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Lopes Cardoso I Fernando Pessoa University, Portugal

Co-Authors Catano V¹, Soares S¹, Coelho MJ^{2, 3}, Ferraz MP^{2, 3}, Magalhães R^{2, 3}, Pina C^{2, 3} and Lopes A¹ ¹Universidade do Porto, Portugal ²University Fernando Pessoa, Portugal ³Fernando Pessoa University, Portugal

Cerium and gentamicin antibacterial activity on loaded calcium-phosphates microspheres

The average life expectancy is increasing and leads to an increase of the pathologies associated with bone tissue that can be overcome with the bone substitutes. The use of antibacterial agents is an option often used to inhibit bacterial adhesion to biomaterials and to control biofilm formation and subsequent infections. Calcium-phosphate porous microspheres, used as bone fillers, can be loaded with antibacterial agents aiming at preventing bone infections. Gentamicin is frequently used to treat and prevent bone infection and cerium is pointed as an alternative antibacterial substance. The antibacterial activity and bacterial adhesion in the microspheres loaded with gentamicin and cerium chloride were evaluated. The antibacterial effect was evaluated by Kirby-Bauer method, adaptation and the bacterial adhesion by the MTT test. Both studies were performed with Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus. The antibacterial activity studies showed that only microspheres with gentamicin have antibacterial activity for both species. Concerning bacterial adhesion studies, it was possible to conclude that both gentamicin and cerium chloride microspheres have the capacity to inhibit bacterial adhesion on their surface; moreover, there was a higher adhesion inhibition effect on Escherichia coli than on Staphylococcus aureus. Although cerium did not present antibacterial activity, it revealed the ability to inhibit bacterial adhesion, contributing to the possible control of the early stages of biofilm formation.

Biography

Lopes Cardoso is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics at the Faculty of Health Sciences from University Fernando Pessoa. She has completed her PhD in Biotechnology by the Superior School of Biotechnology from the Portuguese Catholic University and degree in Biochemistry from the Faculty of Sciences, the University of Porto. She is an Integrated Member of CEBIMED (Centre for Studies in Biomedicine) of the FP-ENAS (Research Unit in Energy, Environment and Health of the Fernando Pessoa University). She has published several books with national publishers and papers in international scientific journals in the area of Biochemistry, Genetics and Health Sciences.

mic@ufp.edu.pt

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