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# Original Research Article

Effect of Socket Preservation Using Crab Shell-Based Hydroxyapatite in Wistar Rats

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# Effect of Socket Preservation Using Crab Shell-Based Hydroxyapatite in Wistar Rats

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#### Abstract

Tooth extraction can cause 1.5-2 mm (vertical) and 40-50% (horizontal) alveolar bone resorption to occur for 6 months after extraction and will continue if it is not treated. Alveolar bone resorption will affect the retention, stability, and comfort in the use of dentures because adequate alveolar bone volume and structure of alveolar ridge are very important to obtain optimal function and prosthetic reconstruction. Currently, there are techniques and materials that can be used to minimize bone resorption. Preservation of alveolar ridges with crab shell-based hydroxyapatite can minimize bone resorption because it has good biocompatibility, osteoconduction, and osteoinduction. The aim of this study is to prove the effectiveness of hydroxyapatite from crab shells in increasing the area of bone trabeculae, transforming growth factor-beta 1(TGF- $\beta$ 1), and alkaline phosphatase (ALP). This laboratory research is an experimental laboratory work with a post-test group design. Crab shell-based hydroxyapatite gel (*Portunus pelagicus*) was given after the post-tooth socket extraction of the left lower central incisor of Wistar rats, observing the area of trabeculae, TGF- $\beta$ 1, and ALP on the 14th day and 28th day. Hydroxyapatite is made from the calcination process of crab shells using a furnace at 1000°C for 2 h followed by sifting to powder. The powder is added with carrageenan and distilled water so that it becomes a gel preparation. The results of this study were analyzed using the One-way ANOVA test with IBM SPSS version 20. The area of trabeculae, TGF- $\beta$ 1, and ALP between the control group and the treatment group showed p<0.05, which means there were significant differences between the groups. The study showed that hydroxyapatite from the crab shell (*P. pelagicus*) can increase the area of trabeculae, TGF- $\beta$ 1, and ALP in the post-extraction socket of Wistar rat's teeth.

Keywords: Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP); Hydroxyapatite; Trabecular area; Transforming Growth Factor-Beta 1 (TGF-B1).

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Tooth extraction can cause sockets and changes in gingival contours. In general, the tooth socket will heal normally, but the alveolar defect will only partially recover. Along with bone growth, there is also a process of resorption in the alveolar ridge [1]. The resorption of alveolar bone that occurs after tooth extraction results in damaging the periodontium and the loss of the bundle bone, especially in the buccal part, which will change the size and shape of the bone. The alveolar bone becomes low, rounded, or flat due to resorption on the surface of the alveolar bone from the vertical and palatal directions [2]. Loss of alveolar bone support will affect retention, stability, and comfort in the use of dentures; therefore, it is very important to maintain alveolar ridge after extraction [3].

Preservation of the socket after tooth extraction can reduce the problem of excessive resorption and facilitate maintenance. Socket preservation with bone graft can be a solution to maintain ridge dimensions and contours [4]. The bone graft used must be acceptable to the body or biocompatible, have good mechanical properties, and be easily manipulated. The bone graft has three basic functions: osteogenesis, osteoinduction, and osteoconduction [5]. Among the various biomaterials used as bone graft, one of the biomaterials that is often used in dentistry is hydroxyapatite [Ca10(PO4)6(OH)] [6].

Hydroxyapatite material can be obtained from natural biological sources. Among the abundant raw materials available in Indonesia, crab shell (*Portunus pelagicus*) is the one that can be used to produce hydroxyapatite. Exports of crab meat only in fresh, frozen, or canned forms without the inclusion of the shell continue to increase every year. Apart from this increasing export of crab meat, this will too increase the wastage of crab shell. Indonesian crab shell wastage reached 151,053–302,107 tons in 2012. In Indonesia, crab shell waste has not been optimally used, and it can pollute the environment and water bodies around the factory [7]. This waste can be used as material for bone graft because the crab shell contains 15–23% of protein,

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18–32% of chitin, and high calcium that comprises 53–78% of the weight of the dry shell. Calcium and chitin from crab shells will be deacetylized so that they can be used as ingredients for hydroxyapatite synthesis [8].

