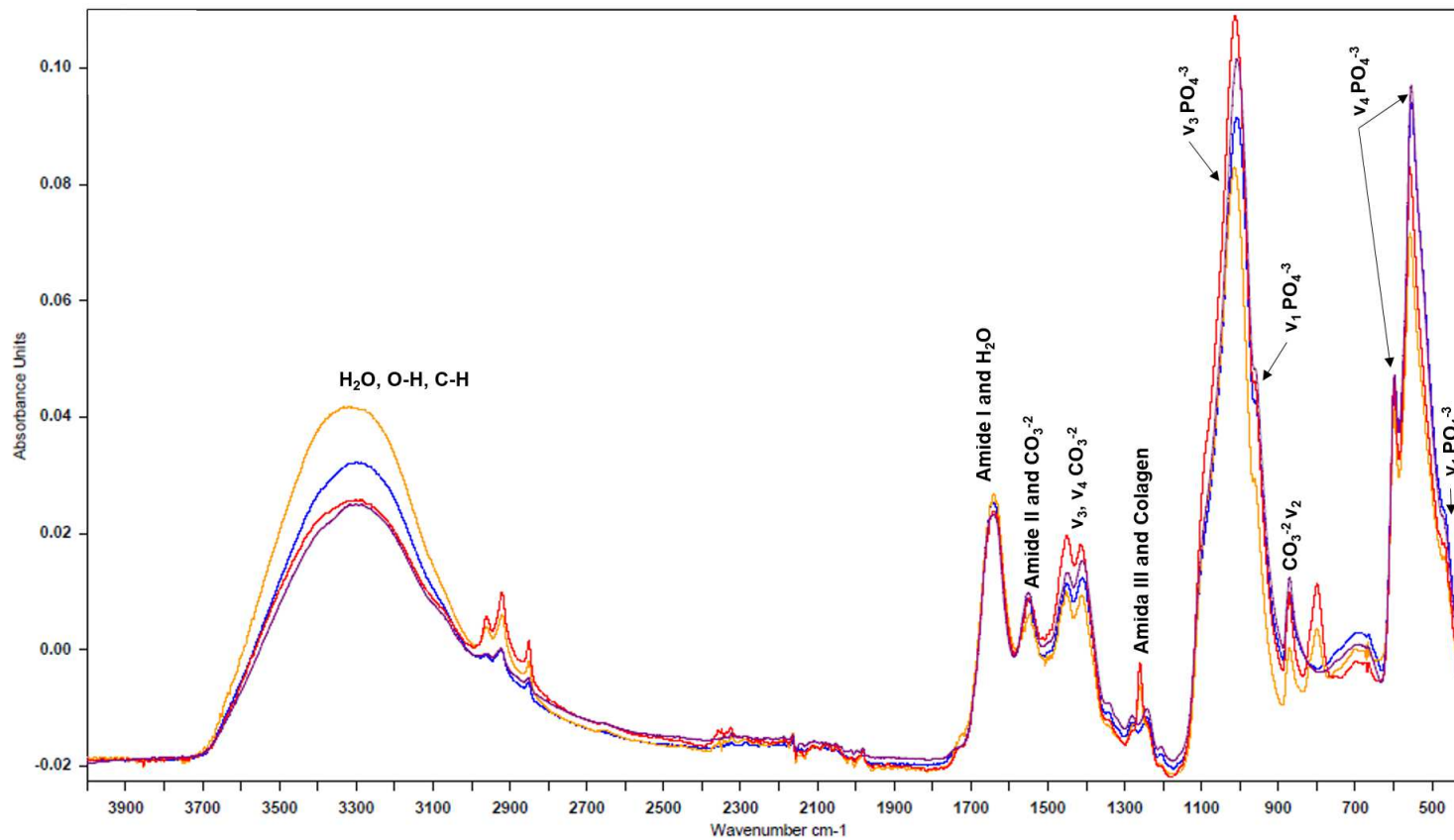
	Amide I		PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> v <sub>1</sub> e v <sub>3</sub>		Amide III		Amide II		CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-2</sup> v <sub>3</sub> , v <sub>4</sub>		PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> v <sub>4</sub> , v <sub>2</sub>		CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-2</sup> v <sub>2</sub>		C/M		M/M	
	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated	Non-irradiated	Irradiated
Control	2.17 (0.2) Aa	2.00 (0.3) Aa	10.45 (2.0) Ba	11.37 (1.4) Aa	0.26 (0.03) Aa	0.26 (0.05) Aa	0.31 (0.08) Aa	0.31 (0.07) Aa	1.49 (0.3) Aa	1.51 (0.2) Aa	5.13 (0.7) Aa	5.13 (0.9) Aa	0.17 (0.02) Aa	0.17 (0.03) Aa	0.016 (0.00) Aa	0.015 (0.00) Aa	0.43 (0.0) Aa	0.38 (0.1) Aa
Caries affected dentin	1.95 (0.3) Aa	1.83 (0.3) Aa	9.71 (2.8) Ba	12.7 (2.2) Aa	0.26 (0.08) Ba	0.32 (0.10) Aa	0.12 (0.08) Ab	0.20 (0.13) Ab	1.31 (0.4) Aa	1.46 (0.2) Aa	3.98 (1.2) Ab	4.36 (0.8) Ab	0.13 (0.05) Ab	0.15 (0.04) Ab	0.013 (0.00) Ab	0.012 (0.00) Ab	0.54 (0.21) Aa	0.43 (0.1) Aa

Different uppercase letters (analysis in rows) and lowercase letters (analysis in columns) represent significant differences (p < 0.05)

