

**Effect of silver nitrate incorporation
into heat polymerized acrylic resin on
bacterial activity and some mechanical
properties**

A thesis

**submitted to the council of the College of Dentistry at the
University of Baghdad, in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Master of Science in
Prosthetic Dentistry**

**By
Ola Khaleefah Ahmed AL-Husayni
B.D.S**

**Supervised by
Prof. Dr. Nabeel Abdul Fatah
B.D.S., M.Sc.**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ن وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ* مَا أَنْتَ

بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ بِمَجْنُونٍ* وَإِنَّ لَكَ

لَأَجْرًا خَيْرَ مِمَّنْ يَنْتَوِنُونَ* وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى

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Declaration

This is to certify that the organization and the preparation of this thesis have been made by the graduated student **Ola Khaleefah Ahmed** under my supervision at the Collage of Dentistry, University of Baghdad in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Master degree of Science in Prosthodontics.


Professor

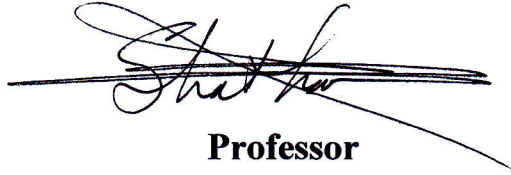
Dr.Nabeel Abdul Fatah

B.D.S., M.Sc.

Supervisor

Committee Certification

We, the members of the examining committee, certify that after reading this thesis and examining the graduated student **Ola Khaleefah Ahmed** in its contents, and that in our opinion it meets the standard of thesis for the **degree of Master of Science in Prosthodontics**.



Professor

Dr. Shatha S. Alameer

B.D.S., M.Sc.

(Chairman of the examining committee)



Assistant Professor

Dr. Intisar J. Ismail

B.D.S., M.Sc., Ph.D.

(Member)



Assistant Professor

Dr. Eman N. Nagi

B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

(Member)

Approved by the council of the College of Dentistry, University of Baghdad

Professor

Dr. Nabeel Abdul Fatah

B.D.S., M.Sc.

(Dean of the College of Dentistry)

الأهداء

إلى منبع كلي و بعضي.....نبضي و أرضي

إلى من تنزف..... فتكابر..... فتداري كل جراحها

بغداد.....حفظها الله

إلى الأمر الجلل.....شمعة الأمل..... التي نورت حياتي.....

أمي.....حفظها الله

إلى من بصبره.....و سنين حياته.....عطرَ حياتي.....

أبي.....حفظه الله

إلى ياقوت عمري..... و شد أزري..... ومنبع قوتي وصبري.....

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إلى كل من أزرو أرشدني أولاً وآخر.....و دعا بسر وجهه.....

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Ola

Abstract

Recently various inorganic antibacterial materials containing silver have been developed with an effort to be colorless, chemically stable and durable materials which slowly release the silver ions for long period aiming to be used successfully as antimicrobial (medical and dental) biomaterials that can prevent caries and infection of implants.

Different concentrations of silver nitrate (9.375, 15, 30, 60, 120, 150, 300, 600 and 900ppm) were prepared from stock solution of 1000ppm silver nitrate. The Rat Embryonic Fibroblast was exposed to tested concentrations of silver nitrate to evaluate the cytotoxic effect of this material. The Poly methyl methacrylate acrylic resin denture base material was prepared in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the tested silver nitrate solution was added to the acrylic resin powder and monomer in a fixed volume (0.2ml). Controls devoid of silver nitrate were included. The specimens for antibacterial experiments and silver ion release study were stored in artificial saliva at 37°C incubation for 30 and 90 days. The specimens prepared for antibacterial experiments were tested at baseline (with no treatment with artificial saliva), 30 and 90 days of immersion artificial saliva using *mutans streptococci* group as tested microorganism. While, for silver release detection, each solution of artificial saliva for the all tested groups was analyzed using atomic absorption spectrophotometer. Mechanical tests (impact strength, transverse strength, tensile strength) were done for the prepared silver nitrate-loaded resins.

The results showed that the cytotoxic test of silver nitrate concentrations range from 9.375 to 900ppm on rat embryo fibroblast cells was 70.8-82.9% inhibition. At baseline, the antibacterial efficacy of

achieved silver nitrate– loaded resin containing 9.375 to 900ppm silver nitrate was 76.7 to 96.6 %. While, after 30 or 90 days immersion there was total inhibition of bacterial growth (antibacterial efficacy = 100%). Silver was not detected in artificial saliva even after 90days of immersion. Fourier transform infra-redconfirmed thatthere was no chemical bond between the Poly methyl methacrylate and silver nitrate. There was insignificant increasing ($P=0.05$) in impact strength observed when compared with control group. In transverse strength test, significant reduction was shown when compared with control($P<0.001$). While for tensile strength there was insignificant reduction with 9.375($P=0.05NS$) and 15($P=0.42NS$) ppm silver nitrate. However it was significant above 15 ppm ($P<0.001$). Darkening of silver nitrate-loaded resins was shown to be started with concentration of silver nitrate of 300ppm and above.

In conclusion, incorporation of silver nitrate in the acrylic resin was evidenced. Moreover, silver was not detected by the high detection limit of the atomic absorption spectrophotometer used in this study, even after 90 days of storage in artificial saliva. Furthermore, silver was also not detected spectrophotometrically in deionized water as different storage media. Silver nitrate is incorporated in the Poly methyl methacrylate denture resin to attain an effective antimicrobial activity to help control common infections involving teeth, and oral mucosal tissues in denture wearers.

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List of Abbreviations

Abs	Absorbance
AGC	AGC Flat Glass Europe's AntiBacterial Glass™
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BHI-B	Brain Heart Infusion Broth
CFU/ml	Colony forming unite per milliliter
CSP	Colloidal silver preparation
CTA	Cystine Trypticase Agar
FTIR	Fourier transform infra-red
G ₂ /M	Gap2/ Mitosis
IU	International unit
KJ/m ²	Kilo joule per square meter
MHA	Mueller Hinton Agar
MPa	Mega Pascal
MSB	Mitis- Salivarius Bacitracin agar.
nm	nanometer
OD	Optical density
P/L	Powder liquid ratio
PMMA	Poly methyl methacrylate
ppm	Part per million
REF	rat embryo fibroblast
TYC	Trypticase yeast extract cystine
μl	Microliter

μm	Micrometer
μg	Microgram
d	daily
CSP	Colloidal silver preparation
WHO	World health organization
ppb	part per billion

Introduction

Little information is available about the impact of silver nitrate into heat polymerized acrylic resin to show the effect on the growth of *mutans streptococci*. So this prompted us to shed light on this research.

There is a need for effective broad -spectrum antimicrobial resin materials in dentistry; it is well-known that removable denture bases fabricated from heat-polymerized acrylic resins may act as a reservoir for microorganisms and contribute to re-infection in denture wearers (**keng and Lim, 1996**). For elderly and institutionalized patients with limited motor skills and special needs, this treatment is further complicated because of some factors such as loss of memory, difficulty in rendering appropriate cleaning for their oral cavities. Fifty-sixty percent rate of dental caries occurs after restoration treatment (**Fanet al., 2011**) or in areas around orthodontic brackets bonding agents where effective tooth brushing is difficult (**Major, 1996**).

Unfortunately, current standards of treatment such as the use of antimicrobial mouthwashes, proper -tooth brushing technique have limited success or side -effects due to problems with patient compliance and the development of antibiotic resistance strains of bacteria. Thus a broad- spectrum antimicrobial resin is needed (**Fanet al., 2011**).

Silver ions have been reported to inactivate important enzymes and affect the application mechanism of the DNA in bacteria. Ag ions have been reported to attach to the outer membrane and affect the permeability as well as induce structure changes in the cell – ultimately leading to cell death. In addition, Ag does not cause resistant bacterial strains to develop (**Russell and Hugo, 1994; Lansdowne et al., 2007**).

For dental application ,the development of other methods of drug elution, such as Ag-Zeolite and SiO₂ filler were incorporated into urethane acrylic monomer in different amount to develop a new temporary filling materials with antibacterial activity against some oral bacterial growth(**Hotta *et al.*,1998**) ,silver containing materials like Novaron,Amenitopand AIS were incorporated into light activated resin composites attended to decrease the frequency of secondary caries around the restorations (**Yoshida *et al.*, 1999**) , The sol-gel derived silica glass powders containing silver are believed to be useful as an antibacterial material for medical applications such as filler of composite resin for dental restoration (**Kawashita *et al.*,2000**),and the incorporation of nanometer-sized silver-supported antimicrobial agent into denture base materialsto investigate the distribution and to study the release mode of silver ions from the base(**Casemiro *et al.*,2008; Yu *et al.*,2008**).

Aim of the study

The aim of the present study is to evaluate the effect of addition of silver nitrate (AgNO_3) to poly methyl methacrylate indifferent concentrations (9.375, 15, 30, 60, 120, 150, 300, 600 and 900 ppm) through:

1. Examining the effectiveness of antimicrobial activity of AgNO_3 on the growth of clinically isolated *mutans streptococci* group through: determining the level of antimicrobial activity of different concentrations of silver nitrate solution on the growth of *mutans streptococci* group and determining the inhibitory effect AgNO_3 -loaded resin at different periods of immersion in artificial saliva.
2. Testing silver release from PMMA at different times of immersion in artificial saliva (T_0 = Baseline, T_1 =30day, T_2 =90 day).
3. The effect of this additive on impact strength, transverse strength, and tensile strength of AgNO_3 – loaded resin.



CHAPTER ONE

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1.1 Polymers

Plastics and rubbers, as they are generally called in everyday life, have the common property of being polymers. Polymers are long chain molecules, consisting of many repeating units called mers, the name polyethylene is derived from the word “Ploy” meaning many and the basic structure unit on which it is based, ethylene, examples of naturally occurring polymers such as agar, cellulose, DNA, proteins, natural rubber, collagen and silk. The synthetic polymers, which are now everyday household names, are PVC (Polyvinyl chloride), polyethylene, nylon and poly styrene. The most common polymers are those made from the organic compounds of carbon, but polymers can also be made from inorganic compounds, based on silica (SiO_2) (Noort, 2007).

1.1.1 Basic Nature of Polymers

1.1.1.1 Chemical composition

The starting material for the production of a polymer is the monomer, Monomers are the molecules that units to form a polymer, and the process by which this occurs is termed polymerization. Methyl methacrylate, a common denture base resin monomer, can form poly (methyl methacrylate). If monomers of two or more different types are joined or in which two more homopolymer are chemically combined, copolymers are formed, copolymers may be either random (mers do not appear in specific order) or block (large number of one type of mer appear arranged in sequence). The block copolymer is composed of relatively long sequence different copolymer segments chemically linked to form a linear molecule. The graft

copolymer is comprised of a linear “back home” polymer molecule containing long braches or (grafts) of a mother polymer species (**O’Brien, 2002**).

1.1.1.2 Molecular weight

The molecular weight of the polymer molecule, which equals the molecular weight of the various mers multiplied by the number of mers, may range from thousands to millions of molecular weight units depending on the preparation conditions. The molecular weight of a polymer is reported as the average molecular weight because the number of repeating units may vary greatly from one molecule to another. As would be expected, the fraction of low-, medium- , and high molecular –weight molecules in a material or, in other word, the molecular weight distribution has a pronounced an effect on the physical properties, therefore, two poly (methyl methacrylate) specimens can have the same chemical composition but greatly different physical properties because one of the specimens has a high percentage of low- molecular –weight molecules , whereas the other has a high percentage of high- molecular –weight molecules. Variation in the molecular weight distribution may be obtained by altering the polymerization procedure for example, the higher the molecular weight, the higher the softening and melting points and the stiffer the polymer (**Power and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

1.1.1.3 Spatial structure

The physical or spatial structure of the polymer molecule is also important in determining the properties of the polymer. There are three basic types of structure: linear, branched, cross- linked.