Hydroxyapatite has advantages because it is biocompatible, has a crystal structure arrangement that is identical to bone, and displays osteoconduction and osteointegration [6]. The Interconnecting porous nature of the hydroxyapatite microarchitectures can accelerate vascularization, form strong bonds between bones that are important factors in the osteointegration process, and allow it to become a medium for mesenchymal stem cells and osteoblasts to adhere, live, and proliferate well in the damaged bone so as to enhance the process of bone regeneration [5]. Osteoblasts are bone-forming cells responsible for the bone matrix mineralization process which expression is controlled by several growth factors, one of which is the cytokine transforming growth factor-beta 1 (TGF- $\beta$ 1) [5, 9, 10].

TGF- $\beta$ 1 will stimulate bone formation by increasing osteoblast proliferation in the early stages of differentiation and increasing extracelullar matrix (ECM) production, inhibiting osteoblast apoptosis, recruiting osteoblast precursors to the areas of damage by chemotactic attraction, and inhibiting proliferation of hematopoietic precursor cells [9]. The osteoblast cells will later sensitize and secrete TGF- $\beta$ 1 during the proliferation phase, and the TGF- $\beta$ 1 will then stimulate the osteoblasts by means of an autocrine effect [11].

At a later stage, the osteoblasts will secrete the bone matrix protein, which is alkaline phosphatase (ALP). ALP is an enzyme that stimulates bone calcification [12]. ALP activity is related to the formation of the hard tissue of teeth and bones such that ALP is widely used as a marker for bone formation. ALP prepares an alkaline atmosphere in the formed osteoid tissue so that calcium can be easily deposited in the tissue. Besides that, ALP in the bone can increase the concentration of phosphate so that calcium–phosphate bonds are formed in the form of hydroxyapatite crystals. Based on the law of mass action, the crystal eventually settles inside the bone [13].

Osteoblasts function to synthesize the organic components of the bone matrix, which can lead to the precipitation of the new organic bone elements called osteoid. When the matrix synthesis activity stops and the osteoblasts have entered the matrix, the osteoblasts change their name to osteocytes. Osteocytes are mineralized, the ossification process occurs, and there is increased in the area of the trabecular bone. An increase in trabecular area indicates the formation and mineralization of new alveolar bones [14].

#### 2. METHOD(S)

This study has passed ethical clearance with the number 198/HRECC. FODM/V/2019 by ethical clearance commission in Faculty of Dental Medicine Universitas Airlangga. This research was conducted at the biochemical laboratory of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga. The crab shell-derived hydroxyapatite extraction was conducted at the Badan Penelitian dan Konsultasi Industri Surabaya, and histopathological examinations were carried out at the Biochemistry Laboratory of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya and the Research Center of the Faculty of Dentistry, Universitas Airlangga. The experimental animal used in this study were 36 Wistar rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) with criteria: male, aged 3–4 months, 200–250 grams weight, healthy physical condition characterized by active movement, sparkling eyes, bright hair and with no defects in the body.

The tools used in this study were animal cages, sterile forceps for tooth extraction of mice, dental tweezers, scissors, Nierbeken 10-ml and 3-ml syringes, needle holders, silk thread 3/0, 16G needles, metal-molding tools for paraffin blocks, water baths (Medite, Germany), rotary microtomes (Accu-cut SRM 200, Japan), blade microtome (Leica 819 Low profile, USA), hot plates (Medite, Germany), thermal units to warm tissue specimens (Medite Test 99,600, Germany), dispenser unit for giving paraffin to tissue specimen (Medite Test 99,250, Germany), cool units for cooling paraffin in tissue specimen (Medite Test 99,410, Germany), HE object glass (Sail Brand Microscope), China), IHC object glass (Biogear Microscope Slide, China), cover glass (Aurona Scientific, Canada), humidity chamber to maintain moisture from preparations (Biogear Humidity Chamber, China), light microscopes to observe and cell count (Nikon Model Eclipse E200MV RS, Japan), microscopic camera (Nikon DS- Fi3, Japan), and computer (Lenovo processor i3-7100T, China). The materials used are hydroxyapatite gel extracted from crab shells (P. pelagicus), alcohol (Leica Surgipath Reagent Alcohol 100%, USA), 10% ether solution, ketamine, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (OneMed H2O2 3%, Indonesia), bone softener ([Titriplex III], USA, Netherlands), chlorine, ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), Mayer's hematoxylin, 10% buffered formalin (Leica Surgipath 10% neutral buffered formalin, Australia), PBS, albumin, phosphate buffered saline solution at pH 7, aquades solution, solid paraffin (Leica surgipath paraplast, USA), xylene (Fulltime Xylenes ACS, China), diaminobenzidine chromogen, HRP Excell Stain System (Biogear Scientific), monoclonal antibodies TGF-B1 and ALP (Santa Cruz, USA), staining material for hematoxylin eosin (HE; Leica Surgipath SelecTech Hematoxylin 560 and Leica Surgipath SelecTech Eosin Phloxine 515, Australia), and immunohistochemistry (IHC) counterstaining (Path Chem 1% lithium carbonate, USA).