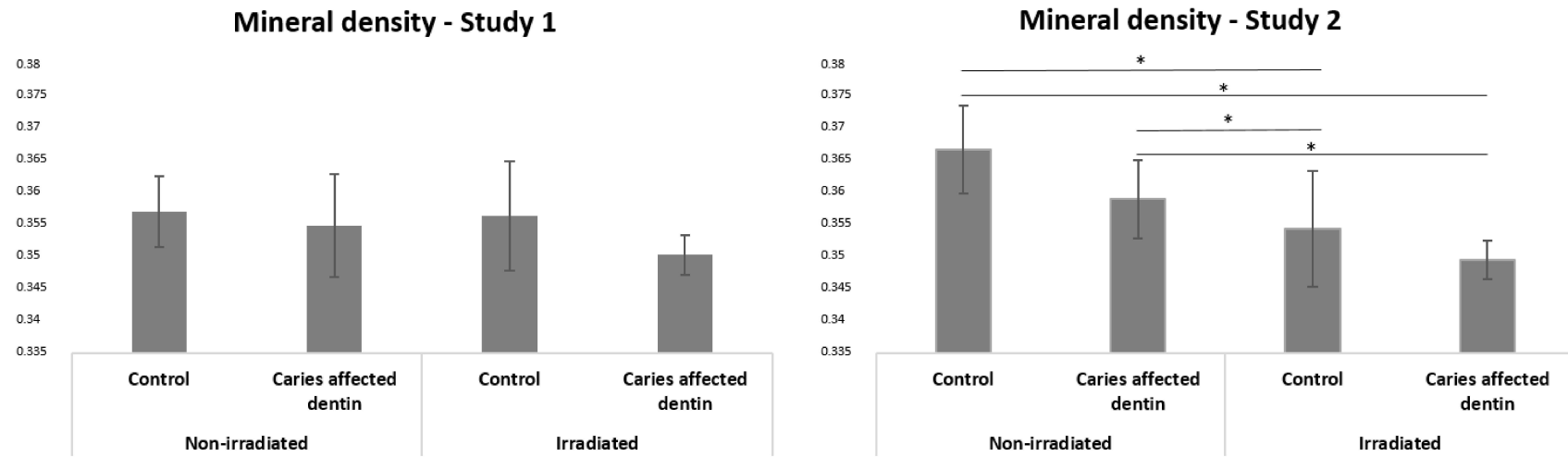


## Figures

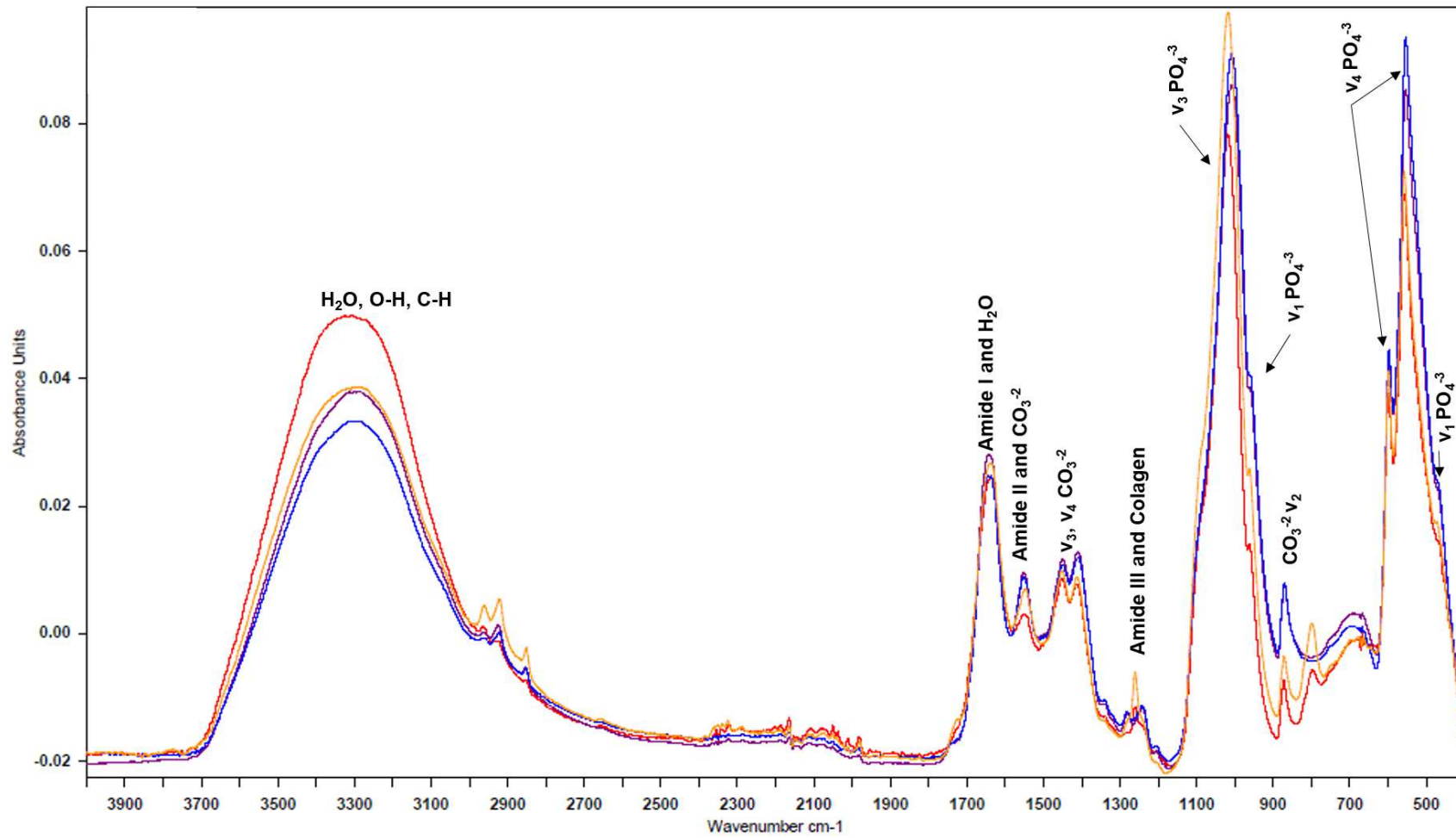
**Fig. 1** Absorbance spectra for the sound non-irradiated dentin (purple line), caries affected non-irradiated dentin (red line), sound irradiated dentin (blue line) and caries affected irradiated dentin (orange line) from study 1