The liner and branched molecules are separate and discrete, whereas the cross- linked molecules form a network structure that may result in the polymer's becoming one gaint molecule.

The spatial structure of polymers affects their flow properties. In general, the cross- linked polymers flow at higher temperatures than liner or branched polymers and does not absorbed liquids as readily as either the linear or branched materials(**Power and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

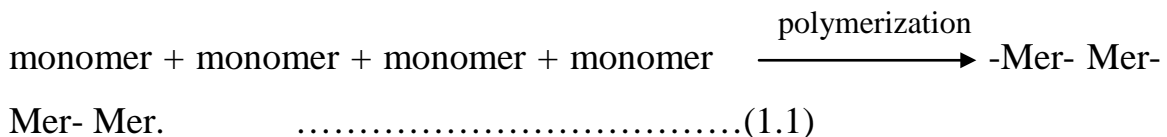
1.1.1.4 Chain configuration

Polymer chains are held together by secondary (or Vander Waal's) bonds, and by entanglement the chain if they are sufficiently long. The higher the molecular weight, the more entanglement, there will be, giving a stiffer and stronger polymer. In a polymer such as polyethylene, which has a linear chain configuration, the weak bonds between the chains can easily be broken by increasing the temperature of the polymer. When this happens the chains can flow past one another so that the polymers soften and readily deforms. On cooling the bonds are re- established, and the polymer becomes hard again, and retain it shape at higher temperature. The temperature at which a plastic softens such that the molecules can begin to flow is defined as its glass transition temperature. They are similar to those for glasses, except that the temperature involved are much lowers in the case of plastics.

A polymer that can be softened and subsequently shaped by heating it above its glass transition temperature is known as a thermoplastic polymer, examples of such thermoplastic polymers are polystyrene, polymethyl methacrylate and polyethylene. Those polymers may be softened by heating and solidify on cooling, the process being repeatable. The term thermosetting refers to polymers that solidify during fabrication but cannot be softened by reheating, these polymers decompose on heating without showing a glass transition, typical examples are silicones, and cross-linked PMMA, bis phenol A diacrylates, cis-polyisoprene (Power and Sakaguchi, 2006; Noort, 2007).

1.2. Preparation of polymers

Polymers are prepared by a process called polymerization, which consist of monomer units becoming chemically linked together to form high molecular – weight molecules as in the equation (Noort, 2007).



The polymerization process may take place by several different mechanisms, but most polymerization reaction fall into two basic types: addition polymerization and condensation polymerization. Important addition polymerization reaction are free-radical, ring-opening and ionic reactions (Power and Sakaguchi, 2006; Anusavice, 2008).

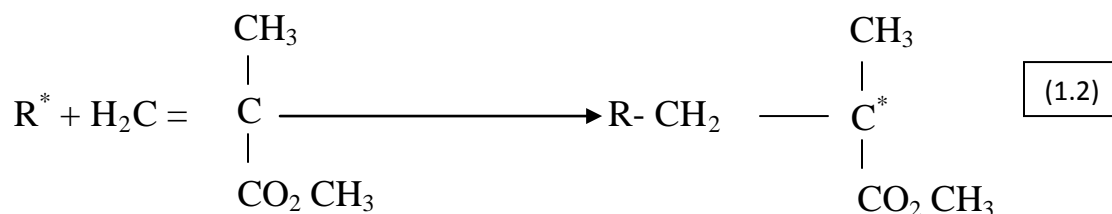
1.2.1 Addition Polymerization

Most dental resins are polymerized by a mechanism in which monomers add sequentially to the end of a growing chain. Addition polymerization start from an active center, adding one monomer at a time to rapidly form a chain. In this type of reaction, no product is obtained and the process is simple, but it is not easy to control (**Anusavice, 2008**).

The reaction takes place in stages called the initiation, propagation, and termination stages. The reaction may be accelerated by heat, light, and traces of peroxides (**Power and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

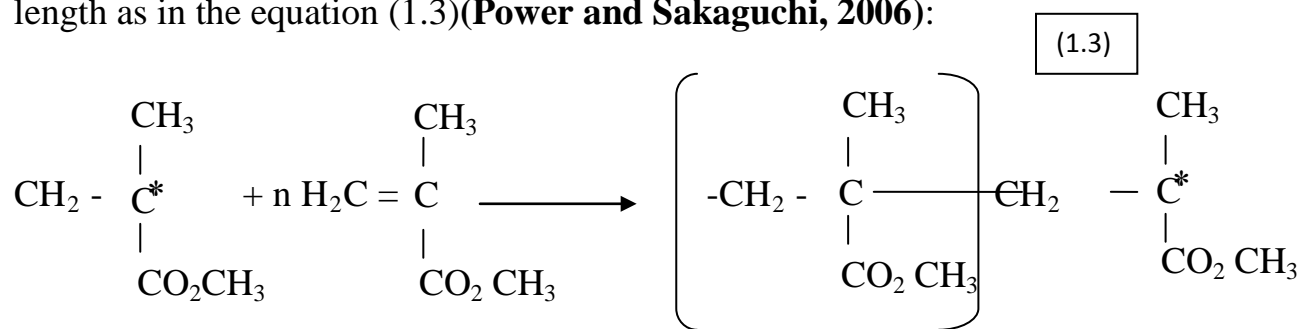
1.2.1.1 Initiation

The initiation step involves the production of free radicals which will encourage a polymer chain to begin growing. Free- radical molecules (R^*) have chemical group with unshared electrons. In chemically activated systems free radical, are generally produced by the reaction of an organic peroxide initiator and an amine accelerator which were the means of production the free radicals which attack the doable bands of available monomer molecules resulting in the shift of the unshared electron to the end of the monomers and the formation of activated monomer molecules. As shown in the equation (1.2)(**Power and Sakaguchi, 2006**):



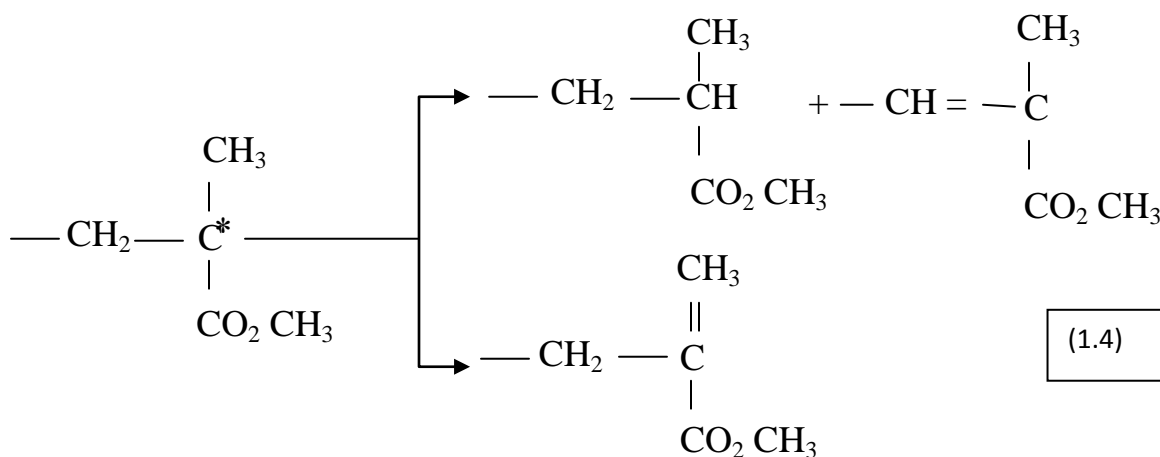
1.2.1.2 Propagation

Activated monomers attack the double bonds of additional available monomer, resulting in the rapid addition of monomer molecules to the free radical. This second stage propagation, continues as the chain grows in length as in the equation (1.3)(**Power and Sakaguchi, 2006**):



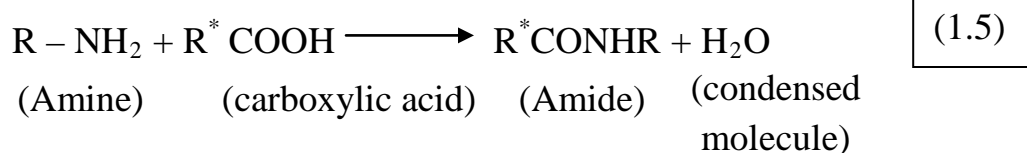
1.2.1.3 Termination

Termination of the growing free radical may occur by several mechanisms and can result in the formation of branches and cross- links. One example of termination is the combination of two growing chains to form one dead chain, or transfer of a single hydrogen ion from one chain to another, referred to as disproportionation (**McCabe, 1985; O'Brien, 2002**). The probability of termination reactions occurs at the chain end, the chain length increases rapidly as in the equation (1.4)(**Stevens, 1999**).



1.2.2 Condensation polymerization

Condensation polymerization occurs when two molecules (not usually the same) react to form a larger molecule with the production of a small molecule (often, but not always, water). In this case, monomer units with a carbon- carbon double bond are not necessary, as shown in the following example (1.5):-



This particular process in this equation is used to make polyamides (nylon). The formation of polymers by step- growth is rather slow, because one proceeds in a step- wise fashion from monomer to dimer to trimer, and so forth, until large polymer molecules containing many monomer molecules are eventually formed. One major drawback of condensation polymerization is the tendency for the reaction to cease before the chains grow to a sufficient length. This is due to decreased mobility of the chains and the reactant chemical species as polymerization progresses. These results in short chains, step- growth polymerization such as nylon have acquired, their valuable properties when they reach a molecular weight of 10,000 to 20,000 (**Anusavice, 1996**).

1.3 Denture Base Resins

Various materials have been used to construct dentures, including cellulose products, phenol phormaldehyde, vinyl resins and vulcanite. However they have suffered from a variety of problems; cellulose product suffered from warpage, taste of camphor due to its use as plasticizer which leached out of the denture, causing blistering, staining and loss of color within a few months, phenol- formaldehyde was proved to be too difficult to process and also lost its color in the mouth; vinyl resins were found to have a low resistance to fracture and failures were common, possibly due to fatigue; vulcanite was the first material to be used for the mass production of dentures, but its aesthetic qualities are not very good and it has now been replaced by acrylic resins (**Noort, 2007**).

Acrylic resin (poly methyl methacrylate) is now the material of choice; this material has the required aesthetic quality, and is cheap and easy to process. Even so, it is not ideal in all respects. The ideal properties of a denture base material are resistant to bacterial growth; good thermal conductivity; Radiopaque; easy to clean, easy to repair; inexpensive to use; good shelf life; good retention to porcelain and metals; resistant to absorption of oral fluids; absence of (odour, taste); could be disinfected; dimensionally stable, high strength, stiffness, hardness and toughness; natural appearance (**Powers and Sakaguch,2006; Noort, 2007**).

1.4 Composition and structure of Acrylic resin

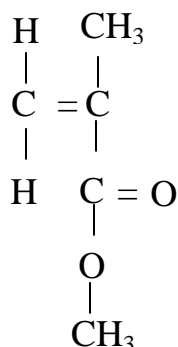
1.4.1 Physical form of acrylic resin

Denture base plastics are commonly supplied in forms: powder and liquid; Gel or plastic cake. The most popular denture base resin is supplied in the form of free running powder and liquid. Because it has long shelf life under normal storing conditions and temperatures (**Powers and Sakaguch, 2006**).

1.4.2 Chemical composition of acrylic resin

1.4.2.1 Liquid (monomer)

An acrylic resin denture is made by the process of free radical addition polymerization to form polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA). The monomer is methyl methacrylate (MMA) as in the scheme (1.6):



(1.6) (Chemical formula of MMA (**Anusavice, 2008**))

Where (me) stands for CH₃. The conversion of the monomer into a polymer involves the normal sequence of initiation, propagation and termination as described in 1.2.1 (**Anusavice, 2008**).

