

Evaluation of tooth staining with red wine after tooth bleaching with nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma.

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Abstract

We conducted to investigate the tooth color change caused by 15% carbamide peroxide (CP) used as a self-bleaching agent containing 5.4% low-concentration H₂O₂ with nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma, and the effect of such tooth bleaching method on staining sensitivity to red wine. Ten extracted intact human teeth without signs of fracture, dental caries, or structural anomalies were used in this experiment. One half of each tooth was randomly assigned to either the control or the experimental group. Group 1 (control group) was treated with a uniform 1mm layer of 15% CP gel application which contained 5.4% H₂O₂ (every 10 min, Kool White 15%, Pac-Dent International, Walnut, CA, USA) alone. Group 2 (experimental group) received a 15% CP and plasma for 30 min. The tip of the static plasma device was positioned at a 1 cm distance from the tooth surface. And then, the teeth were immersed in red wine (Palacio De Anglona Tinto Semidulce-red wine subgroup) for seven days. The buccal surface of each tooth was based on the Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage (CIE) Lab Color System which is widely used for tooth color evaluation. The control and experimental groups showed significant differences in brightness after 30 min. After 7 day immersion in red wine, the mean ΔE values for the plasma and 15% CP combinational treatment were approximately 1.56-fold smaller than those for the treatment without plasma ($P < 0.05$). The combinational treatment with nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma and 15% carbamide peroxide (CP) has an excellent tooth bleaching effect and can maintain the bleached tooth's color stability due to its low staining sensitivity to pigmentation after bleaching.

Keywords: Discoloration, Color change, Nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma, Tooth bleaching, Staining, Red wine.

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Introduction

With the recent rise in dental-care patients' aesthetic demands owing to modern people's desire to improve the quality of their lives, tooth bleaching-expressing one's good health and enhancing one's beauty by making one's teeth whiter-has been receiving increasing attention of late [1]. Tooth bleaching is an aesthetic procedure for removing the elements that stain the teeth, making the teeth brighter and improving their color [2]. Thus, it is popular as a conservative method of making the teeth whiter or recovering the aesthetics of discolored teeth [3]. Tooth bleaching can be categorized by method employed, performing practitioner, and material used. It can be broadly classified into professional bleaching and self-bleaching, and between these, professional bleaching using 30-35% high-concentration hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is preferred because of its ability to achieve a rapid bleaching effect in a short time [4]. The mechanism of the tooth bleaching is not yet clear, but

it is known that bleaching is achieved by oxidation reaction [5]. During the reaction, H₂O₂ oxidizes the structural formula of the colorant in the interprismatic space of the enamel, thereby causing a bleaching effect. As the bleaching agent decomposes, the complex structural formula of the colorant on the tooth surface is simplified, the reflectance of light changes accordingly, and consequently, the tooth looks brighter [6].

A tooth can be more deeply penetrated with the use of a light source [7], but besides the fact that the light source's actual role has yet to be firmly established, light sources can cause thermal damage in the pulp tissue [8]. As such, a new bleaching method that is effective at low H₂O₂ concentrations but does not cause thermal damage is being sought. Nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma sources have been used for biomedical applications since 2000 [9-11] because plasma, the fourth state of matter (after the solid, liquid, and gas states) contains many radicals, a strong electric field, and

charged particles. Since recently, studies on a new tooth bleaching method involving the use of nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma have been actively conducted, and these studies have reported the superior effect of this new tooth bleaching method compared to the conventional method [9,12-15]. This is because plasma produces a larger amount of hydroxyl radical ($\cdot\text{OH}$), which plays an important role in tooth bleaching as it increases the bleaching efficacy [9,12,13].

The previous studies on the efficacy and principles of bleaching have reported side effects like hyperesophoria after bleaching, gingival-and soft-tissue burns, and changes in taste [16]. Moreover, Hersek et al. [17] observed that tea, coffee, and wine cause severe staining on the tooth enamel. It has also been reported that the effect of bleaching is not permanent, and that even after bleaching, tooth discoloration may be caused by extraneous factors like the consumption of coffee, green tea, black tea, cola, and red wine [18]. As tooth bleaching causes a change in the tooth's surface characteristics, the bleached tooth may become more sensitive than before to staining. There have been almost no studies, however, that applied the aforementioned new tooth bleaching method involving the use of nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma and that investigated its effect on the bleached tooth's color stability against beverages causing tooth surface staining. As such, this study aimed to investigate the tooth color change caused by 15% carbamide peroxide (CP) used as a self-bleaching agent containing 5.4% low-concentration H_2O_2 with nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma, and the effect of such tooth bleaching method on staining sensitivity to red wine.