#### 2.1. Preparation of Experimental Animals

The experimental animals were adapted in cages for 7 days before the research began, and each cage was filled with 9 mice with a temperature of  $24^{\circ}C \pm 1^{\circ}C$ . During the adaptation process, mice were given standard feed and drink *ad libitum* (without restriction).

#### 2.2. Production of Hydroxyapatite Gel

The process of obtaining hydroxyapatite from crab shells is by soaking crab shells (*P. pelagicus*) waste in  $H_2O_2$ : water = 3:20 for 15 min and then soaking in chlorine (10 ml of chlorine is used for 20 l of water) for 5 min. Crab shell waste was cleaned from dirt with brush and dried at room temperature. Calcinations were performed at 1000°C temperature with an initial rate of temperature 50°C and a rise of 5°C/min and then maintained for 2 h. Hydroxyapatite gel is made from hydroxyapatite powder and carrageenan with a ratio of 2:1 [15].

#### 2.3. Mandibular Left Incisor Extraction of Wistar Rats

The mandibular left incisor of Wistar rats was extracted. Tooth extraction was carried out under the effect of general anesthesia with ether 10% [16]. This would create the sockets, which were approximately 2 mm in diameter and 20 mm in depth, indicating that the HA did not hinder the natural bone-healing process in the socket [17].

#### 2.4. Samples

This study used 36 samples divided into two control groups (K14 and K28) and two treatment groups (P14 and P28). Each group consisted of 9 samples. In the control group, on day 14 (K14) and day 28 (K28), no treatment was given and the post extraction socket was sutured with silk thread 3/0. In the treatment group, on day 14 (P14) and day 28 (P28), hydroxyapatite derived from crab shells was administered to the post extraction socket using a 3-ml syringe and then sutured with silk thread 3/0 [16]. In the control group on day 14 and day 28, and in the treatment group on day 14 and day 28, rats were euthanized using ketamine at lethal doses (66–88 mg/kgBB) intramuscularly (on quadriceps femoris). Furthermore, the rat's mandible was taken by incision from the corner of the mouth toward the posterior until the mandible was separated from the skull. After that, the rat's body was buried.

#### 2.5. Tissue Preparation

Post extraction socket tissue of experimental animals was fixed with 10% formaldehyde solution. Then, decalcification was carried out using ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA). Tissue specimens cut using a scalpel with a thickness of 0.3–0.5 mm and then dehydrated (Intelsint) and vacuumed using a tissue vacuum machine (Medite) for 30 min. Liquid paraffin was poured until the entire tissue was submerged in paraffin and then freeze it in the cooling unit. Paraffin blocks containing tissue were cut using a microtome machine (Accu-cut SRM) (3–4  $\mu$ m) [18]. The trabecular area was analyzed by HE staining, and the expression of ALP and TGF- $\beta$ 1 was analyzed by IHC staining.