Methyl methacrylate (MMA) is a transparent liquid at room temperature with the following physical properties.

- Molecular weight = 100g/mol
- Melting point = -48°C
- Density = 0.945 g/ml
- Heat of polymerization = 12.9 kcal/mol

MMA is stored in a dark bottle because it polymerizes when being activated by heat or exposed to visible or ultraviolet light (**Craig and Powers, 2002; Anusavice, 2008**).

The monomer is polymerized slowly at room temperature, inhibitor such as hydroquinone ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4$), 0.003% to 0.1% are added to provide the clinician adequate working time (**Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

Plasticizers such as dibutylphthalate (Low molecular weight phthalic esters) may be incorporated into the monomer to produce a softer and more resilient polymer (**Craig and Powers, 2002**) and decreases strength, hardness and softening point (**Manappallil, 2007**). The main disadvantage of using plasticizers is that they may gradually leach out of the plastic by oral fluids, resulting in hardening of the denture base. The plasticizers are either low molecular weight phthalic esters such as dibutylphthalate or high molecular weight phthalic ester monomer if the material are used as a soft liners (**Craig and Powers, 2002; Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

Accelerators are included in the liquid of chemically activated resin to speed up the peroxide decomposition such as tertiary amines and the most commonly used are dimethyl- para- toluidine and dihydroxyethyl- para- toluidine. These accelerators are included in a concentration of 1% to

the liquid to perform the polymerization reaction at room temperature (**Craig and Powers, 2002; Anusavice, 2008**).

Cross-linking materials may be present in amount of 2% to 14%, are characterized by reactive $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ groups at opposite ends of the molecules and serve to link long polymer molecules together. The most common cross-linking agent are dimethacrylate, either ethylene glycol dimethacrylate or 1,4-butylene glycol dimethacrylate (**Dhuru, 2003; Anusavice, 2008**). The accelerators have little effect on the tensile and flexural properties or hardness of acrylic plastics although recovery from indentation such as superficial Hardness indenter is somewhat improved (**Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

1.4.2.2 Powder (Polymer)

Most commercial materials contain particles of pre-polymerized polymethylmethacrylate, which are either spheres or granules of different sizes. Initiator (Benzoyl Peroxide) 0.5% to 1.5% is included in the polymer to overcome the effect of the inhibitor as well as initiating polymerization reaction (**Craig *et al.*, 1996; Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

Plasticizers is also incorporated in the powder beads to assist dough formation, Dibutylphthalate was used for many years as an external plasticizers. Today, internal plasticizers are used instead. Containing various methacrylate or acrylic monomers. They locally soften the beads and allow the monomer to diffuse more rapidly into the beads during the dough stage (**O'Brien, 2002**).

A pure polymer such as poly (methylmethacrylate) is clear and adaptable to a wide range of pigmentations. Inorganic pigments are usually added such as mercuric sulfide, cadmium sulfide, cadmium selenide or ferric oxide (although the use of cadmium salts is questionable because of demonstrated toxicity) to match the shade of the soft tissues (**Powers and Sakaguch; 2006**).

Synthetic Fibers were added to the polymers to simulate the minute blood vessels underlying the oral mucosa; these fibers are made from nylon or acrylic fibers (**Craig and Powers, 2002**).

Elements such as barium or radiopaque glass fibers, bismuth or uranyl salts and zirconyldimethacrylate provide the radio opacity of denture plastics which helps in locating factored fragments in the upper respiratory or digestive tract (**Powers and Sakaguch; 2006**).

1.4.3 Mixing Ratio

The polymer to monomer is usually 3-3.5/1 by volume or 2.5:1 by weight, the accepted polymer to monomer ratio is 3:1 by volume. This provides sufficient excess monomer that would lead to polymerization shrinkage limited to approximately 6% or 5% liner shrinkage (**Anusavice, 2008**).

There must be sufficient monomer to wet polymer bead thoroughly polymerization reaction is to be maximized .Furthermore, if too much polymer powder was used ,less reaction time will be for the polymer and monomer, more unreacted granules of original polymer will be found in the

cured acrylic and less strength will be obtained .On the other hand, too much monomer can result in porosity and longer doughing time in addition to the great curing shrinkage , which will lead to dimensional changes(**Craig ,1997**).

The speed with which the polymer and monomer mixture reaches dough stage depends upon solubility of the polymer beads in the monomer, increasing in the temperature and the size of polymer particles.However a polymer of high molecular weight is more difficult to soften than one of short chain length as the forces of attraction between the chains are greater (**Craig, 1997**).

1.5 Heat activation Polymerization reaction of acrylic denture base resin:

The general method for processing a heat activated acrylic denture base material is the water bath system. In addition there are several methods for supplying heat to accelerate the polymerization reaction for example dry heat, steam, infrared, or dielectric heating and microwave radiation. The results of various processing studies had shown that equally satisfactory clinical results may be obtained with any of these methods compared with the water bath method if adequate temperature control and pressure are maintained (**Craig, 1997; Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**). The curing temperature at 70 °C for 7 hours followed by 3 hours at 100°C achieved minimal level of residual monomer(**McCabe, 1990**).

On the basis of a large number of studies a satisfactory processing temperature for most products is between 71 and 77 °C, although some products can be proceed at higher temperature without serious difficulty. A satisfactory processing procedure is to cure the polymer in a constant temperature water bath at 74°C for 8 hours or longer. Longer curing times, such as overnight, will not result in any degradation of properties. Another satisfactory method, which permits curing in a shorter time, is to heat at 74°C for 1.5 hours and then increases the temperature of the water bath to boiling for an additional hour (**Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006, Anusavice, 2008**).

1.6 Antimicrobial polymers

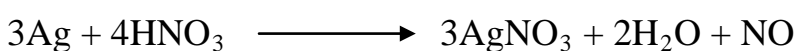
Polymers are very rarely used in their form, for the same reasons that pure metals are rarely used in comparison to alloys. These modifications are carried out in order to improve the properties of polymers. A composition may be defined as a combination of materials in which the individual components retain their physical identity more importantly, a composite material is multiphase material that exhibits properties at the constituent phases is such a way as to produce a material with a better combination of properties than could be realized by any of the component phases. In two component composites, it is usual to refer to the matrix and filler, the matrix being the component that binds the filler together (**Noort, 2007**).

The antimicrobial polymer is the polymer with antimicrobial activity or the ability to inhibit the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi or protozoa. The antimicrobial polymers may enhance the efficiency and

selectivity of currently used antimicrobial agents, while decreasing associated environmental hazards because antimicrobial polymer is generally nonvolatile and chemically stable. This makes this material a prime candidate for use in areas of medicine as a mean to decrease infection in the food industry to prevent bacterial contamination, and in water sanitation to inhibit the growth of microorganisms in drinking water (El-Refaieet *al.*, 2007).

1.7 Antimicrobial agent (Silver Nitrate)

Silver Nitrate is an inorganic compound with chemical formula AgNO_3 . Silver Nitrate is one of Silver compounds that occur in the environments as a white powder (Wadhera and Fung, 2005). It can be prepared by reacting Silver, such as silver bullion or silver foil with Nitric acid as shown in following equation (1.7):



(1.7)

This is performed under a fumhood because of toxic nitrogen oxide given off in the reaction. Silver Nitrate disintegrated at 440°C in to metallic silver, nitrogen and nitrogen oxides, soly in water at 25°C (g / 100g H_2O) given Ag^+ and NO_3^- . Molecular weight 169.87g/mol, Transition temperature 159.8°C , Melting temperature 212°C forming yellowish liquid solidify to white crystal mass on cooling, Density $4.35\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ (solid). It is non-hygroscopic, not photosensitive when pure; traces of organic material promote photo reduction (Neilet *al.*, 2006).

Humans have been exposed to silver and its compounds for centuries via the natural environment, industry, and through the use of silver containing medication (**Lansdown, 2010**).

1.7.1 Silver in medicine

Silver and gold acupuncture needle was used in ancient Japanese "Hari therapy" for relief of muscular pain, fatigue and other discomforts. An ophthalmic solution containing 1% of silver nitrate used to be dropped into newborn babies eyes at birth, eye infections and blindness of newborn was reduced by this method; incorrect dosage, however, could cause blindness in extreme cases, this protection was first used by **Crede in 1881** (**Peter, 2000; Bulletin of the WHO**). In middle Ages, silver nitrate was used for the treatment of nervous system disorders such as epilepsy and tabes dorsalis (**Wadhera and Fung, 2005**). After observing Dr. Halstead of Johns Hopkins University apply silver foil and gauze to wounds to prevent infection, **Crede in 1897** popularized the use of silver as an anti-infective measure (**Hill and Shury, 1939**).

Repeated daily application of silver nitrate can induce adequate destruction of cutaneous warts, but occasionally pigmented scars may develop (**Fung and Bowen, 1996; Sterling et al., 2001**).

Experimental studies suggest that concentration of 60 ppm Ag^+ should be sufficient to control the majority of bacterial and fungal pathogens (**Burrell, 2003**).

Department of chemical engineering found that silver nanoparticles undergo size dependent interaction with HIV-I and inhibit the virus and infectivity in vitro (**Jose *et al.*, 2005**).

The antibacterial action of silver is depend on the silver Ion, the effectiveness of silver compounds as an antiseptic is based on the ability of the biologically active silver ion (Ag^+) to irreversibly damage key enzyme system in the all membranes of pathogens (**Lansdown, 2006**).

Many research have been done in evaluating the ability of silver ion at inactivating E.coli, a microorganism commonly used as an indicator for fecal contamination and as surrogate for pathogens in drinking water treatment, WHO permissible level is 0.1 mg silver /L as disinfectant agent (**Klaassen, 2008**).

Silver and most silver compounds have been widely used in medical and life care polymers (**Kumar and Munstedt, 2005b; Irzhet *et al.*, 2007**) and exhibit antimicrobial action against Gram- positive and Gram-negative bacteria and fungi(**Matsuura *et al.*, 1997; Panaceket *et al.*, 2006; Pal *et al.*, 2007; Loket *et al.*, 2007; Casemiroet *et al.*, 2008**).

Silver has proven broad- spectrum antimicrobial activity that includes antibiotic- resistant bacteria with minimal toxicity toward mammalian cell at low concentrations, and has a less likely tendency than antibiotics to induce resistance due to its activity at multiple bacterial target sites (**Hermans, 2006; Tionet *et al.*, 2007**).

1.7.2 Silver in Dentistry

In response to growing concern of bacterial and fungal contamination high- touch/ high- risk surfaces and foreign body related infection and among current available biocides , silver and inorganic silver salts have potent efficacy against a wide range of microorganisms with low toxicity for human tissue cells (**Chopra, 2007; Hilperet *al.*, 2006; Paddock *et al.*, 2007**).

The development of antimicrobial dental material and dental equipment that can effectively prevent and /or inhibit the growth of various microorganisms has attracted considerable research interest such as in introducing polymeric silver sulfadiazines into PMMA(**Zhengbinget *al.*, 2009**).

A two year longitudinal study of over denture patient who were placed on fluoride solution and/or had teeth treated with silver nitrate, had a significant decrease in caries when compared to these who received no treatment or were placed in placebo (**Toolson and Smith, 1978**).

In 1980 a study was carried to assess the relative importance of the silver introducing solutions for topical application with silver nitrate, copper sulfate, silver fluoride and copper fluoride, all metals tested were found to be carried in plaque and inhibit the acidogenicity of plaque which appears to be carried by the cations(**Oppermann and Johansen, 1980**).

Silver nitrate stains the surface layer changes in dental composites resulting from oral temperature changes (**Mair, 1989**), also for detecting the permeability degradation and marginal integrity of dental composite

restoration (**Mair, 1992**). Evaluating the permeability and micro leakage of CL II resin composite restorations was done by **Pratiet al. in 1994** who used silver nitrate solution to measure microleakage as dye penetration. Also silver nitrate solution was used to evaluate micro leakage and marginal gap of some self-adhesive resin cements (**Hooshmandet al., 2011**).