**Fig. 2** Mineral density in different groups (\*p<0.05).



**Fig. 3** Absorbance spectra for the sound non-irradiated dentin (purple line), caries affected non-irradiated dentin (red line), sound irradiated dentin (blue line) and caries affected irradiated dentin (orange line) from study 2



### **3.3 - Capítulo 3**

Chemical and morphological characterization of radiation related caries

Artigo a ser submetido para o periódico PLOS One

# **Chemical and morphological characterization of radiation-related caries**

## Characterization of radiation-related caries

### **Abstract**

The aim of this study was to compare sound to caries affected dentin of non-irradiated patients and of patients submitted to radiotherapy due to head and neck cancer. Ten premolars with carious lesions were carefully selected, of which 5 were from non-irradiated patients and the other 5 were from irradiated patients in the head and neck region. Sound and caries affected dentin were evaluated by means of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDS and light microscopy). The parameters analyzed by FTIR were: mineral/matrix ratio, carbonate/mineral ratio, amide I/amide III ratio. From EDS, the Ca, P and Ca/P ratio was calculated. A decreased mineral/ organic matrix ratio was found for caries affected dentin ( $p<0.001$ ) and irradiation ( $p=0.012$ ). For carbonate/mineral ratio, only the interaction between the study factors was significant ( $p=0.035$ ). There was a decrease of C/M ratio from non-irradiated to irradiated group and still from sound dentin to caries affected dentin in the irradiated group. Caries affected dentin showed a greater amide I/amide III ratio than sound dentin ( $p=0.005$ ). Lower values of Ca and P was found for caries affected non-irradiated dentin and a lower Ca/P ratio was registered for irradiated dentin compared to non-irradiated dentin ( $p=0.01$ ). Radiation related caries presented irregular and more diffuse demineralization pattern than conventional caries. In the present study, it was demonstrated that caries and radiotherapy lead to demineralization of the hydroxiapatite and protein degradation. However, radiation-related caries exhibited the most pronounced changes, with a diffuse demineralization pattern.

## Introduction

Patients with head and neck cancer who underwent radiotherapy have a high risk of a highly destructive and progressive form of dental caries, known as radiation-related caries [1]. The radiation-related caries tends to start within the first year and becomes more severe with time. It occurs at cervical, cuspal, and incisal areas, in contrast to the sites of typical lesions of caries [2]. An increase friability of enamel can be seen and sometimes results in partial to total enamel delamination, exposing the underlying dentin [3], and may even culminate with crown amputation, impacting severely on patients' quality of life [4, 5]. Alterations in the translucency and color, through brown/black pigmentation, again is dissimilar from non-irradiated carious lesions [1, 6].

Radiation related caries have a multifactorial etiology. It is related to the indirect effects of hyposalivation and qualitative saliva alterations, decrease in pH, increase in viscosity, reduced buffering capacity, and changed antibacterial system responsible for immunity [7]. Since saliva is dramatically reduced, teeth are more susceptible to demineralization and the remineralization is impaired [8]. Beyond this, pain from mucositis results in difficulty to promote oral hygiene and increase cariogenic diet, that is also due to the difficulty of swallowing [8]. Accompanied by the reduced oral clearance by saliva, changes of the oral flora in patients treated with radiotherapy is seen, with an increase in acidogenic, and cariogenic microorganisms (*Streptococcus mutans*, *Lactobacillus*) [7]. In addition to the indirect effects, there are direct effects of ionizing radiation on dental tissues. In vitro studies report changes in microhardness, micromorphological structure, and chemical composition of human teeth [5, 9-13]. It was observed that minimum damage can occur below 30 Gy, but when the tooth level-dose is above 60 Gy the risk of damage is 10 times greater [2]. And once these lesions are

installed, there is a difficulty in their treatment, since the adhesion of restorative materials is negatively affected [14].

Unlike enamel caries, dentine caries are more complex [15]. The complexity of dentin caries is due to its chemical composition of dentin, composed by 20 wt.% of organic content (which corresponds to type-I collagen) and 70 wt.% of inorganic matrix (carbonated hydroxyapatite) [16]. In addition, the dentin has in its structure smaller hydroxyapatite crystals, higher carbonate and magnesium content and a more porous structure [17]. Thus, dentine is more vulnerable to acidic dissolution than enamel because of its higher critical pH for demineralization (6.2 - 6.4) than that of enamel (5.5) [18]. Caries process in dentin starts with mineral dissolution by acids, resulting in organic matrix exposure and further protein degradation [16].

A comprehensive understanding of what leads to the development of radiation related caries, its characteristics from its earliest stages to latter stages and how to prevent and treat, is indispensable for the optimal management of this oral disease. The aim of this study was to compare sound to caries affected dentin of healthy patients and patients submitted to radiotherapy due to head and neck cancer, regarding their chemical composition and morphological characteristics. Our hypothesis was that radiation-related caries is different from conventional caries.