#### 2.6. Observation Procedure of TGF- $\beta$ 1, ALP, and Trabecular Bone Area

The magnification of the microscope used is  $400\times$ . The counting technique for TGF- $\beta 1$  and ALP analysis was used on a microscope with graticulae at 8–10 field view / beta counter as wide as field of view. The trabecular bone area was measured by calculating the area of formed islands in the alveolar socket region in the histology slides by HE staining, which was measured by a light microscope with micrometer units and analyzed using the NIS-Elements D application. The numbers that appeared on this application indicate the area of trabeculae in the alveolar socket [14].

#### 2.7. Data Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 20 produced by IBM (USA). The normality distribution test was performed using Shapiro–Wilk test, and the variance homogeneity test was carried out using the Levene's statistic test. Parametric test was carried out using One-Way Anova and Post-Hoc Tukey honestly significant difference (HSD) test to prove whether there were significant differences between the control and treatment group.

#### 3. RESULTS

The gel was applied to the socket after tooth extraction of the Wistar rat's teeth in the treatment group. In the control group, tooth sockets had not given anything and only post extraction suturing was performed. Tooth extraction sockets in the control and treatment groups were prepared onto microscope slides, and then stained with HE and IHC. The trabecular bone area was measured and the level of TGF- $\beta$ 1 and ALP was counted use a light/optical microscope. The results of the study are shown in Figure 1.

Crab shells used in this study were analyzed to find out what components are present in them. From this test, the composition of hydroxyapatite was obtained at 87.11% with details of the chemical components given in Table 1.

Figures 1 and 2 showed that the highest mean of trabecular bone area in P28 was 51640.5556, which was higher than K28 that was 20570.6767; the highest level of ALP in P28 was 13.065, which is higher than K28 that was 6,064 and the highest level of TGF- $\beta$ 1 in P14 was 16.33, which is higher than K14 that was 12.56. This showed the increase in the trabecular bone area, ALP, and TGF- $\beta$ 1 in the treatment group, which was given hydroxyapatite gel compared to the control group that was not given any treatment.

P14 is a sign for the treatment group observed on the 14th day after incisor extraction and hydroxyapatite gel application. K14 is a sign for a control group that was not given hydroxyapatite gel and observed on the 14th day after the extraction

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#### Figure 1: Mean of ALP and TGF- $\beta$ 1.

# Table 1: Hydroxyapatite composition ofhydroxyapatite from crab shells.

Component	Percentage (%)
CaO	52.05
PO <sub>4</sub>	37.82
ОН	8.85

#### Figure 2: Mean of trabecular bone area.



of the incisors. P28 is a sign for the treatment group observed on the 28th day after incisor extraction and hydroxyapatite gel application. K28 is a sign for the control group that was not given any hydroxyapatite gel and observed on the 28th day after the extraction of the incisors.

Left mandibular alveolar bone preparation with HE staining, seen using a light microscope with a magnification of 400×. Viewed broad trabeculae expressed by osteoblasts that will be seen as a picture of the islands with a solid color that indicates the existence of alveolar bone regeneration process (Figure 3).





Figure 4: A. Expression of ALP in K14, B. Expression of ALP in K28, C. Expression of ALP in P14, D. Expression of ALP in P28.



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Figure 5: A. Expression of TGF- $\beta$ 1 in K14, B. Expression of TGF- $\beta$ 1 in K28, C. Expression of TGF- $\beta$ 1 in P14, D. Expression of TGF- $\beta$ 1 in P28.

Left mandibular alveolar bone preparation with IHC staining, viewed using a light microscope with 400× magnification. ALP expressed by osteoblasts is viewed, which will be seen as an irregular brown color in osteoblast cells that indicates the existence of alveolar bone regeneration process (Figure 4).

The left mandibular alveolar bone preparation was with IHC staining and viewed using a light microscope with 400× magnification. TGF  $\beta$ 1 expressed by osteoblasts was viewed, which will be seen as a diffused brown picture in osteoblast cells that indicates the existence of alveolar bone-regeneration process (Figure 5).