Anusaviceet al. in 1994 studied the influence of colorants such as AgNO_3 and FeCl_3 on crystallization and mechanical properties of Lithia- based glass- ceramics, and found that controlling some mechanical properties by the use of Ag NO_3 was more effective than P_2O_5 as a nucleated agent for lithic-based glass ceramic.

The effect of a new type of antibacterial temporary filling materials was evaluated by **Hottalet al. in 1998** by adding various ratios of Ag-Zn-Zeolite.

Introducing silver ions into dental restorative material (silica glass) for their slow releasing antimicrobial activity was done by **Kawashitaet al. in 2000**.

Ceramics containing silver ions such as silver zeolite, silver zirconium phosphate are of interest for manufacture aiming to apply antimicrobial compounds to their products (**Kouraiet al., 1994; Miyoshi et al., 1998; Kawashitaet al., 2000; Inoveet al., 2002**).

Silver and zinc zeolite was added to acrylic resin in different percentages to evaluate the antimicrobial activity for acrylic and to assess whether the addition of zeolite alters the flexural and impact strength of the resins (**Luciana et al., 2008**).

The antimicrobial silver ions are utilized to improve the antimicrobial efficacy of endodontic sealers against the remaining bacteria in root canal system (**Krethet *et al.*, 2008**).

Zhengbinget *al.* in 2009 synthesized a new PMMA- based polymeric silver sulfadiazine with silver in trade treatment to regenerate any loss of antibacterial and antifungal activity. This recharging can be repeated as needed to achieve long- term protection.

Sliver ions incorporated with orthodontic adhesive gave excellent antimicrobial activity (**Ahnet *al.*, 2009**).

Analysis from 50% silver trade tooth immersion provided for assessing marginal leakage at the sealant- enamel interface, showed no statistically significant difference in penetration scores in different times of immersion (**Chen *et al.*, 2009**).

One of the surface- originated problems associated with the metallic implants is implantitis. Due to the bacterial adhesion and communization at the implantation site, surface coating with organic and inorganic anti-bacterial agents such as Ag- related agents has been developed(**Guocheng and Zreiqat, 2010**).

Incorporating of silver particles into chemical cure silicon soft liner materials as an *in vitro* study to evaluate the fungal efficacy of these developed composites was performed by(**Chladaket *al.*, 2011**).

1.7.3 Application in Medical Tools

Antimicrobial polymers that contain silver represent a great challenge for academics and industry. These materials draw the attention because of their novelty in being long- lasting biocidal material with high temperature stability and low volatility (**Kumar and M'unstedt, 2005b**).

The large increase in the number and occurrence of antibiotic- resistant bacterial strains has prompted a renewed interest in the use of silver as an antimicrobial agent since silver has a less likely tendency than antibiotics to induce resistance due to its activity at multiple bacterial target sites (**Hermans, 2006; Tianet al., 2007**).

Since catheter related infection is a common cause of nosocomial infection and bacteremia, analysis clarified discrepant results among earlier trials of silver- coated urinary catheters by reveling silver alloy catheters and significantly more effective in preventing urinary tract infection than are silver oxide catheters (**Saint et al., 1998; Roe et al., 2008**), these conclusions are supported by among other Studies by university hospital leuven, Belgium (**Lansdown, 2006**) and the university hospital for anesthesiology surgical intensive care, Halle, Germany (**Loertzeret al., 2006**).

Ionizable silver is also incorporated into fabrics to reduce the spread of bacteria (**Lansdown, 2006**).

In 2007, AGC Flat Glass Europe introduced the first antimicrobial glass to fight hospital- acquired infection; covered with a thin layer of silver (AGC). Ventilator- associated Pneumonia (VAP) causes substantial

morbidity. **In 2008 a study done by kollefet *al.*** concluded, “Patient receiving a silver- coated endotracheal tube had a statistically significant reduction in the incidence of VAP and delayed time to VAP occurrence compared with those receiving a similar uncoated tube. In addition the U.S. food and drug administration (FDA) has recently approved an endotracheal tube with fine coat silver for use in mechanical ventilation (**FDA**).

The use of these devices is contraindicated for persons who are allergic to silver (**Lansdown, 2006**), and although they are widely used in hospitals, no thorough testing and standardization of these products has yet been undertaken (**Chopra, 2007**).

Silver ions are also used for a number of non-medical purposes (**Yamanaka *et al.*, 2005; Jung *et al.*, 2007**).

1.8 Silver exposure

Due to a wide industrial application, a historically high incidence of silver toxicity has been reported, but new occupational safety regulations have dramatically decreased its toxicity (**Fung and Bowen, 1996**).

Besides drug or industrial exposure, silver can be ingested with food and water. The **U.S- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in 1994** published a Reference Dose (Rfd) which is an estimate of daily exposures to the entire population (including sensitive subgroups) that is unlikely to be associated with an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime. It is based on the presumption that some threshold may exist for certain toxic effects of a chemical such as cellular necrosis independent of

carcinogenicity. The current Rfd for oral silver exposure is 5 µg/ Kg/d with a critical dose estimated at 14µg/Kg/d for the average person based on the current Rfd for a 5Kg infant to 70Kg adult, the maximum daily exposure should be less than 25-350 µg/d.

If the silver drinking water sources meet EPA guidelines, an average person who drinks (2L/d) is exposed to less than 200 µg of silver, however a regular daily diet may contain up to about 90 µg of silver as a background level of exposure (**Clayton and Clayton, 1981**).

Current available CSP. Promoted for medicinal or mineral supplement purpose are reported to have an active silver ion concentration of about 1-6 ppm (5-30 µg) per dose (**Health fraud Bulletin, 1995**).

The principle routes for buccal or gastrointestinal Absorption of silver include: contaminated food, silver nitrate aerosols, occupational exposure to metallic silver dust, drinking water (including use of silver copper filters in water purification). Silver nitrate in oral hygiene and gastrointestinal infection, silver acetate antismoking therapies, accidental consumption of silver nitrate or other colorless silver compound (**Lansdown, 2010**).

1.8.1 Oral exposure

Silver is absorbed into the human through buccal membranes and gastrointestinal mucosa which is determined by the ionization of the silver source and availability of "Free" Ag⁺ to interact with protein receptors on cell membrane. Passive uptake is not indicated on account of high reactivity of the silver ion and its binding sulphhydryl, carboxyl, hydroxyl, and protein

legends on mucosal surfaces and cell debris. Biologically active Ag^+ readily binds and precipitates like with chloride and phosphate greatly, therefore reducing absorption (**Lansdown, 2010**).

Current estimation suggest that less than 10% of the silver ingested by humans is absorbed into the circulation (**Fung and Bowen, 1996**) but this can be expected to vary widely according to the age, health, nutritional status, and composition of the diet.

1.8.2 Dermal exposure

The majority of products contain silver or silver compounds for antibiotic purposes come into contact with human skin at same time, but clinical and experimental studies indicated that percutaneous absorption of silver is exceedingly low (**Lansdown, 2010**).

The epidermal keratin and phospholipids of the epidermal barrier function provide effective barriers with exposed sulphhydryl groups irreversibly binding free Ag^+ , in much the same way as other metallic elements (**Hostynek *et al.*, 1993; Lansdown, 1995**).

Where severe generalized argyria has been reported in occupational situation, it is expected that the greatest proportion of the Ag^+ absorbed occurs through inhalation or through contamination of contaminated food and drinking water (**Bleehenet *et al.*, 1981**).

The increasing use of metallic silver, silver thread, or silver impregnates in textile fibers designed for hygiene purpose might be expected

to lead to percutaneous absorption, increased blood silver, and some accumulation of silver precipitated in the skin in chronic exposures (**Lansdown, 2010**).

However, risks of argyria through the use of silver antibiotics in textiles and hygiene clothing are negligible even where the skin is warm and hydrated (**Lansdown, 2006**).

Silver nitrate is appreciably more astringent than silver sulphadiazine and ionizes more rapidly when applied topically as strong silver nitrate (75%), silver nitrate sticks, pencils, for warts removal, callus or undesirable granulations, but Ag^+ penetration is very low. Ag^+ binds to epidermal keratin and blackens on exposure to solar radiation to give characteristic brown-black discoloration. Local skin discoloration rarely occurs following application of sustained silver release wound dressing and occupational contact with silver oxide and other ionisable silver compounds, but are not representative of true argyria which is long lasting (**Lansdown *et al.*, 2005**).

In humans, less than 1% of topically applied silver compounds are absorbed through the skin (**Snyder *et al.*, 1975**). Once deposited in the layers of the skin of humans, silver accumulates throughout the ageing process (**Hostynek *et al.*, 1993**).

1.9 Silver safety

Adverse health effects of silver depend on the dose, the duration of exposure, the route of exposure (i.e. ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact), also on the exposed individual's characteristics (age, sex, nutritional status, and state of health) (**Wadhera and Fung, 2005**).

The general population is exposed to silver mostly through very low levels of silver present in food and drinking water and some times in the air. **Hamilton et al in 1972** found the daily oral intake of silver from a typical diet to be 27-88 μg per day.

Acute irritation of the respiratory tract can occur from in halation of silver nitrate dust, but generally only at concentrations that produce argyria(**Stokinger, 1981**).

Accidental or intentional ingestion of large doses of silver nitrate caused corrosive damage to the gastrointestinal tract, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, shock, convulsions, and death. The estimated lethal dose of silver nitrate is 10g, but recoveries have been reported following ingestion of large doses (**U.S. EPA, 1985**).The chronic inhalation or ingestion of metallic silver or ionsable silver compounds can lead to the formation of argyria, which is either localized or generalized. Excessive absorption Ag^+ over a long period of months or years leads to the state of sliver “over load” in the circulation, where absorption exceed the capacity of the liver or kidney to eliminate the metal in bile and urine, respectively. Argyria is characterized by the addition of inert precipitates of silver selenide and silver sulfide in the connective tissue surrounding the vascular tissue and gland of the papillary layer of the dermis but not epidermis (**Bleehenet al., 1981; Sato et al., 1999**).

The black silver sulfide pigment is formed by photo reduction of sliver chloride to metallic silver, the metallic silver is then oxidized by tissue, subsequently forming black silver sulfide in the presence of light and sulfur

containing organic matrix (in the form of amino acids) (**Hill and Shury, 1939**).

The mild to profound blue- gray discoloration of skin and nail bed occur mainly in light- exposed areas and on occasions may be severely disfiguring (**ATSDR, 1990; Bouts, 1999**).

There is no evidence to associate argyria with cellular damage or altered sensory perception in the skin, and even in profound cases, argyria is not life threatening, but can be considered a cosmetic disfigurement (**Lansdown, 2010**). The discoloration may be psychologically disturbing since they are not readily removed chemically or by surgical dermabrasion.

The estimated total dose required to induce argyria by ingestion is in the range of (1-30)g for soluble silver salts (**Nordberg and Gerhardsson, 1988**).

Full preliminary screening for mutagenicity and carcinogenicity for silver and silver compounds has not been completed (**International Agency for Research on Cancer, 1980**). Information of oral, inhalation carcinogenicity of silver in human or animals was not available (**Rosmarie, 1992**).

Published cytotoxicity tests and in vivo experience indicate unequivocally that silver is not carcinogenic in any tissue and should be placed in a “No Risk” category(**U.S Department of health and human resources, 2010**).

1.10 Some Mechanical properties for heat- polymerized Acrylic resin:

1.10.1 Flexural Strength

In the evaluation denture plastics, flexural strength measurement are used to a great extent than either tensile or compressive strength, because this test more closely represent the type loading *in vivo*.