## **Materials and methods**

After approval from the Ethical Committee in Research of Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil (protocol No. 50329715.6.0000.5152), ten freshly extracted lower and upper premolars with cervical caries lesions were collected after patients signed informed consent and stored in distilled water at 4°C. Teeth from patients who had head and neck

cancer were extracted because of advanced periodontal disease and were included in this study. Five teeth were from pre-radiotherapy patients (mean age 57 years) and the other five were from post-radiotherapy patients (mean age 63 years). These latter patients were subjected to fractionated X-ray radiation of 1.8 Gy per day totaling 70 Gy. Teeth were located in the radiation field and due to clinical reasons, they were extracted 41.5±19.2 months after irradiation.

According to medical records, all patients enrolled in this study had undergone radiotherapy to treat head and neck carcinomas. The main affected sites among the presented cases were the oral cavity and the total dose of radiation was 72 Gy (Table 1).

**Table 1- Main clinic pathological characteristics of head-and-neck cancer patients submitted to radiotherapy.**

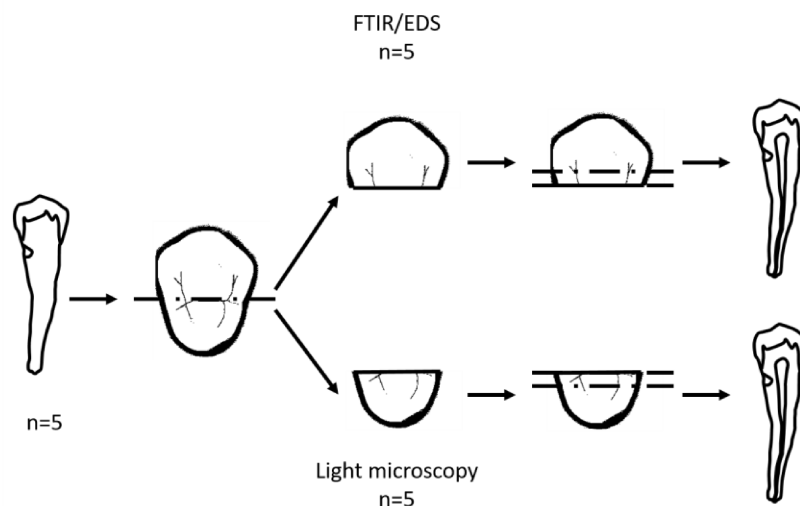
Patient	Gender	Age, years	Tumor location	Treatment	Total dose of radiation, Gy
1	M	63	Tongue	CRDT + RDY	72
2	F	66	Inferior alveolar ridge	CRDT + RDY	72
3	M	70	Floor of the mouth	RDY	72
4	M	58	Mandible	Surg + RDY	72
5	F	60	Oropharynx	RDY	70

M, male; F, female; Surg, surgery; CRDT, chemoradiotherapy; RDY, radiotherapy

The teeth were radiographed to assess the extension of the carious lesions. Those who had one cervical carious lesion extending at least half of the distance from the external surface of the enamel/cementum to the pulp chamber and the opposite side presenting a sound dentin were selected [19].



Each tooth was axial sectioned through the center of the caries lesions using a water-cooled diamond saw (Isomet; serie 15HC diamond; Buehler Ltd., Lake Bluff, IL, USA) mounted on a precision saw (Isomet 1000, Buehler, Lake Bluff, IL, USA), under constant water irrigation. To confirm the extent of caries lesion, all sections were further evaluated using a stereomicroscope (Leica MS5, Leica Microscopy Systems Ltd; Heerbrugg, Switzerland). The buccal halves were designated for Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDS). The lingual halves were intended to light microscopy (Fig 1).



**Fig 1.** Schematic illustration of specimen preparation and experimental design.

## FTIR

Chemical composition of the sound dentin and caries affected dentin was determined using attenuated total reflectance/Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (ATR/FTIR; Vertex 70, Bruker, Ettlingen, Germany). The testing surfaces were positioned against the diamond crystal of the ATR/FTIR unit and pressed with a force gauge at a constant pressure. Then, the spectra were recorded in the range from 400 to

4,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at a 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  resolution. The sample was scanned 32 times in each FTIR measurement, and the spectrum acquired is the average of all these scans. Spectra were recorded and analyzed by OPUS 6.5 software (Bruker, Ettlingen, Germany). After baseline correction and normalization, the FTIR spectra were analyzed by calculating the integrated areas of specific bands of organic and inorganic dentin content the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$  vibration modes of phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$ ) (1300-900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), amide I (1680-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), amide III (1200-1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), the  $\nu_2$  vibration mode of carbonate ( $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$ ) (around 870  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). And the following parameters: (1) mineral/ organic matrix ratio - M/M (the band ratio between the  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_3$  vibration of phosphate ion at 1020 and 960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to the C=O stretching of collagen amide I at 1660  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ); (2) carbonate/mineral ratio - C/M (the ratio of the integrated areas of carbonate  $\nu_2$  at 872  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to the phosphate  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_3$ ); (3) AI/AIII ratio (the ratio of the integrated areas of amide I to the amide III at 1260  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) [12, 20, 21].

## **EDS**

A semi-quantitative dentin elemental analysis of chemical elements was performed using an EDS (X-act, Oxford Instruments) spectrometer equipped with a rhodium X-ray tube and a liquid nitrogen cooled semiconductor detector ( $\text{N}_2$ ). The voltage in the tube was set to 15 kV. One-half from each tooth was coated with gold and three spectra were collected in the region of the sound dentin and three spectra in the caries affected dentin. The mean concentrations (wT) of each element, as well as the Ca/P ratio of the three spectra were calculated. Atomic (%) values were considered above 1% to allow comparison between groups [22].