Data analysis began with the normality test of each data by using the Shapiro–Wilk test to determine the normality of the data. Shapiro–Wilk test in all the groups showed that p>0.05, which indicates that all groups were normally distributed. After that, the homogeneity test of sample variation is done with the Levene Test to test the similarity of variance (homogeneous) of some samples. Homogeneity test results showed the value of p>0.05 showing that the research data is homogeneous. The analysis test was conducted between treatment groups and control groups using the One-way Anova test with Post-Hoc Tukey HSD to determine differences between groups of samples.

One-way Anova test showed that significance equaled 0,000, which is smaller than 0,05 so that there are significant differences in the whole group. After that, the Post-Hoc Tukey HSD test was performed to see the significance of the trabecular bone area, and the level of ALP and TGF- $\beta$ 1 between the study groups. In the Post-Hoc Tukey HSD test, a value was considered to have a significant difference if *p*<0.05. In the analysis of the research data, it was found that there were significant differences between the control group and the treatment group on the same observation day.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Tooth extraction is a traumatic procedure that can cause loss of alveolar bone. In general, soft tissue and hard tissue will experiencing trauma during tooth extraction. Trauma that occurs due to tooth extraction will have a natural healing process by going through the stages of the wound-healing process, which is basically divided into 3 stages: inflammation, proliferation, and remodeling. Bone-healing process after tooth extraction is generally the same as wound healing, but there is involvement of osteoblasts and osteoclasts [19].

Tooth extraction will be followed by the process of bone regeneration, which is a process of regrowth or recovery of lost/damaged bone to restore its previous architecture and function. Bone regeneration process will be followed by the process

of bone remodeling, a process that lasts a lifetime in which "old" bone is removed (bone resorption) and "new" bone is added (ossification or bone formation), which is considered a physiological renovation of the bone. There are three phases of bone remodeling: activation, resorption, and formation. In the formation phase, TGF- $\beta$ 1 cytokines secreted by macrophage cells will initiating the proliferation and differentiation of osteoblast precursors into osteoblasts. TGF- $\beta$ 1 and BMPs inside the bone matrix induce the main osteoblast transcription factor, Runx2, which is needed for the initiation of mesenchymal stem cell differentiation into osteoblasts [20]. TGF- $\beta$ 1 will stimulate bone formation by increasing osteoblast proliferation in the early stages of differentiation, inhibiting the process of osteoblast apoptosis, recruiting osteoblast precursors to damage area with chemotactic attraction, and inhibiting hematopoietic precursor cell proliferation [9].

Osteoblasts will secrete TGF- $\beta$ 1 and bone matrix proteins, such as collagen type 1 alpha 1 (COL1A1), osteocalcin (OC), and ALP [12]. ALP will break the phosphate bond and accelerate the occurrence of bone calcification. Therefore, ALP and TGF- $\beta$ 1 can be good indicators in determining the rate of bone formation post tooth extraction [21]. Bone-regeneration process begins from the inflammatory stage, which occurs at around 1–3 days, which is characterized by the formation of a hematoma. This phase is like the defense phase of infection and functions like a bridge between damaged tissue and the growth of new cells, including osteoblasts and osteoclasts. Furthermore, there is a proliferation phase, which is characterized by the occurrence of epithelial and fibroblasts proliferation originating from the alveolar bone wall. After that, there is the reparative phase, which is development of reparative callus tissue in and around the location of the fracture that will be replaced by bone. Then, the remodeling phase is a gradual modification of the fracture area until the bone cortex reaches good stability, which is similar to the shape of the bone before the fracture. Bone regeneration uses the principle of osteogenesis, which is the transfer of bone-forming vital cells to the area where it will regenerate new cells. The healing process of trabecular bone is faster than compact bone [22]. An increase in trabecular area indicates the formation and mineralization of alveolar bones [14].

Minimizing excessive alveolar bone resorption can be done by socket preservation with hydroxyapatite derived from crab shell (*P. pelagicus*). The selection of male Wistar rats was done to avoid the hormonal influence in order to obtain homogeneity of the sample population. Also they are easily maintained and have a bone structure that is similar to humans so that these rats meet the criteria as experimental animals in research [23]. The result of this study proved that there was an increase in all three variables between the control group and the treatment group on the same day after application of the crab shell hydroxyapatite gel. In this study, hydroxyapatite gel is made from hydroxyapatite graft and carrageenan. The hydroxyapatite graft used was made from the crab shell of the *P. pelagicus*. *In vivo* research on the hydroxyapatite graft from the crab shell has not been carried out, but *in vitro* research has been carried out on human gingival fibroblast cell culture, and the results show that the hydroxyapatite graft has biocompatible properties against these cell [24]. The use of carrageenan aims to change the dosage form of hydroxyapatitegraft into gel. Carrageenan hydrogels are biocompatible and thus can be further studied for their use in targeted biomedical applications [25].