Flexural strength is a combination of compressive, tensile, and shear strength, all of which directly reflect the stiffness and resistance of a material to fracture (**Jaggeret *al.*, 2002**). In addition, testing the transverse strength and the impact strength of denture base material have been used as methods of comparing performance of denture base material, as also described in international organization for standardization (**Vallittu, 1996; Jaggeret *al.*, 2002**).

Several factors on which strength of acrylic resin depends such as polymer molecular weight ,polymer bead size , residual monomer level ,plasticizer composition ,amount of cross- linking agents , internal porosity of the polymer matrix ,denture base thickness ,patient factors ,type of polishing ,and action of chemical agents. (**Orsi and Andrade, 2004**).

Measuring the flexural fatigue strength of denture base resin polymerized using short and long curing cycles using different polymerization techniques (water bath ,pressure cooker ,and microwave polymerization) was done by **Banerjee *et al.*in 2010** ,the results revealed that there were no statistically significant difference between water bath processing and pressure cooker processing techniques .In all techniques ,the

long curing cycle proved to be better in producing denture bases with higher flexural strength as compared to the short curing cycle .The water bath technique produced the lowest flexural strength.

Flexural strength is determined by applying an increased load until fracture at the center of a test specimen. The deflection in millimeters at the middle of the plastic specimen is recorded, allowing the flexural modulus to be calculated. The flexural strength varies from 78 to 92 MPa for various denture base resins (**Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

1.10.2 Tensile Strength

The term tensile strength indicates the maximum stress to which a material can be subjected before it begins to fail by localized accelerated deformation. If material continues to have more and more weight applied to it, it will eventually break (**Dhuru, 2003**).

Noortin 2002 reported that, the measurement of the tensile strength of brittle resin materials is extremely difficult, and gives rise to a great deal of scatter in the data .The reason for this is that such material are highly susceptible to the presence of internal flows or small cracks in their surface, which are impossible to eliminate .So the tensile strength depends upon the quality of surface finish.

Previous investigations regarding conversional PMMA revealed that the tensile strength of porous specimens was inferior to that of dense once and residual monomer acting as a plasticizer was the cause of inferior tensile strength of acrylic resin (**Jagger,1978**).

The deformation of the material mainly occurs locally by the formation of a neck region which becomes narrower with continued stress application. The localization of deformation is the result of stress concentration under gain force (**O'Brien, 2002**). The tensile strength for acrylic resin is typically no more than 50 MPa(**Noort, 2007**).

1.10.3 Impact Strength

Impacts strength may be defined as the energy required to fracture a material under an impact force. The term impact is used to describe the reaction of a stationary object to a collision with a moving object. It's an important property for acrylic denture base materials which have tendency to fracture if accidentally dropped on a hard surface (**McCabe and Walls, 2008**).

The impact strength of acrylic resin can be increased by adding cross linking agent, although the addition of plasticizer may also increase it; the increases are accompanied by decreases in hardness, proportional limit, elastic modulus and compressive strength (**Harrison et al., 1978; Powers and Sakaguchi, 2006**).

Zappinet al. (2003) reported that the impact strength test was influenced by loading conditions and specimen geometry.

In general there are two methods of improving impact strength for rigid polymers such as PMMA including: incorporating a rubbery base, and incorporating carbon fibers (**Radford, 1986; Uzunet al., 1999**).

A Charpy-type impact tester for unnotched specimens is usually used to measure impact strength .The impact strength of denture acrylic ranges

from 0.26J for a conventional denture acrylic to 0.58J for a rubber modified acrylic resin which indicates that rubber modified acrylic resin absorbs more energy on impact and is more resistant to fracture (**Anusavice, 2008**).

1.11 Organisms associated with dental caries

It is a bacterial disease of the dental hard tissues, occur in certain localized sites in the dentition these sites are the pits and fissures, the proximal contacting surface of the labial, buccal and lingual surfaces of the dentition adjacent to the gingiva. Dental caries is a nonspecific bacterial disease, because the acid produced can be provided mainly by the different types of bacteria found in the plaque flora. However when the number and proportion of acidogenic and aciduric organisms in the plaque flora increase, resulting in the formation of more acid to dissolve the tooth. Caries may be considered also to be caused by specific pathogens invading the oral cavity and when they become in sufficient numbers, they produce the acid causing the disease. The infectious microorganism thought to be the causative agent was *Lactobacillus acidophilus* beside that specific strain of *streptococcus mutans* have been proposed as the infectious agent. Indigenous microorganisms were implicated as the primary etiologic agents of dental caries and periodontal disease (**Bloomquist et al., 1996; Mackeawnet et al., 2003**).

The predominant cariogenic bacterium was shown to be *streptococcus mutans* and *lactobacillus*(**Yu et al., 1997; Kidd and Jouyston-Bechal, 2002**).*Streptococcus mutans* are acid tolerant bacteria that can grow at low

pH. Besides that, it is acidogenic bacteria which are able to produce acid that lead to further drop of the pH in dental plaque (**Almedia et al., 2000**).

1.11.1 Cariogenic bacteria

The genus Streptococcus, a member of the family lactobaccillaceae has presented several species members found in the mouth in various oral infection(**Nolte, 1982**) this microorganism make up a large proportion of the oral flora. It is estimated roughly that around one-quarter of the total flora from supragingival and gingival plaque are of streptococci member also half of the isolates from the tongue and saliva are of the genus Streptococcus (**Samaranayake, 2006**).

The Oral streptococci classification (**Russell, 2000**):

Anginosus group including *S.anginosus*,*S.constellatus*,*S.intermedius*.species which are frequently isolated from abscesses.Mitis group including,*S.oralis*,*S.crista**S.mitis*,
,*S.infantis*,*S.peroris*,*S.orisrattis*species which are pioneer species in plaque formation and a common cause of infectious endocarditis.Salivarius group including *S.salivarius*and*S.vestibularis* species;they are found mainly on mucosal surfaces and rarely pathogenic.Mutans group including *S.mutans*and*S.sobrinus* species ;they are increased in number in association with caries.

The current classification of the oral viridans group (alpha- hemolytic) of streptococci places the bacteria in the six species groups:

mutans group, salivarius group, mitis group, bovis group, urinalis and anginosus groups (**Betty et al., 2007**).

Mutans streptococci are Gram-positive, facultative anaerobic bacterium, catalase negative, non-spore forming, divided in one plane; since they do not separate easily after division, they tend to form short or medium chains under microscope (**Baca et al., 2002**).

Streptococcus mutans colonies on mitis-salivarius-agar are characterized by their high, convex, granular, light blue mucoid circular colonies of 0.5-1.5 mm in diameter, sometimes have drop of glistening polysaccharide beside them or on the top of the surface giving them a characteristic frosted glass appearance (**Arbeit, 1999**). On blood agar plates *mutans streptococci* colonies are normally gamma-hemolytic (no agar colour change) at first, but after 24-48 hours they become hemolytic (greenish colouration of the agar around the colony), sometimes few strains may show beta-hemolysis that appears as a clear zone around the colonies (**Balakrishnan et al., 2000**).

S. sobrinus is the primary bacterial pathogen in smooth-surface dental caries. Not commonly detectable in caries-free children present in plaque cultures in 43-60% of children (**Choi, 2009**).

Children with *S. sobrinus* and *S. mutans* are far more likely to exhibit decay than *S. mutans* alone. *S. sobrinus* is also affiliated with early childhood caries which are responsible for the majority of dental abscess and toothaches in children (**Wu et al., 2003**).

In **1971 Ikeda and Sandham** found that *S.mutans* was more prevalent on the pits and fissures, constituting 39% of total streptococci in the oral cavity .Fewer *S.mutans* were found on buccal surface.

Enamel rods are arranged in bundles with a diameter of 5 μ m, streptococcal species are about 1 μ m across. Thermophysiological studies indicated optimal growth at 37°C with no growth outside of 32°- 37°C .*S.mutans* and *Enterococcus hirae* are able to tolerate a much wider temperature range (**Ma and Marquis, 1997**).

In case of *S.mutans* they can grow on most types of culture, the growth occur in anaerobic atmosphere in the presence of 5% CO₂ and 95% N₂ since they are facultative anaerobic bacteria (**Ma and Marquis, 1997**).**Gold et al.(1973)** found a better selective medium which was MitisSalivarius agar containing 20% sucrose and 200 units/L bacitracin.

The therapeutic options for *viridans streptococci* are penicillin or ceftriaxone, with or without an aminoglycoside; vancomycin is used in cases of penicillin allergies and beta- lactam resistance (**Betty et al., 2007**).

1.12 The bacteriocidal mechanism of silver

A widely investigated, effective, biocompatible, broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent is silver (Ag).Since the antimicrobial activity of silver depends on silver ions, which bind strongly to electron donor groups in biological molecules containing sulphur, oxygen or nitrogen. This may result in defect in bacterial cell wall so that cell contents are lost. A complex formation between silver ion and (-SH) bonds of proteins may disturb the

metabolism of bacterial cells and their power functions, such as permeability and respiration. Both effects lead to death of bacterial cells. Furthermore, silver ions can interact with the DNA of bacteria, preventing their proliferation by displacement of hydrogen bonds between adjacent nitrogen of purine and pyrimidines, as a result DNA molecules becomes condensed and loss their ability to replicate upon the infiltration of Ag^+ ions (**Dammet *al.*, 2008 a; Monteiroet *al.*, 2009**).



CHAPTER TWO

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials & Methods

2-1 Materials

2-1-1 Equipment and materials required for cytotoxicity test

2-1-1-1 Laboratory equipment and instruments

Instrument	Company(origin)
Agitator	CYAN(Germany)
Autoclave	Harayma(Japan)
Cooling centrifuge	Hitachi(Japan)
Distillator	GFL(Germany)
Electric sensitive balance	Sartorius(Germany)
ELISA multiwell reader plate	Asays(Belgium)
Incubator	Gallenkamp(England), Heraeus (Germany)
Inverted Microscope	Olympus (Japan)
Magnetic stirrer	Gallenkamp
Micropipette	Dragon MED(China)
Microplate (Tissue culture plate flat bottom 96 wells)	IWAKI (Japan)
Milipore filter unit	Corporation(USA), (Ireland)
Nalgene filter units (0.22 μm)	Nalge
pH meter	HANNA (Romani)
Plastic flask for tissue cultures 25 cm^2	Falcon, Nunclon(USA)
Refrigerator	Concord(Lebanon)
Water bath	Memmart (Germany)

2-1-1-2 Solutions and Chemicals

Chemical	Company(origin)
Crystal violet stain	BDH
Fetal calf serum	Flow Lab (U.K.)
PBS (Phosphate Buffer Saline)	Biological(USA)
Sodium bicarbonate(Na_2CO_3)	Difco(USA)
Trypsin-versin	Difco(USA)

2-1-1-3 Tissue Culture media

1. Roswall Park Memorial Institute medium (RPMI-1640). (Iraqi Center for Cancer and Medical Genetic Research ICCMGR, 2012).
2. Serum Free Media (SFM). (ICCMGR, 2012).

2-1-1-4 Rat embryo fibroblast (REF) cell line used for cytotoxic study

The cell line used in the present study was kindly obtained from Iraqi Center for Cancer and Medical Genetic Research.

Cells of this normal murine cell line were fibroblastic cells with normal chromosomal picture. Tumorigenicity test of this cell line showed no tumor growth in injected rats during three months of monitoring.