Materials and Methods

Plasma device

For this experiment, the plasma source is composed of an alumina tube with an internal diameter of 4 mm, inner stainless still electrode and outer copper electrode. Argon was used as a carrier gas at 2 (standard liters per minute (slm)). Outer electrode is grounded and an AC high voltage generated by high voltage circuit which can increase the voltage up to 10 kV with frequency of 15 kHz. When applied voltage is over 2.8 kHz, the Argon plasma is generated in an alumina tube (Figure 1).

Tooth preparation

Ten extracted intact human teeth without signs of fracture, dental caries, or structural anomalies were used in this experiment. All teeth were removed with a soft-tissue ultrasonic scaler and polished in a dental rubber cup with water or pumice slurry prophylaxis. The roots were cut with water-cooling using a diamond saw (Struers Minitom, Copenhagen, Denmark) at the cement-enamel junction. The crown was cut in half longitudinally and cut surfaces were coated with two layers of nail varnish.

Tooth bleaching procedure and re-stain process

Before the tooth bleaching, the buccal surface of each tooth was photographed using a digital-imaging system provided by a stereomicroscope (SZCTV, Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) at 10X magnification. One half of each tooth was randomly assigned to either the control or the experimental group ($n=10$). Group 1 (control group) was treated with a uniform 1mm layer of 15% CP gel application which contained 5.4% H_2O_2 (every 10 min, Kool White 15%, Pac-Dent International, Walnut, CA, USA) alone. Group 2 (experimental group) received a 15% CP and plasma for 30 min. The tip of the static plasma device was positioned at a 1 cm distance from the tooth surface. After 30 min application, the teeth were thoroughly rinsed to remove all the gel with distilled water and dried with sterile gauze. And then, the sectioned teeth were immersed in red wine (Palacio De Anglona Tinto Semidulce-red wine subgroup) for seven days.

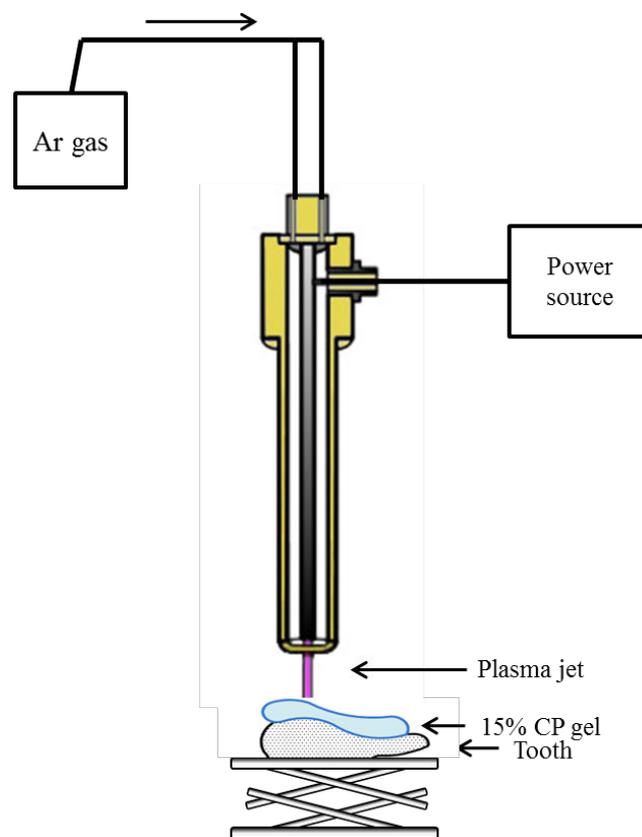


Figure 1. The tooth bleaching process using non-thermal atmospheric pressure plasma.

Measurement of color change

The color change of each tooth was based on the Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage (CIE) Lab Color System which is widely used for tooth color evaluation [19,20]. The differences in the values of L^* , a^* , and b^* in each group were measured using Adobe Photoshop CS2 (Adobe Systems, San Jose, CA, USA). The overall color changes (ΔE) were assessed were calculated according to the following formula:

$$\Delta E \sqrt{(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2}$$

Statistical analysis

The difference in color changes between the control and experimental groups was tested with a 95% significance level, using SPSS (Version 18, SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA). Student's t-test was used to determine the difference in Δ values between tooth bleaching without plasma and with plasma.

Results

Color change in red wine after tooth bleaching

The control and experimental groups showed significant differences in brightness after 30 min (Figure 2). Table 1 showed the average $\Delta E \pm$ standard deviation (SD). The mean ΔE values of Group 2 were approximately 1.83-fold larger than those of Group 1 ($P < 0.05$), but after 7th day immersion in red wine, the mean ΔE values for the plasma and low-concentration 15% CP combinational treatment were approximately 1.56-fold smaller than those for the treatment without plasma ($P < 0.05$) (Figure 3).



Figure 2. The tooth bleaching effect of plasma and 15% CP. (A) Photograph of the tooth before treatment; (B) after 30 min (C) after 7th day of immersion in red wine.