The results showed a significant difference in TGF- $\beta$ 1 expression between the control group and the treatment group given hydroxyapatite gel, both on day 14 and day 28. This happens because of the effect of hydroxyapatite gel in the treatment group. The porous hydroxyapatite mineral structure, which is interconnected and osteoconductive, will bind cytokines when bone damage occurs, and these cytokines will stimulate mesenchymal stem cells contained in pores of hydroxyapatite minerals to differentiate into osteoblasts, chondroblasts, and fibroblasts [26]. Osteoblasts and chondrocytes will produce TGFβ1 during the healing process [11]. These cytokines play an important role in the process of differentiation and function of osteoblasts that are needed in the process of bone formation [27]. TGF-B1 will stimulate bone formation by inducing differentiation from mesenchymal stem cells to osteoblasts. Osteoblasts will secrete TGF-B1 during the proliferation stage, and then TGF- $\beta$ 1 will again stimulate osteoblasts through the autocrine effect [11]. Level of ALP in the treatment group was higher than in the control group because hydroxyapatite has good quality of osteoconduction, osteoinduction, and osteointegration [28]. Hydroxyapatite gel in the socket will stimulate the release of cytokines from endothelial cells through inflammatory reactions. These cytokines stimulate mesenchymal cells to proliferate and differentiate to form osteoblasts [29]. Interconnected porous structure of hydroxyapatite forms a very strong bond between bones, accelerates the vascularization process, and facilitates osteoblast penetration, this structure is a good medium for osteosteoblast to attach to. The process of attaching osteoblasts to the surface of the bone graft matrix takes place slowly until the cells spread throughout the surface [5]. In the reparative/ recovery phase, osteoblast cells will mature and carry out a matrix-formation process and then osteoblasts will secrete ALP for the mineralization process [30]. ALP will break the phosphate bond so that the phosphate ions and calcium ions will form calcium-phosphate bonds in the form of hydroxyapatite crystals, which eventually settle in the bone and accelerate the occurrence of bone calcification. Statistical analyses of the trabecular bone area on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> days showed a significant result in increasing post extraction trabecular bone socket. It shows that hydroxyapatite affects the process of bone regeneration. Hydroxyapatite (Ca10(PO4)6(OH)2) can remineralize lost or damaged bone tissue without causing a rejection reaction by the body. Bioactive properties of hydroxyapatite can help bind them to bone tissue and provide specific biological responses that can stimulate osteoblast cells to produce new bone tissue so that it can help the process of bone regeneration [8, 31]. Analysis with SAA showed a hydroxyapatite surface area of 0.50 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a pore size of 123.20 nm, and a pore volume of 31.02 mm<sup>3</sup>/g. The analysis with SEM shows the hydroxyapatite morphology in the form of chunks with uniformly distributed pores and the result of the compressive test shows a hydroxyapatite compressive strength of 56.92 MPa [8]. Degradation of hydroxyapatite corresponds to the natural bone-degradation processes and suggests the possibility of complete resorption during bone remodeling [24].

#### 5. CONCLUSION

In this study, it can be concluded that application of hydroxyapatite derived from crab shell (*P. pelagicus*) to the socket post extraction of Wistar rats increases TGF- $\beta$ 1, ALP, and trabecular bone area.

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#### **Authors' Contributions**

This work was carried out with the collaboration of all authors. MJKK was responsible for the experiment design, data analysis, literature search and preparation of the research report. BA, HL, and NH carried out the sample collection and literature search. ML, N, and TP performed statistical analysis. BA, HL, NH, ML, N, and TP contributed to research report and literature search work.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

None.

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