MMPs and MMP-8 in Periodontal Diseases

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Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are a large family of Ca²⁺ and Zn²⁺ dependent proteolytic enzymes, able to cleave the various components of the extracellular matrix (ECM), as well as a range of other regulatory molecules. It has proven the important role of both MMPs and their endogenous inhibitors, tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases (TIMPs), in oral health, the initial development of the tooth, and during enamel maturation.

Matrix metalloproteinases

tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases

Periodontal Diseases

1. Introduction

Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are a type of Ca^{2+} - and Zn^{2+} -dependent proteolytic enzymes. They are also called "matrixins", and their main role is to cleave the various components of the extracellular matrix (ECM), as well as a range of other molecules, such as growth factors, cytokines, chemokines, and adhesion proteins [1]. In humans, the MMP family consists of more than 23 members, divided into six groups: collagenases, gelatinases, matrilysins, stromelysins, membrane-type MMPs, and other MMPs [2].

A variety of cell types are able to express and secrete MMPs as the main producers are the activated neutrophils, macrophages, endothelial cells, epithelial cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, glial cells, tumor cells, etc. [1].

Usually, after the activation of the cells, MMPs are released together with regulatory molecules such as interleukins (IL-8 and IL-1 β), tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α , osteoprotegerin (OPG), prostaglandins (PGE2), and receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand (RANKL) [3].

The MMPs are involved in a vast range of physiological processes: angiogenesis, apoptosis, cellular differentiation, embryogenesis and morphogenesis, wound healing, immune responses, etc. However, the MMPs participate practically in all types of pathological conditions; for example, they are secreted and activated in diseases such as periodontal disease, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, liver fibrosis, autoimmune diseases, and cancer [4].

MMPs are synthesized in non-active form as proenzymes (zymogenes, proMMP), and the MMP activity is regulated via gene expression, proenzyme activation, and endogenous tissue inhibitors, called tissue inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases (TIMPs). There are four types of TIMPs that are present in humans (TIMPs 1–4). Together with MMPs, TIPMs play a major role in the remodeling of ECM and in the replenishing of its components [5]6]

Several reports have proven the important role of both MMPs and TIPMs in oral health, describing the implication of MMPs/TIPMPs balance in the initial development of the tooth and during the enamel maturation. They are also found in both intact and carious dentin, as well as in the pulp and in the saliva [2]. MMPs are expressed by different types of cells in the oral cavity. For example, in an early report from 1994, MMP-9 was mainly detected in gingival keratinocytes, while MMP-2 was expressed by gingival and granulation tissue fibroblasts [8]. Later, Tervahartiala et al., have described expressions of MMP-2, -7, -8, and -13 in gingival sulcular epithelium. In addition, MMP-7 and -13 were also found to be secreted by fibroblasts and macrophages and MMP-8 by neutrophils [9].

2. MMPs and MMP-8 in Periodontal Diseases

Periodontitis is a multifactorial disease that causes soft tissue and bone loss. Severe periodontitis affects 740 million people worldwide and is the sixth most prevalent disease. The diagnosis is based on the evaluation of the standard clinical parameters [3].

The main initiator of this chronic inflammatory disease is the interaction between the pathogenic biofilm in the subgingival and the aberrant host immune response [10]. Evidence suggests that MMPs and their tissue inhibitors (TIMPs) play an important role in tissue remodeling and tissue destruction in general and in dental tissues as periodontal tissues in particular [7][11]. Periodontal inflammation is associated with the disruption of the balance between MMPs and TIMPs [12] (Figure 1).

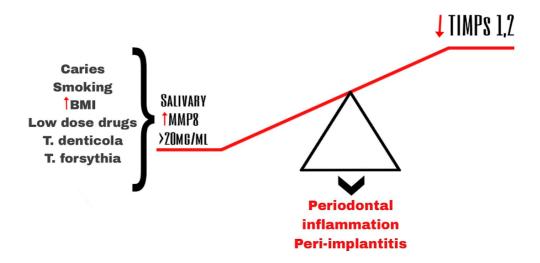


Figure 1. Imbalance of salivary MMP-8 and TIPMs leading to periodontal inflammation and peri-implantitis.

Stimulation of the host cells by the pathogens from the dental plaque is considered a type of indirect mechanism of destruction of the tissues in periodontitis [5] (**Figure 1**).

Pathogens such as *Treponema denticola* (*T. denticola*), *Tannerella forsythia* (*T. forsythia*), and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (*P. gingivalis*), which are the main components of pathogenic biofilm found in the gingival crevicular fluid and plague, induce a cascade which leads to the increased levels of an active form of several MMPs [4][13][14].

Several studies have demonstrated that those pathogens activate the secretion (e.g., MMP-2, MMP-9) and especially the activation of MMPs (e.g., MMP-8) both by bacterial-derived protease (a serine-type protease) and by the oxidative stress and release of myeloperoxidase (MPO) caused by the respiratory burst during the neutrophil phagocytosis [4].

In periodontal diseases, special attention has been paid to three collagenases (MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13) and to the gelatinases (MMP-2 and MMP-9) because the major component of the ECM is collagen type I. All other MMPs (MMP-7, -12, -14) and proteases have relatively moderate effects in periodontitis [4].