2-1-2 Equipment and materials required for testing the antibacterial activity of AgNO₃ – loaded resins on the growth of *mutans streptococcigoup*:

2-1-2-1 Equipment and Supplies fig. (2-1)

1. Adjustable micropipettes with disposable tips (Dragon MED, China)
2. Anaerobic Jar (Oxiod - UK).
3. Automatic electronic autoclave (HIRAYAMA, Japan).
4. Autovortex (stuart scientific, UK).
5. Bacteriological loop and spreaders (Pastor Pipette).
6. Bristle and Wood Brush. (Italy).
7. Bunsen burner.
8. Clamps (HANUA, Engineering corp. USA).
9. Colony counters (Gallen Kamp, England).
10. Cotton swabs (China).
11. Dental vibrator (Bego, Germany). Plaster (Al- ahliyah co., Iraq).
12. Dissecting microscope (Ken-a-vision/ U.S.A)
13. Electronic balance (Adventurer)
14. Electronic digital caliper (china).
15. Gas packs (Oxiod -England).
16. Glass and plastic petridishes
17. Glass Jar, Watch, thermometer (China)
18. Hydraulic press (Germany).
19. -Incubator (Fisher Scientific, USA).
20. Laminar flow.
21. Lathe polishing machine. (Germany).
22. Magnetic stirrer. (Janke and Kunkel, Germany).
23. Millipore filters size 0.20 µm / 0.45 µm (Inlet Lot, 1824).

24. pH meter (JENWAY, 3510, Belgium).
25. Polyethylene sheet (China).
26. Prosthetic hand piece (W and H elco. Austria).
27. Screw capped bottles.
28. Separating medium (England, 2015).
29. Spectrophotometer CECIL 7200 (France).
30. Stainless steel T- shaped cutter for discs.
31. Test tubes (Gordon).
32. Thermostatically controlled water bath. (Memert, Germany).

2-1-2-2 Solutions, chemicals, and materials

1. Arabic chewing gum (Supplied from local supermarkets).
2. Artificial saliva fig. (2-1): an electrolyte composition similar to that of human saliva (**Cavalla *et al.*,2001**) which includes:
 1. (1 g) sodium carboxy – methyl –cellulose.
 2. (4.3 g) sorbitol
 3. (0.1g) potassium chloride.
 4. (0.1g) sodium chloride
 5. (0.02g) sodium fluoride.
 6. (5mg) magnesium chloride.
 7. (5mg) calcium chloride
 8. (40mg) potassium phosphate.
 9. (1mg) potassium thiocyanate.
 10. (100ml) deionized water.The solution was sterilized by autoclaving at 121 °C for 15 min, at 15 pounds then kept in refrigerator until use.
3. Bacitracin powder (AppliChem, Germany).
4. Brain Heart Infusion Broth (Hi-Media Company, India).
5. Ceftriaxone Antibiotic disks (30mcg, Bioanalyse).
6. CT- Mannitol Agar (Bio-Merieux Company, S.A).
7. Cystine Trypticase Agar (Bio-Merieux Company, S.A).
8. Gram's Stain Set (India).
9. Mannitol (Reidel De Haen AG Seelze – Hannover).

10.Mitis- Salivarius Agar (Hi-Media Company,India).

11.Mueller Hinton Agar (Hi-Media Company,India).

12.Sucrose (DIDACTIC,BarcelonaExpana).



A



B



C



D



E

Fig (2-1):Equipment and materials required for testing the antibacterial activity of AgNO_3 – loaded resins: A- Laminar flow, B -Adjustable micropipette, C- Electronic digital caliper, D- Dissecting microscope, E- Sterile artificial saliva.

2-1-3 Equipment and materials required for *in vitro* Ag release test

2-1-3-1 Equipment, Instruments, and materials

1. Agitator(CYAN, Germany).
2. Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (Phoenix -986/ AA spectrophotometer, UK).
3. Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (AA-6800, Shimadzu ,Japan).
4. Incubator (Gallenkamp(England).
5. Artificial saliva.
6. Deionized water (Iraq).

2-1-4 Equipment and materials required for preparation of AgNO₃-loaded resins determined for testing some mechanical properties

2-1-4-1 Equipment and Instruments

1. Bristle and Wood Brush. (Italy).
2. Clamps (HANUA, Engineering corp. USA).
3. Dental vibrator (Bego, Germany).
4. Electronic balance (accuracy 0.0001g, Sartorius BP 30155, Germany).
5. Electronic Digital caliper (China).
6. Finishing burs (silicon carbide, acrylic, stone, fissure, disc, sand paper bur) (Germany).
7. Flasks (Brodén, Sweden).
8. Glass Jar, Watch, thermometer (China).

9. Hydraulic press (Germany).
10. Impact tester (N. 43-1, testing machines, INC. USA).
11. Incubator (Gallenbamp, England).
12. Instron universal testing machine (Instron Corporation, 1122, canton mass).
13. Lathe polishing machine. (Germany).
14. Prosthetic hand piece (W and H elco. Austria).
15. Rubber bowel, stainless steel spatula, wax knife, lacron carver (Germany).
16. Thermostatically controlled water bath. (memert, Germany).
17. Tinius Olsen testing machine (Tensile testing machine, H50KT, UK).

2-1-4-2 Materials fig. (2-2)

1. Deionized water (Iraq).
2. Dental pumice (England).
3. Dental stone (Type III, thixotropic, Zhermack, Italy, 2014).
4. Heat cure acrylic resin for denture (Non – veined acrylic, powder and liquid, Ivoclar Vivadent AG, Italy, 2013).
5. Plaster (Al- ahliyah co., Iraq).
6. Polyethylene sheet (China).
7. Separating medium (England, 2015)



Fig (2-2): A- Heat cure acrylic resin for denture (Non – veined acrylic, powder and liquid, B- Dental stone .

2-2 Methods

The following tests were performed in the present study:

1-Test the cytotoxicity of different concentrations of AgNO_3 solution on the growth of embryo fibroblast cell-line

2-The antibacterial activity assay which include several experiments :

A- Determination the level of antibacterial activity of different concentration of AgNO_3 solution on the growth of *mutans streptococci* group.

B- Inhibitory effects of AgNO_3 – loaded resin discs on the growth of *mutans streptococci* group through:

B-Effect of AgNO_3 –loaded resins on viable count of *mutans streptococci* group colonies.

A-Estimation the inhibition zone of AgNO_3 –loaded resins.

3- In vitro Ag release test.

4- Characterization of AgNO_3 - loaded resins.

5- Mechanical tests including :

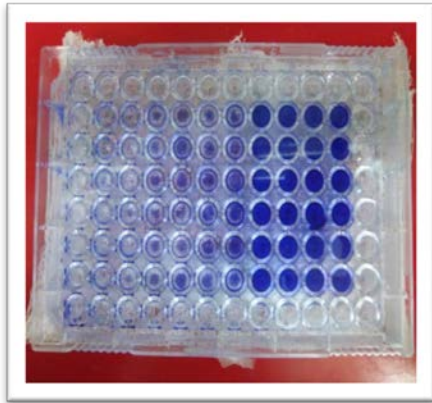
Impact strength

Transverse strength

Tensile strength

2-2-1 Cytotoxicity of different concentrations of silver nitrate solutions on rat embryo fibroblast (REF) cell line:

This procedure was done according to **Freshney(2005)** and was done in the Institute of the Iraqi Center for Cancer and Medical Genetic Research fig. (2-3).



A



B



C

Fig (2-3): A. Microplate with stained cells with crystal violates. B. ELISA microplate spectrophotometer for reading the microplate. C. Inverted Microscope with digital camera for examining the treated REF cells.

The percentages of Inhibitory Rate (IR) were calculated (Gao, 2003) according to the equation as below (2.1):

C _ T

$$\text{IR}\% = \frac{C - T}{C} \times 100 \quad (2.1)$$

Since:

IR%: the percentage of Inhibition Rate.

C: the absorbance (optical density) of control (REF cells not exposed to AgNO₃ solution).

T: the absorbance (optical density) of the test of each concentration.

2-2-2 Preparation of silver nitrate (AgNO₃) concentrations for studying samples

Different concentrations of AgNO₃ solutions were prepared from stock solution of 1000 ppm of AgNO₃ (Fig. 2-4A). Serial concentrations were prepared: (15, 30, 60, 120 ppm), (9.375, 150, 300, 600 ppm) and 900 ppm (Fig. 2-4 B&C).

The prepared concentrations were confirmed by Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (Phoenix -986/ AA spectrophotometer, UK) (fig. 2-4D) and stored in dark bottles wrapped with aluminum foil.



A



B



C



D

Fig (2-4):Preparation of silver nitrate (AgNO_3) concentrations for studying samples: A- The stock solution of AgNO_3 ,B&C Nine Prepared concentrations of AgNO_3 , D- Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer.

2-2-3 Preparation of AgNO₃- loaded resin discs for testing the antibacterial activity and in vitro Ag release study

2-2-3-1 Mould preparation for fabrication of AgNO₃ – loaded resins.

For standardization of acrylic resin specimens, a metallic round molds with compatible thickness (0.6- 0.7 mm) and suitable diameter (50±2mm) were made by cutting stainless steel disks into desirable shape and thickness using turning machine. Following the conventional flasking technique used for complete dentures construction, during the mold preparation, the metal patterns were coated with separating medium and allowed to dry, the lower portion of the metal flask is filled with dental stone that is mixed according to manufacturer instructions at a mixing ratio of 20ml of water to 100g of powder with vibration to get rid of the trapped air. The patterns inserted to approximately one –half of their depth in the stone for easier removal. After setting, the set stone and specimens were coated with separating medium and allowed to dry, then the upper half of the metal flask was positioned on the top of the lower portion and filled with dental stone, again with vibration. The dental stone was allowed to set for one hour before the metal flask was opened in order to remove the metal patterns carefully fig.(2-5). The portions of the metal flask were coated with separating medium to be ready for packing with acrylic dough.



Fig (2-5): Metal pattern in dental flask.

2-2-3-2 Proportioning, mixing, packing and curing of acrylic resin

The heat cure denture base resin was mixed according to manufacturer instruction P/L ratio: 2.25g of powder was mixed with 1ml liquid (0.8ml monomer + 0.2ml AgNO₃ solution of each concentration). Specimens devoid of silver nitrate were included as controls. In a clean dry glass jar, the mixing of the powder and liquid was done and stirred with a clean wax knife until the monomer and polymer were thoroughly mixed, then the jar was covered until the mixture reached the dough stage. As the acrylic resin reached the dough stage, the resin was removed from the jar, rolled and then packed into the mold previously coated with separating medium. A polyethylene sheet was used as separating medium between the upper and lower flask during the initial flask closure in a hydraulic press under load 850kgf (1 bar) (**Consani et al, 2002**). The flask was removed from the press, opened carefully, then the polyethylene sheet was removed, the acrylic resin excess was trimmed with a sharp wax knife, at this stage (before the final closure) with a T-shaped stainless steel metal device (fig 2-6 A) with internal diameter of 6 mm, multiple disk like shaped were cutted (fig 2-6 B & C). The discs measurements were resembling the sensitivity discs used in microbial study. During the application of final closure, metal to metal contact of the flask halves was completed in the press, the flasks were placed in traditional clamps after final pressing in hydraulic press under a load of 1250 Kgf for 5 min (**Consani et al, 2002**) (fig 2-6 D) curing was carried out by placing clamped flasks (fig 2-6 E) in a water bath, the flasks were immersed in water, heat source was operated for 45 min at 74° C then boiled for 45 min according to manufacturer instruction.