## **Light microscopy**

The lingual halves were embedded in methyl methacrylate and one section about 700  $\mu\text{m}$  thick was obtained through the center of the caries lesion with a diamond saw (Isomet, Buehler Ltd., Lake Bluff, USA). Hand-ground polishing was performed using successively finer grade silicon carbide paper to a final thickness of 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . After that, the slice was examined under a light microscope through a 4x magnification (Leica Dental Corp., Wetzlar, Germany), in order to identify the enamel and dentin caries zones, qualitative patterns of demineralization and reactionary dentin. Images were captured by a CCD camera coupled to the light microscopy and analyzed by the LAS EZ (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany) image capture software.

## **Statistical analysis**

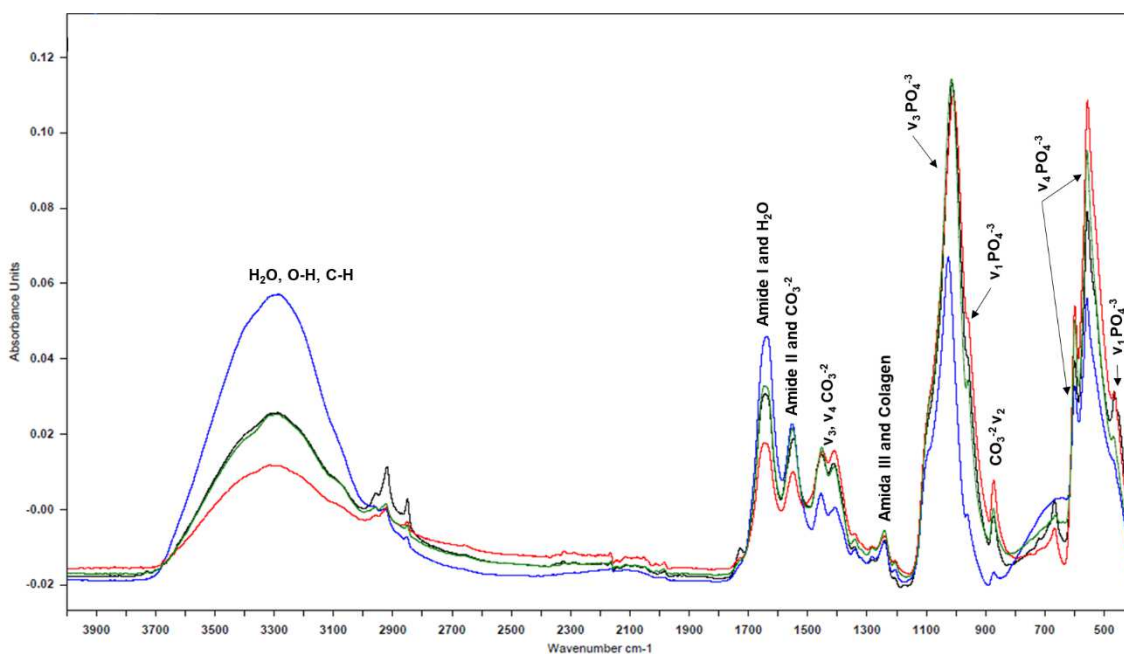
FTIR and EDS data were tested for normal distribution (Shapiro-Wilk) and equality of variances (Levene's test). Two-way repeated measures analysis of variance (RM ANOVA) was performed, considering the study factors irradiation (non-irradiated and irradiated) and type of dentine (sound and caries affected dentin), followed by Tukey post-hoc test. Sigma Plot statistical package (version 12.0, Systat Software, Inc., San Jose, CA, USA) was used for analysis and a nominal level of significance of 0.05. Descriptive analysis was used for images from light microscopy.

## **Results**

### **FTIR**

The spectra for the studied groups are shown in Fig 2. The mean values and standard deviation for the vibration modes and chemical parameters obtained by ATR/FTIR are shown in Table 2 and 3, respectively. For M/M ratio, two-way ANOVA showed statistical

significance for radiation ( $p=0.012$ ), and caries ( $p<0.001$ ). Lower values of the ratio was found for caries affected dentin and irradiation. For carbonate/mineral ratio, only the interaction between the study factors (radiation and caries) was significant ( $p=0.035$ ). Tukey's post hoc test revealed higher C/M ratio values for the non-irradiated group and there was a decrease from sound dentin to caries affected dentin in the irradiated group. Amide I/amide III ratio showed significant difference only for caries ( $p=0.005$ ). Caries affected dentin showed a greater ratio than sound dentin.



**Fig 2.** Absorbance spectra for non-irradiated sound dentin (green line), non-irradiated caries affected dentin (black line), irradiated sound dentin (red line) and irradiated caries affected dentin (blue).