Recently, MMP-8 has been considered to be one of the most promising biomarkers for early detection of periodontitis and for its progression and prognosis of treatment [3][4]. Elevated salivary and gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) MMP-8 levels have been reported in patients with initial and chronic periodontitis and in those with periodontitis linked to diabetes [3][15], while the antibiotic and/or scaling and root planning treatment, as well as the application of MMP inhibitory adjuvant medicines, have been shown to lead to the reduction of the level of MMP-8 [4][16][17][18]. For example, Yakov et al. reported that the persistent increase in MMP-8 in the gingival crevicular fluid is an indicator of a high risk of poor response to periodontal therapy [13]. Sensitive MMP-8-based assays of saliva, applied as chair-side kits, have been recently created [3]. These assays effectively distinguish clinically healthy sites and gingivitis from periodontitis and could also be applicable in monitoring the treatment of patients with chronic periodontitis [18]. Thus the introduction of that method for periodontal disease testing would give an advantage not only for the diagnosis but also for the identification of susceptible individuals and the prognosis of treatment [3][19].

Factors determining the susceptibility for periodontitis are some functional variants of the genes encoding the MMPs $^{[20][21]}$. Variations in the *MMP8* gene that have been mostly investigated in association with periodontitis are *MMP8* –799 C > T (rs11225395) +17 C/G (rs2155052) and –381A/G (rs11225395) (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Observations from studies concerning MMP8-799 C > T (rs11225395) +17 C/G (rs2155052) and -381A/G (rs11225395) polymorphisms in periodontitis.

Polymorphism in MMP8	Population	Diseasel	Patients/Controls	Observation
-799 (C > T)	Taiwan	AgP + CP	96 + 361/106	Increased risk for AgP ($p = 0.04$) and CP ($p = 0.007$) in carriers of T allele [22].
				No differences in allele ($p = 0.06$) and genotype ($p = 0.280$ distributions. No
−799 (C > T)	Czech	CP	341/278	associations with particular periodontal pathogen [23]
+17 (C > G)	Czech	CP	341/278	No differences in allele ($p = 0.38$) and genotype ($p = 0.09$) distributions. No

Polymorphism in MMP8	¹ Population	Disease	Patients/Controls	Observation
				associations with particular periodontal pathogen ^[23]
-799C>T/+17C > G haplotypes	Czech	СР	341/278	-799T/+17C haplotype is associated with 1.273-fold risk of CP ($p = 0.038$) [23]
-799 (C > T)	Turkish	GAgP	100/267	T allele (p < 0.0001) and T allele genotypes ($CT + TT$, p < 0.0001) were more common in GAgP determining 2.878-; 6.76-fold higher risk of GAgP compared to the wild C allele and CC genotype [24].
+17 (C > G)	Turkish	GAgP	100/267	No differences in allele ($p = 0.290$) and genotype ($p = 0.581$) distributions [24]
-381 (A > G)	Turkish	GAgP	100/267	G allele (p = 0.027) and G allele genotypes ($AG + GG$, p = 0.015) were less common in GAgP determining 1.5- and 2.27-fold lower risk of GAgP (OR = 0.664 and OR = 0.44) compared to the wild A allele and AA genotype [24]

published lead to similar conclusions suggesting that the variant T allele of $MMP8-799 \, C > T \, SNP$ is associated with an increased risk of periodontitis in four genetic models [21][25]. When the meta-analysis was performed in subgraphs, the proveder in the conclusion of the

There are also a few other MMPs evaluated in saliva and GCF and in periodontitis gingiva in patients with periodontitis. The immunohistochemically labeled cells for MMP-13 and for MMP-8 were higher in density in periodontitis gingiva when compared with healthy control tissue (p < 0.01). In periodontal diseases, gingival sulcular epithelium expresses several, rather than a single, collagenolytic MMPs, and this proteolytic cascade is evidently responsible for the tissue destruction characteristic of adult and juvenile periodontitis [9].

Besides MMP-8, decreased levels in gingival crevicular fluids after the effective treatment of periodontitis have also been observed for MMP-1, -9, -12, and -13 [4][26][27]. Indeed, the analyses of GCF from 29 African-American individuals diagnosed with localized aggressive periodontitis treated with full-mouth scaling and root planning and systemic antibiotics have proven that the levels of MMP-1, -8, -9, -12 and -13 were significantly reduced up to 6 months after the beginning of therapy and correlated positively with some clinical parameters as the pocket depth [26]. Even more, MMP-9 found in the saliva is shown to be a more sensitive biomarker during orthodontic treatment, which is promising for the decreasing of periodontal hazards during such manipulations [4].

In addition, significant associations were found between MMP-8 and MMP-9 activities in gingival crevicular fluid and the severity of the periodontal disease, together with negative correlations with TIMP-1 and TIMP-2 levels. This means that there is a dynamic in the balance between the active MMPs and their endogenous inhibitors, TIMPs, and suggests that MMP inhibitors could be a part of an innovative therapy against the effects of MMP on

periodontal tissues [2]. Such MMP inhibitory effect is expressed by subantimicrobial doses of doxycycline, which have been approved as adjuvant therapy for treating periodontitis [28].

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