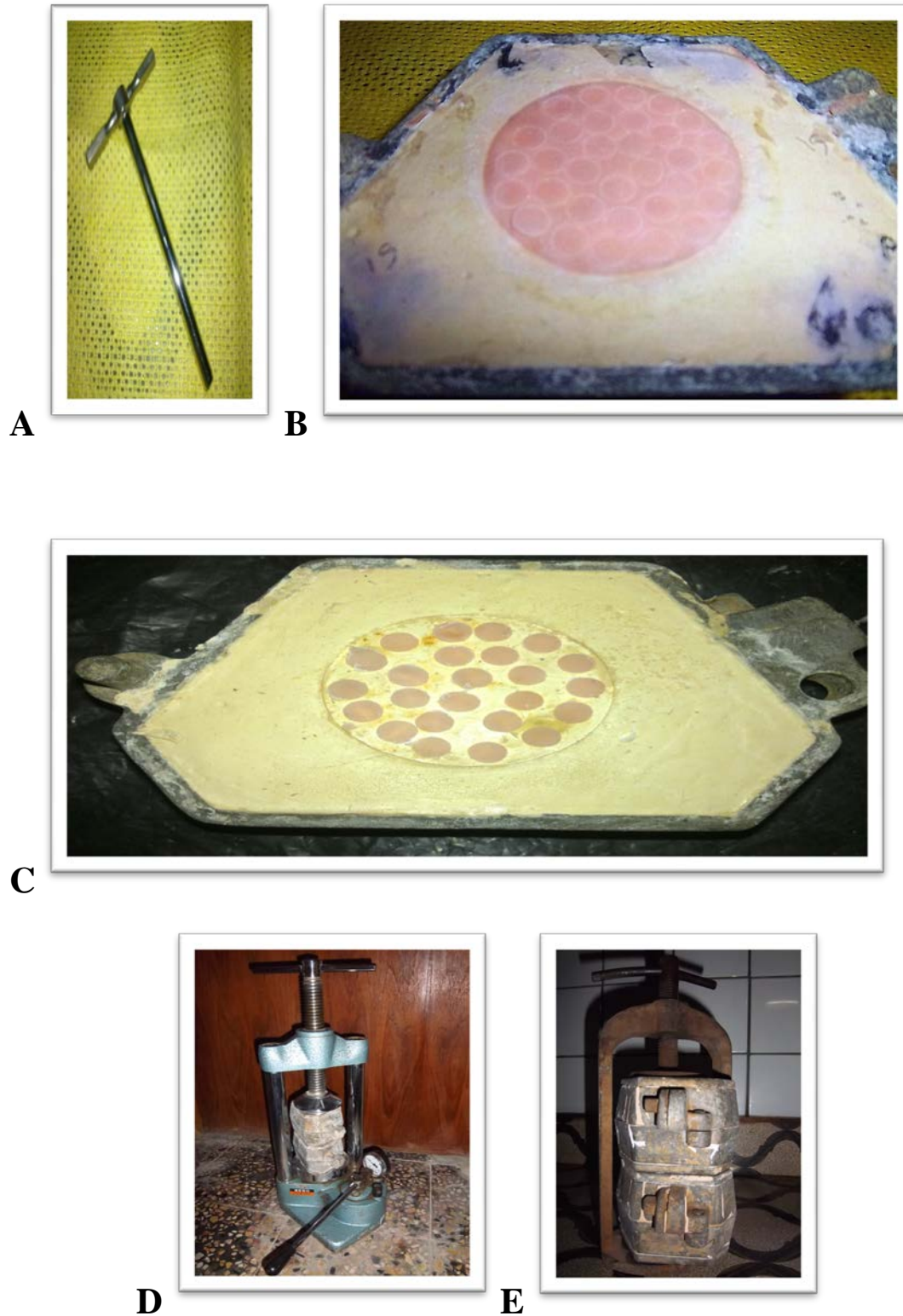


Fig (2-6):Preparation of AgNO_3 - loaded resin discs:A-(T)-shaped stainless steel metal device, (B&C)Cutted acrylic dough into disk like shape , D- Metal flask under hydraulic press , E- Clamped flask.

2-2-3-3 Finishing and Polishing

After completing the curing cycle, the flasks were allowed to cool down slowly in the water bath for 30min then removed from the water bath and allowed to be cool at the bench before deflasking. Then all specimens were carefully deflasked and cleaned, flashes of acrylic were removed with an acrylic bur to get a smooth surface. The specimens were grounded with silicon carbide papers with continuous dipping in water for cooling. Polishing was accomplished by using bristle brush and rag wheel with pumice in lathe polishing machine. A gloss surface was obtained by using chamois buff and polishing soap on dental lathe using low speed (1500 rpm) with continuous dipping in water to avoid overheating which may lead to distortion of the specimens. They were measured with electronic digital caliper to obtain the standard dimensions of all AgNO_3 -loaded resin disks (6 ± 0.8 mm diameter, 0.6-0.7mm thickness). Some of these AgNO_3 -loaded resin disks were used in the "Antibacterial Activity Assay" at baseline (without immersion in artificial saliva " T_0 "), others were used in the "Antibacterial activity assay" and for "*in vitro* Ag release test" after immersion and incubation with the artificial saliva at 37°C for thirty days ($T_1=30$) and for ninety days ($T_2=90$) (fig 2-7).



Fig (2-7): Test specimens with artificial saliva in Test tubes under incubation.

2-2-4 Preparation of culture media for antibacterial activity assay

All media were prepared under sterile conditions, according to their manufacturing companies. The constituents were dissolved in distilled water (DW), pH was adjusted to 7.2 ± 0.2 and sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 min, at 15 pounds, thereafter distributed into sterile tubes or plates. Preparation of these particular types of culture media which are right for isolation, purification and cultivation for bacteria (*mutans streptococci* group) had been done. These prepared culture media were suitable with the goals and conditions of this study.

2-2-4-1 Mitis- Salivarius Bacitracin Agar (MSB Agar):

This agar is the selective medium for the cultivation of *mutans streptococci* group. It was prepared from mitis salivarius agar (MSA) – according to Hi-Media Company instructions – with 20% (w/v) sucrose and 200 units/L bacitracin (**Gold *et al.*, 1973; Beighton *et al.*, 1981**). Medium was prepared according to the instructions labeled on the package by suspending 90 gm of the powder in 1000 ml distilled water, mixed well using magnetic stirrer to ensure dissolution of the whole quantity of the powder. To increase the specialty of MSA to the isolation of *mutans streptococci* group, the addition of sucrose in a concentration of 150 g/L (before sterilization) was performed. After autoclaving, the medium was allowed to cool to about 45°C and one ml of bacitracin solution which was prepared in a concentration of (200 IU) by dissolving 0.364 gm of Bacitracin antibiotic in 1000 ml of sterilized distilled water mixed well by using magnetic stirrer to ensure dissolution of the whole quantity of the antibiotic, the solution was sterilized by Millipore filter

(0.20 μm). then kept in refrigerator until use. A new fresh solution was prepared every 2-3 weeks(Geigy, 1962) .The sterile bacitracin was added for each one liter of the agar, then it was poured in petridishes and permitted to cool and set and then stored in the refrigerator until used.

2-2-4-2 Brain Heart Infusion Broth (BHI-B):

The medium was prepared and sterilized according to Hi-Media Companydirections. Thirty seven gram were suspended in 1000 ml distilled water. Sterilization was done by autoclaving at 15 Ibs pressure, 121 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 minutes.

2-2-4-3 Mueller Hinton Agar (MHA):

This was prepared according to the manufacturer instructions.Thirty five gram was dissolved in1000 ml distilled water, when completely dissolved with boiling;sterilization was done by autoclaving at 15 Ibs pressure, 121 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 minutes.

2-2-4-4 CT- Mannitol Agar (CystineTrypticase- Mannitol Agar):

Preparation of CTA was according to the instructions of BioMerieux Company by suspending 28.5 gm powder in 1000 ml distilled water, mixed well using magnetic stirrer to ensure dissolution of the whole quantity of the powder. After the preparation of CTA, mannitol was added (1%) to the CTA media and heated to insure dissolution of the whole quantity of the powder in the CTA medium.

2-2-5 Isolation and Purification of *mutans streptococci* group

2-2-5-1 Collection of stimulated saliva samples

Twenty officers from Medical City Labs with no medical history aged (30-38) years were selected to participate in this project. Each individual was asked to not to eat any food or drink except water for one hour (Salimetrics, 2009) before collection of stimulated saliva samples. The collection includes chewing a piece of Arabic chewing gum (0.4-0.5g) for five minutes to stimulate salivary collection as much as possible then saliva was collected in sterilized screw capped bottles.

2-2-5-2 Isolation of microorganisms

Stimulated salivary samples were collected under standard conditions according to Dasanayake *et al.*, 1995. After that, saliva was homogenized by vortex mixer for two minutes. Tenfold serial dilution was prepared using normal saline. Two dilutions were selected for each saliva sample and inoculated on the following culture media: MSB-Agar (The selective media for *mutans streptococci* group), 0.1ml was withdrawn from dilutions (10^2 , 10^4) (Wade *et al.*, 1986), and then spread in duplicate by using sterile microbiological spreader on the plates of MSB agar. The plates were incubated anaerobically by using a gas pack supplied in an anaerobic jar for 48 hrs. at 37°C followed by aerobic incubation for 24 hrs. at 37°C (Holbrook and Beighton, 1986).

2-2-5-3 Identification of *mutans streptococci* group

The colonies on MSB agar was examined directly under dissecting microscope (magnification 20x). The identification of *mutans streptococci* group isolates was done according to (Edwardsson, 1970).

2-2-5-4 Morphological Examination of the microbial Cells:

A colony was picked up from MSB agar plates separately under sterilized conditions and a small inoculum was taken from a discrete, singly isolated colony, it was emulsified in a drop of normal saline on glass slide to form suspension which was then spreaded, dried and heat-fixed, and then subjected to Gram stain method according to Koneman *et al.* (1992). The slide was examined under light microscope with 100x magnification for cells morphology, arrangement, and staining characteristics.

2-2-5-5 Biochemical Tests:

Bacterial colonies of different morphology were picked up from MSB agar under sterilized conditions using inoculating loop and then inoculated in 10ml of sterilized (BHI-B) and incubated aerobically at 37°C for 18 hrs (Edwardsson, 1970). The following tests were conducted:

A - Catalase Production Test:

This test was performed by using Hydrogen peroxide 3% (H₂O₂) used to detect the activity of catalase enzyme production. A small amount of pure isolates of *mutans streptococci* group cultures were transferred separately using a sterile loop to the surface of clean dry glass slide. Three to five Drops of hydrogen peroxide 3% immediately placed onto a portion of

bacterial culture on the slide, absence of gas bubbles indicates the absence of catalase enzyme. This test had been carried out also on the colonies of MSB agar plates directly (William and Vincent, 2005).

B - Carbohydrate Fermentation Test for *mutans streptococci*

CTA- mannitol medium had been used to test the ability of *mutans streptococci* group to ferment the mannitol which was added in a concentration of 1% to the CTA-Mannitol medium which was distributed into screw capped bottles (10ml in each bottle) and autoclaved, then stored in the refrigerator until used. Each bottle was inoculated with 0.1ml of pure *mutans streptococci* group isolates and incubated aerobically at 37°C for 48 hrs. Changing in color from red to yellow indicated a positive reaction because of pH reduction as a result of acid production from the fermentation reaction according to Fingold & Baron (1986).

2-2-5-6 Purification and Maintenance of the microbial Isolates

A single colony from *mutans streptococci* group was transferred to 10 ml sterile BHI-B and then incubated for 24 hrs aerobically at 37°C.

The purity of the isolates was checked by reinoculation of 0.1 ml of the isolates from BHI-B suspensions on their selective media by spreader as mentioned before, the *mutans streptococci* group plates were incubated anaerobically for 48 hours at 37°C followed by incubation aerobically for 24 hrs. at 37°C, then selective colony from each isolate was transferred to 10 ml of sterile BHI-B and incubated for 24 hrs. aerobically at 37°C. One ml from this broth was transferred to 10 ml sterile BHI-B and then 1 ml sterile glycerol was added to the inoculated broth; the tubes were labeled

(the type of inoculum and the date of inoculation) and frozen until use. This procedure was repeated twice monthly (Beighton, 1985).

2-2-6 Activation of inoculums

Inoculums of *mutans streptococci* group were activated by the addition of 0.1 ml of pure broth culture to 10 ml of sterile BHI-B followed by incubation for 18 hrs. at 37°C before the conduction of each *in vitro* experiment in the study weekly.