**Table 2. Mean and standard deviation for the analyzed organic and inorganic vibration modes of the experimental groups in FTIR.**

	Amide I		v <sub>1</sub> and v <sub>3</sub> Phosphate		Amide III		v <sub>2</sub> Carbonate	
	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin
Non-Irradiated	1.30 (0.2)	2.11 (0.5)	13.04 (1.6)	11.27 (2.8)	0.21 (0.0)	0.33 (0.1)	0.25 (0.0)	0.21 (0.0)
Irradiated	1.88 (0.7)	2.85 (0.2)	12.61 (1.5)	8.44 (1.1)	0.29 (0.1)	0.35 (0.1)	0.16 (0.0)	0.06 (0.0)

**Table 3. Mean and standard deviation of M/M, C/M and AI/AIII ratios for the experimental groups in FTIR.**

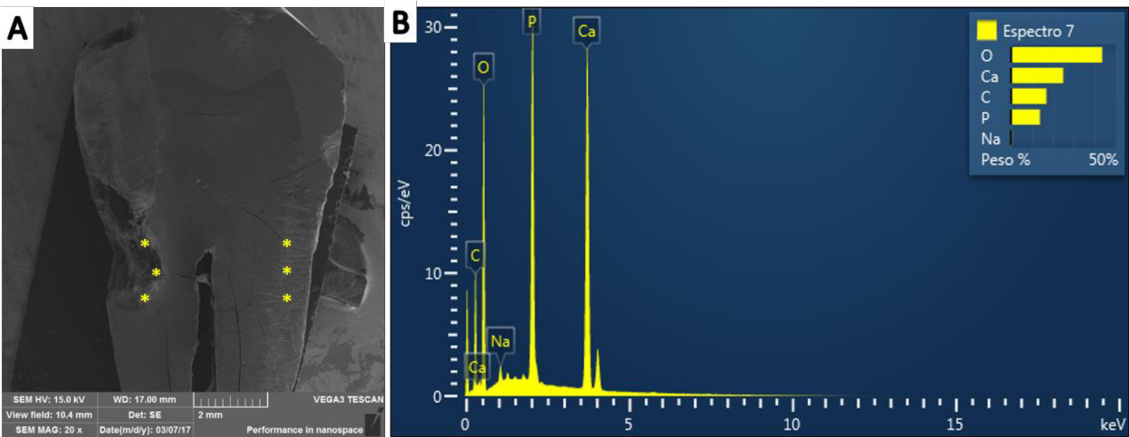
	M/M		C/M		AI/AIII	
	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin
Non-Irradiated	10.18 (1.3)	5.84 (2.7)	0.015 (0.01)	0.015 (0.01)	6.38 (1.17)	7.71 (1.29)
Irradiated	Aa	Ab	Aa	Aa	Ab	Aa
Irradiated	7.40 (2.7)	2.99 (0.5)	0.013 (0.00)	0.008 (0.00)	5.76 (1.65)	8.87 (2.65)
	Ba	Bb	Ba	Bb	Ab	Aa

\*Groups identified with different upper case letter (analysis in columns) and lower case letters (analysis in rows) represent statistically significant differences (p<0.05).

**EDS**

Representative FESEM image of the regions where the three spectra were collected from the sound and caries affected dentin is presented in Fig. 3-a, as well as, a representative EDX spectrum of dentin (Fig 3-b). Energy-dispersive X-ray analysis revealed significant

quantities of the chemical elements Ca, P, C, and O on dentin surface. Others, such as F, Si, Na and Mg, appeared as trace elements ( $< 1\%$ ) and not in all specimens. The results of Ca, P and Ca/P ratio for sound dentin and caries affected dentin per group are shown in Table 4. Two-way RM ANOVA of Ca and P values revealed a statistically significant interaction between the studied factors ( $p=0.036$  and  $p=0.020$ , respectively), with non-irradiated sound dentin presenting higher values of Ca and P than non-irradiated caries affected dentin. For Ca/P ratio values, two-way RM ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference between irradiation ( $p=0.01$ ). However, the factor caries ( $p=0.252$ ) and the interaction between factors was not statistically significant ( $p=0.445$ ). Lower values of Ca/P ratio was registered for irradiated dentin compared to non-irradiated dentin. Although not statistically significant, lower Ca/P ratio values were found for caries affected dentin for both groups.



**Fig 3.** Illustrative FESEM image of the regions where the three spectra were collected from the sound dentin and from the caries affected dentin (A) and a representative EDX spectrum of dentin (B).

**Table 4.** Mean and standard deviations of Ca/P ratio concerning EDS.

	Ca		P		Ca/P	
	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin	Sound dentin	Caries affected dentin
Non-irradiated	17.1 (5.0) Aa	12.7 (3.6) Ab	10.7 (2.0) Aa	8.13 (1.8) Ab	1.6 (0.2) Aa	1.5 (0.2) Aa
Irradiated	11.4 (5.7) Aa	9.67 (7.5) Aa	8.27 (2.6) Aa	7.11 (3.4) Aa	1.2 (0.2) Ba	1.1 (0.1) Ba

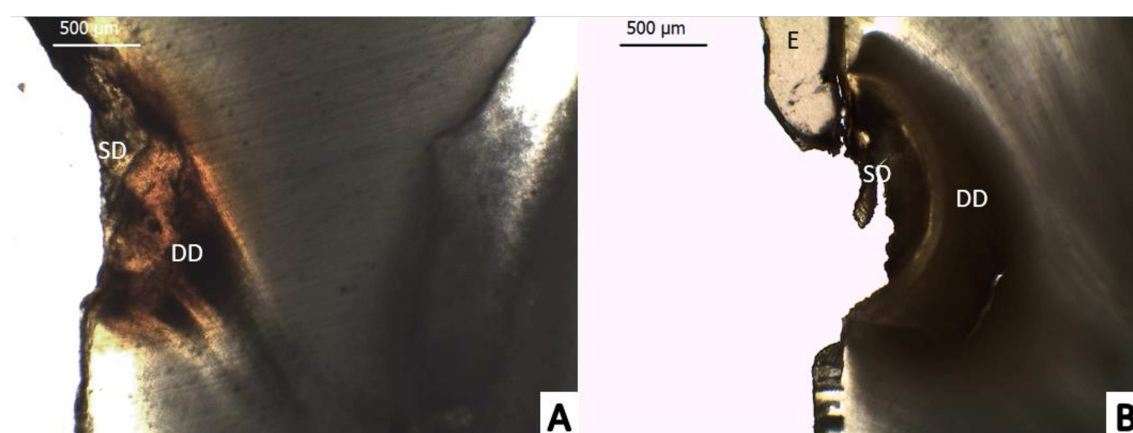
\*Groups identified with different upper case letter (analysis in columns) and lower case letters (analysis in rows) represent statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### Light microscopy

All specimens presented different zones of dentin caries, distinguished between remanescents of softened dentin, demineralized dentin and a translucent zone (Fig 4).