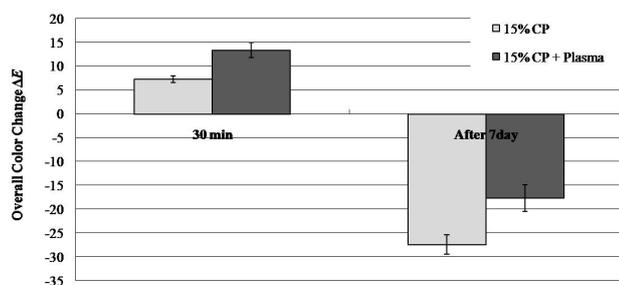


Figure 3. The alteration of overall color changes (ΔE) after tooth bleaching and the immersion in red wine up to 7th day.

Discussion

Bright teeth are more attractive than dull teeth and can improve one's self-esteem. As such, in dental care, not only the demand for better dental health but also that for a better aesthetic appearance is increasing [20]. In terms of the latter, the color of the teeth greatly influences the appearance. As such, an increasing number of people today are seeking to make their teeth whiter to show better dental health and to enhance their beauty, and consequently, more and more dental clinics are performing tooth bleaching [21]. Tooth bleaching effectively improves the color of the teeth and is performed in various

ways in clinical practice, but professional bleaching is preferred due to its ability to achieve a rapid bleaching effect in a short time [4]. The use of high-concentration H_2O_2 as a professional bleaching agent, however, has been reported to increase the staining after bleaching [22,23]. This side effect has been attributed to the staining materials' penetration of the tooth enamel surface that has been damaged by bleaching with high-concentration H_2O_2 , thereby resulting in a faster exogenous pigmentation than before bleaching [24]. There is an ongoing controversy with regard to the impact of tooth bleaching using high-concentration H_2O_2 on the tooth enamel surface [25,26].

Color stability is one of the most important requirements for maintaining long-term dental aesthetics, and color change, pigmentation, etc. cause dental aesthetic discordance [27]. Pak [28] reported that coffee, red wine, and tea cause tooth staining to a great extent, and it has been reported elsewhere that beverages and foods like red wine, cola, soy sauce, red pepper paste, coffee, and oolong tea are major causes of staining of the natural teeth, resin, and artificial teeth [29]. Therefore, to maintain the bleached tooth surface's color stability from pigmentation, it is necessary to confirm the bleached tooth surface's sensitivity to staining. It was revealed that plasma treatment could improve the efficacy of tooth bleaching by removing the proteins on the tooth surface [9]. Nam et al. [30] reported that the combined use of plasma and 15% CP for tooth bleaching provides color stability over a 6-month period. The analysis of its impact on the tooth surface showed that tooth bleaching using plasma with 15% CP did not influence the microhardness and the mineral content of dental hard tissues [31]. Studies on tooth bleaching using plasma are steadily being conducted, and not only such tooth bleaching method's tooth bleaching effect but also the resulting stability of the tooth surface has been proven.

Table 1. The $\Delta E \pm$ S.D and P-values obtained by tooth bleaching with/without plasma.

Observation times	Bleaching agents	N	Mean $\Delta E \pm$ SD		t-test P-values
			Without plasma	Plasma	
Immediately after 30 min bleaching	15% CP	10	7.31 \pm 0.70	13.34 \pm 1.55	0.037*
After 7 day of immersion in red wine	15% CP	10	-27.41 \pm 2.04	-17.62 \pm 2.80	0.043*

*The significant differences between the two groups by Student t-test ($P < 0.05$).

There has been no report, however, on the impact of tooth bleaching using plasma on the bleached tooth surface's staining. As such, this study was conducted to confirm the tooth color change after bleaching with plasma and low-concentration CP, and such method's impact on tooth surface staining by red wine. As a result, it was confirmed that the plasma and 15% CP combinational treatment causes less

staining on the bleached tooth surface than the treatment without plasma. After 7th day immersion in red wine of a tooth that had been bleached using the plasma and 15% CP combinational treatment, 1.56-fold lower tooth surface staining was shown compared to the tooth that had been bleached without using plasma ($P < 0.05$). This demonstrated that tooth bleaching using plasma more effectively brightens the tooth surface and causes less tooth surface staining. These results suggest that the use of plasma for tooth bleaching whitens only the organic matters in the tooth and does not damage the inorganic matters or cause any other harmful effect on the tooth surface, thereby resulting in less staining of the bleached tooth by red wine. Based on these results, it was confirmed that the plasma and 15% CP combinational treatment has low sensitivity to bleached-tooth staining. Therefore, the plasma and 15% CP combinational treatment for tooth bleaching was verified in this study to have an excellent tooth bleaching effect and to be a safe method that does not cause tooth surface staining.

Conclusion

The combinational treatment with nonthermal atmospheric pressure plasma and 15% CP has an excellent tooth bleaching effect and can maintain the bleached tooth's color stability due to its low staining sensitivity to pigmentation after bleaching.

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