Additionally, light microscopy showed a half-moon-like shape of demineralization in cervical dentin caries with the base at the tooth surface and the apex directed to the pulp.

The radiation-related caries presented a less circumscribed form (Fig 4-a).



**Fig 4.** Photomicrographs of root surface caries from an irradiated tooth (A) and from a non-irradiated tooth (B) exhibiting a half-moon-like shape with a semicircular demineralized zone. E = Enamel; DD = demineralized dentin; SD = Softened dentin.

## **Discussion**

The hypothesis tested in this study was accepted. Our results showed that radiation-related dentin caries differed from non-irradiated dentin caries in their chemical composition and morphological characteristics.

Radiation-related caries can be considered a complex and multifactorial disease related to the indirect effects of ionizing radiation in the oral cavity added to the direct effects on teeth [23]. Altered morphological, chemical, and mechanical dentin properties after radiotherapy were reported in some studies [4, 10, 12, 13, 24] and an increasing dentin demineralization in a dose-dependent manner [23, 25], what can partially explain the onset of radiation caries at the cervical areas, at the cement–enamel junction (CEJ) and/or the dentin–enamel junction (DEJ) [26], leading to amputation of crowns and complete loss of dentition.

In this study, teeth with dental caries of patients with head and neck cancer pre-radiotherapy and post radiotherapy were used, since simulating all the oral conditions of these latter patients (salivary flow, pH, diet, microbiota) is extremely difficult. The cancers were located at the tongue, lower alveolar ridge and oropharynx. The standardization of the site of cancer involvement, as well as the total dose of radiotherapy, are very important since the effects on dental structure depends on it [27, 28]. Thus, teeth used in the study were located within the radiation field and the tumor received a total of



72 Gy, in daily increments of 1.8 Gy. And in attempt to obtain the most standardized substrate, the age of patients ranging from in both groups was also similar, since different ages could present differences on microstructural and composition of human dentine [29].

Caries process involves the dynamic phenomenon of de- and remineralization, tilting towards the demineralization [30]. However, this process mainly explains the etiology of enamel caries. Dentin caries, due to the high organic content in dentin, can also be explained by the proteolysis theory [17]. This theory divides what happens in dentin caries in two successive stages [31]. First, acids from the outer surface dissolve the mineral phase, at that time, the demineralized collagen provides a scaffold for bacteria [31]. In a second stage, protein degradation occurs due to proteases activation, such as matrix metalloproteinases and cysteine cathepsins [17].

FTIR spectroscopy measures the wavelength and intensity of the absorption of infrared light by samples with dipole moments [32], thus, most inorganic and organic components in the environment are active in infrared. FTIR analysis of the mineral and organic content of the dentin will reflect the extent of caries process. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study *ex vivo* conducted with FTIR technique to characterize radiation-related caries.

FTIR analysis of carbonate, phosphate and carbonate/mineral ratio showed lower mineral content for caries affected dentin than sound dentin. This mineral loss was expected since caries biochemical process starts with the dissolution of teeth mineral content by acid. However, in dentin, this process is more critical once dentin hydroxyapatite crystal has smaller size, and high carbonate content. Carbonate presence destabilizes the mineral, making the it more soluble [33]. Thus, during mineral dissolution, these unstable regions rich in carbonate are the first ones to dissolve [34]. A

marked reduction of the carbonate/mineral ratio occurred in the irradiated group. In irradiated patients because of low salivary flow, a more pronounced drop in pH occurs once food is ingested, leading to a higher solubility of dentin mineral. In addition, the high exposure to fermentable sugars by these patients has a direct effect on the dissolution of minerals in the dental structure, modifying the ecology of the biofilm and making it metabolically more active [18].

In the current study, lower mineral/matrix ratio was found for the caries affected dentin and for the irradiated group. Consecutively to demineralization, exposed collagen fibrils degradation take place by collagenases, present in the bacterial biofilm or even by latent enzyme in the dentin, such as matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) and cysteine cathepsins, which are activated in acidic environments [17]. The collagenases would break down the telopeptide region of the collagen molecules [16]. In collagen fibril, the five collagen molecules that make up the microfibril each have N- and C-terminal non-helical telopeptides. Hydrolysis of the C- and N-terminal telopeptide (containing the carboxy- and amino terminal cross-links, respectively) [35] results in the loss of terminal ends of the collagen molecule [16] and formation of additional carbonyl groups (C=O). Culminating in the decrease in the mineral/matrix ratio and in the increase of peak area centered at  $1665\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , relative to the amide I, the most intense absorption band in proteins and primary governed by the stretching vibrations of the C=O (70–85%) and C–N groups (10–20%) [33].

With ionizing radiation, the organic matrix is altered in a similar way, once radiation interacts with water, free radicals of hydrogen and hydrogen peroxide are released and they will oxidize and denature the organic components of dental structure

[36]. These collagen disorganization leads to an altered collagen with different characteristics, which could impair the adhesion of restorative materials [13, 37].

The last parameter analyzed by the FTIR was AI/AIII ratio, and it is related to the organization of collagen [38]. Specifically, the amide III band refers to the C–N stretching and N–H in-plane bending. The AI/AIII ratio shall increase with demineralization, being the organic matrix more detectable and change if collagen is degraded [39], which could be observed with caries affected dentin.

Hydroxyapatites properties are strongly dependent on their stoichiometry, which controls their crystalline structure, the reactivity of their surface and their biological behavior [40]. The stoichiometric hydroxyapatite, with the formula  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$ , presents Ca / P molar ratio of 1.67. However, the dental hydroxyapatite has contaminants such as magnesium carbonate and fluoride, so its Ca / P ratio is reduced. The Ca/P ratio found for non-irradiated sound dentin was 1.6, which may be assumed to be alike a carbonated apatite [41]. Although there was no statistical difference between sound and caries affected dentin for both groups, sound dentin showed higher values of Ca/P ratio. This might be explained by the fact that during the demineralization cycles, inorganic ions of calcium and phosphorus moves out, altering tissue composition [42]. Furthermore, smaller Ca/P ratio was found for the irradiated group, regardless of the type of dentin evaluated. This suggests a possible demineralization after radiation therapy), as shown by previous studies [23, 25].

Different zones of dentin caries were found between radiation-related caries and conventional caries. Enamel crack formations and residues of softened dentin were visualized over the demineralized dentin from both groups, being in accordance to Silva

et al. [43]. Although, diffuse brown discolorations were seen in radiation-related caries although, this might necessitate further investigations.

With respect to the findings of the study, we suggest that radiation-related caries are more destructive than conventional caries, being due to changes in the tooth structure and to salivary, dietary, and microbiological changes. Thus, new studies are necessary to create and validate methods for prevention of radiation direct effects on tooth and effective methods in the remineralization of the early stages of radiation-related caries. Caries prevention in the post radiation head and neck patient should be multifaceted and comprise maintenance of good oral hygiene, daily fluoride use, dietary counseling and frequent visits to the dentist.

## Conclusions

In the present study, it was demonstrated that caries and radiotherapy lead to demineralization of the hydroxiapatite and protein degradation. However, radiation-related caries exhibited the most pronounced changes, with a diffuse demineralization pattern.

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\* De acordo com a Norma da FOUFU, baseado nas Normas de Vancouver. Abreviaturas dos periódicos com conformidade com Medline (Pubmed).

***RELEASE PARA A IMPRENSA***

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O câncer de cabeça e pescoço (cavidade oral, faringe e laringe) tem sido reconhecido como um dos cânceres com mais alta taxa de prevalência, sendo a sexta causa de morte por câncer em todo o mundo. Os fatores de risco mais comuns para o desenvolvimento de cânceres de cabeça e pescoço são uso de cigarro e o álcool e, no caso dos cânceres orofaríngeos, a infecção pelo papiloma vírus humano. O câncer de cabeça e pescoço é frequentemente tratado com radioterapia, que leva a morte das células cancerígenas. A localização e o tipo e a extensão do tumor que determinam como o tratamento é conduzido, se a radiação é usada isoladamente ou em combinação com outras modalidades de tratamento, bem como a dose de radiação necessária. Apesar de ser um tratamento altamente eficaz para o controle do tumor, a radioterapia provoca muitas reações adversas que afetam significativamente a qualidade de vida dos pacientes. Algumas dessas reações adversas ocorrem durante as sessões de radioterapia, entre elas estão dor ou desconforto na gengiva, dificuldade em comer e deglutir, infecções na boca por fungos. Outras consequências têm um caráter mais permanente e podem ou não ocorrer. Entre elas estão: limitação na abertura bucal, redução da saliva, sensação de boca seca, alterações nos dentes deixando eles mais susceptíveis a cárie e necrose no osso após extrações de dentes ou machucados de próteses. Por isso, é tão importante e necessário o acompanhamento clínico odontológico de pacientes submetidos à radioterapia na região de cabeça e pescoço antes, durante e após o tratamento. A cárie em paciente após radioterapia é chamada de cárie relacionada à radiação e ela é resultante das alterações que ocorrem nos dentes após a radioterapia, da diminuição na produção de saliva (uma vez que ela tem papel fundamental na remineralização do dente), do consumo de alimentos ricos em carboidratos e da falta de escovação dos dentes e do uso de fio dental. Ela se difere da cárie convencional por se desenvolver rapidamente e ser altamente destrutiva, levando a perda dos dentes. Este tipo de cárie representa um desafio para o dentista, que precisa entender os efeitos da radioterapia no paciente, para assim poder atender melhor essas pessoas. O melhor seria um acompanhamento de perto desses pacientes, para evitar que a cárie apareça. Para isso, o paciente precisa ir no consultório odontológico regularmente de 3 em 3 meses, ou dependendo da necessidade, não podendo ser muito espaçado. Nessas visitas, o cirurgião dentista deve realizar exame de toda a cavidade bucal, uma limpeza nos dentes, aplicação de flúor e estar atento a qualquer alteração da normalidade. Quanto ao exame dos dentes, sempre procurar por indícios de

início de cárie. É sempre melhor a prevenção destas, do que o tratamento restaurador, já que muitas vezes as restaurações realizadas se soltam, pois, o material não adere de forma ideal ao dente. Assim, algumas medidas são recomendadas: higiene bucal rigorosa; auto-aplicação diária tópica de gel de fluoreto de sódio neutro a 1% com o auxílio da escova de dente ou cotonete ou então bochechos com solução fluoretada, sob supervisão do profissional; limitação de alimentos cariogênicos. Neste contexto, mais estudos científicos devem ser realizados na tentativa de elucidar porque esta cárie é diferente da cárie convencional, qual é o melhor método para a sua prevenção e seu tratamento.