2-2-7 The antibacterial activity assay

2-2-7-1 Determining the antimicrobial activity of different concentrations of AgNO₃ solution on the growth *mutans streptococci* group

Disk diffusion test of Kirby –Baure method was performed. For obtaining the inoculum; after activation the inoculums of *mutans streptococci* group, the turbidity of inoculums was adjusted to 0.5 McFarland standards. A sterile cotton swab is dipped into the standardized bacterial test suspension and used to evenly inoculate entire surface of Muller –Hinton agar plate . After the agar surface has been dried for about 5 min, the sterile paper disks were placed on the agar and wetted with a fixed amount of (7ul) of silver nitrate solution . These agar plates were incubated for 24hrs at 37°C.

The zone of inhibition diameters were measured with electronic digital caliper (mm) and this measurement indicated the microbial susceptibility to the different concentrations of the material and compared with sterile distilled water as negative control and Ceftriaxone as positive control (Joanne et al, 2008).

2-2-7-2 Inhibitory effects of AgNO₃ – loaded resins on the growth of *mutansstreptococci* group:

2-2-7-2-1 Estimation the inhibition zone of AgNO₃– loaded resins

Disk diffusion test of Kirby –Baure method was performed .For obtaining the inoculum; after activation the inoculums of *mutans streptococci* group,the turbidity of inoculums was adjusted to 0.5 McFarland standard .A sterile cotton swab is dipped into the standardized bacterial test suspension and used to evenly inoculate entire surface of Muller –Hinton Agar plate . After the agar surface has been left for about 5 mines, then the AgNO₃ –loaded resindisks were placed on the agar and the plateswere kept atroom temperature inside the laminar flow for 120 min for diffusion of theantimicrobial agents (**Moller, 1966**).These agarplates were incubated for 24hrs. at 37° C.

The inhibition zone around the disk (if any) wasmeasured with electronic digital caliper (mm) (**Joanne et al., 2008**).

2-2-7-2-2Effect of AgNO₃ . loaded resins on viable count of *mutans streptococci*groupcolonies

To examine the antimicrobial efficacy of AgNO₃ –loaded resins, *mutans streptococci* group was diluted in 0.9% NaCl and a bacterial suspension of approximately 10⁷CFU/ml was prepared using spectrophotometer at (530 nm)(fig.2-8), each specimen was placed in a test tube containing 9.9 ml of sterile BHI-broth, into which were dispensed 100ul of bacterial

suspension. Specimens of PMMA (without AgNO₃) in BHI- broth with *mutans streptococci* group were used as controls. All mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 24hrs. After incubation, 0.1 ml of each mixture was transferred to 9.9ml of NaCl (0.9%) and tenfold diluted was performed. From dilution 10², 0.1 ml was taken and spread on MSB agar and incubated anaerobically for 48hrs at 37°C then aerobically for 24 hrs at 37°C. The viable counts of all plates were done (Baron *et al.*, 1994), and the material ABE (Antibacterial efficacy) was calculated following Chladek *et al.*, 2011 using the following equation (2.2):

$$\text{ABE (\%)} = \frac{V_c - V_t}{V_c} \times 100 \quad (2.2)$$

Since:

ABE: Antibacterial efficacy.

V_c: Number of viable bacterial colonies of control .

V_t : Number of viable bacterial colonies of the test specimens .



Fig (2-8): spectrophotometer.

2-2-8 In vitro Ag release test

All the disc like specimens were immersed in 10 ml of sterile artificial saliva and incubated at 37° C under agitation(Fig 2-9-A)for different periods: $T_1= 30$ days , $T_2= 90$ days, control specimens containing 0 (zero ppm) $AgNO_3$.The pH of artificial saliva was adjusted also it's volume was reconstituted every 10 days to account for evaporation .One ml of solution of each tube was collected, and Ag dosage was analyzed by Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (Phoenix -986/AA spectrophotometer, UK)(Fig 2-9B) with limit for detection of Ag of 0.025ppm andthe Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (AA-6800 Shimadzu,Japan)(Fig 2-9C)with limit for detection of Ag of 0.01ppb. The amount of Ag^+ released was calculated using a linear calibration curve in the equipment prepared from standard $AgNO_3$ solutions at different concentrations.



A



B



C

Fig.(2-9): Equipment used for *in vitro* Ag release test: A- The specimens incubated under agitation, B- Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (Phoenix -986/ AA), C- Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (AA-6800 Shimadzu,Japan).

2-2-9 Characterization of AgNO₃-loaded resins

The Fourier transform infra –red (FTIR) spectra was performed (on IR Affinity-1/Shimadzu Corporation/Japan spectrophotometer) using KBr and CaesiumIodid (CsI) pellets to determine whether or not functional groups of the AgNO₃ have been attached to the heat cured PMMA by analyzing the characteristic vibrations of functional groups(*Singhoet al.,2012*)fig.(2-10).



Fig. (2-10): Fourier transform infra –red (FTIR) spectrophotometer.

2-2-10 Mechanical testing

2-2-10-1 Preparation of test specimens

2-2-10-1-1 Pattern preparation:

Two different metal patterns were constructed by cutting stainless steel plate in desired shape and dimension by turning machine according to the required test while the plastic pattern was constructed by cutting plastic plate into desired shape and dimension by laser cutting machine (Fig 2-11).

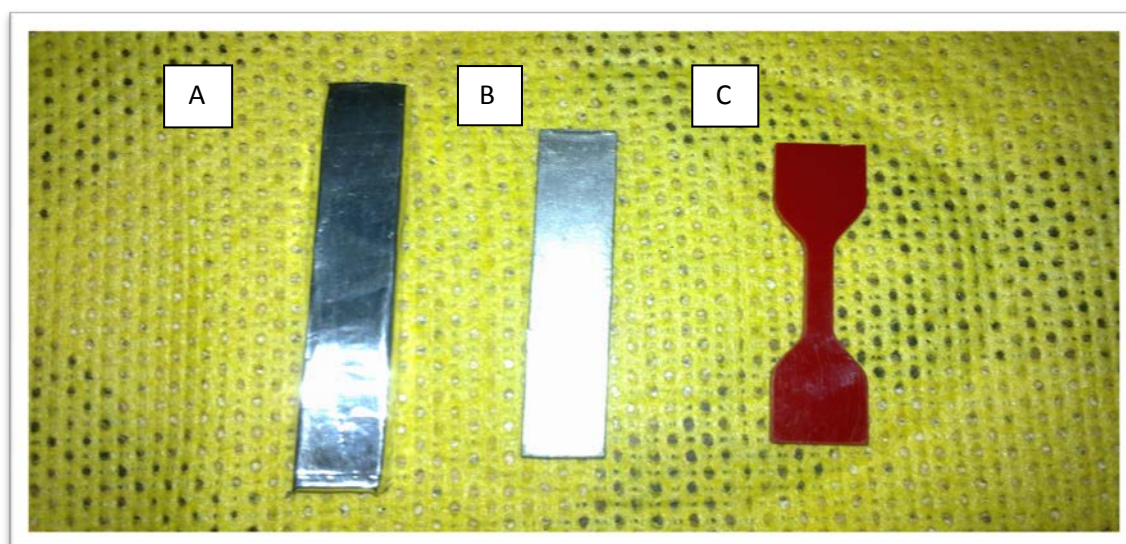


Fig (2-11):

A. Impact strength test: a bar shaped specimen with dimensions of (80mm x 10mm x 4mm) length, width, thickness respectively (**ISO. 179-1, 2000**).

B. Transverse strength test: a bar shaped specimen with dimension of (65mm X 10mm X 2.5mm) length, width, thickness respectively (**ADA specification, No. 12, 1999**).

C. Flat dumbbell shaped specimens with dimensions given by **ISO 527:1993 plastic – determination of tensile properties**(16 ± 1 mm length; 3 ± 0.2 mm width and 2 ± 0.2 mm thickness at the parallel segment).

2-2-10-1-2 Mould preparation/proportioning, mixing, packing, finishing and polishing of AgNO₃ -loaded resins

These procedures were similar of that mentioned in the preparation of AgNO₃-loaded resin to determine the antimicrobial activity on the growth of *mutans streptococci* group (2-2-3-1, 2-2-3-2, and 2-2-3-3).

2-2-10-2 Mechanical tests

Evaluation of the mechanical properties of the prepared AgNO₃-loaded resin with conventional denture base (heat cure acrylic resin).

These tests are:

1. Impact strength test.
2. Transverse strength test.
3. Tensile strength test.

2-2-10-2-1 Impact strength test

A. Specimen design

The specimens used were prepared according to (ISO. 179-1:2000) with dimensions (80mm length , 10mm width , 4mm thickness \pm 0.2mm)(fig.2- 12) for un-notched specimens. Six specimens of each concentration were prepared making total of (60) specimens for impact strength measurements. Specimens were tested after being conditioned in distilled water at 37°C for 48hours (ADA specification No. 12, 1999).



Fig (2-12): measurements of specimen used for impact strength test.

B. Testing procedure

Impact strength test was conducted following the procedure given by the ISO179 with Charpy type impact testing instrument (Fig 2-13A). The specimen was supported horizontally at its ends and struck by a free swinging pendulum released from a fixed height in the middle. A pendulum of 2 joules testing capacity was used. The scale reading gave the impact energy absorbed to fracture the specimen in joules when struck by sudden blow (Fig 2-13B). The Charpy impact strength of unnotched specimen was calculated in KJ/m^2 according to **Anusavice, (2008)** as given by the following equation (2.3):

$$\text{Impact strength} = \frac{E}{b \cdot d} \times 10^3 \quad (2.3)$$

Since:

E: is the impact absorbed energy in joules.

b: is the width in millimeters of the test specimens.

d: is the thickness in millimeters of the test specimens.

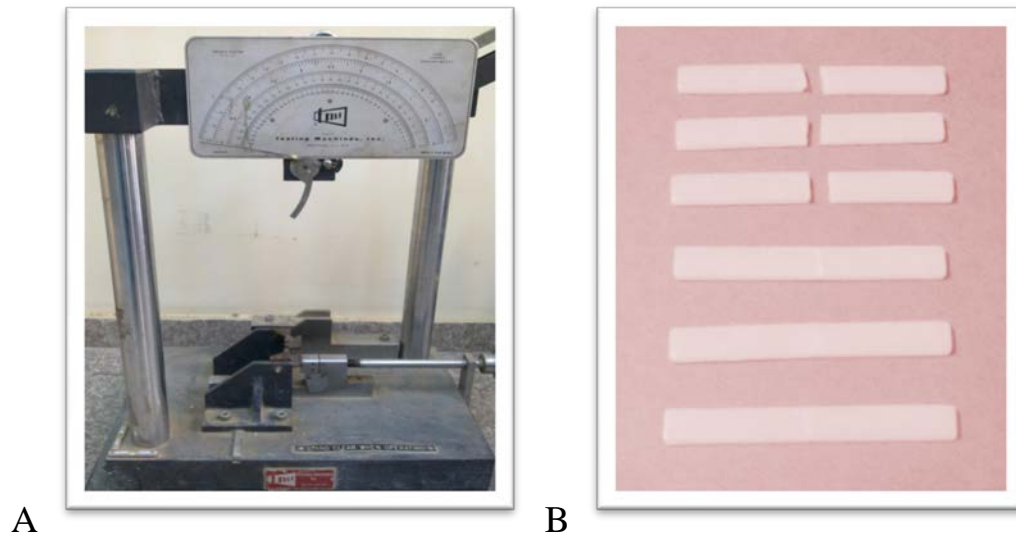


Fig (2-13): A-Impact testing instrument, B- Impact strength testing specimens (pre and post testing).

2-2-10-2-2 Transverse strength

A. specimen design

The specimens used were prepared according to (ADA specification, No. 12,1999) with dimensions (65mm length , 10mm width , 2.5mm thickness ± 0.2 mm) (fig. 2-14). Six specimens of each concentration make total of (60) specimens for measurements of transverse strength. All the specimens were immersed in distilled water at 37°C for 48 hours before being tested (ADA No. 12, 1999)

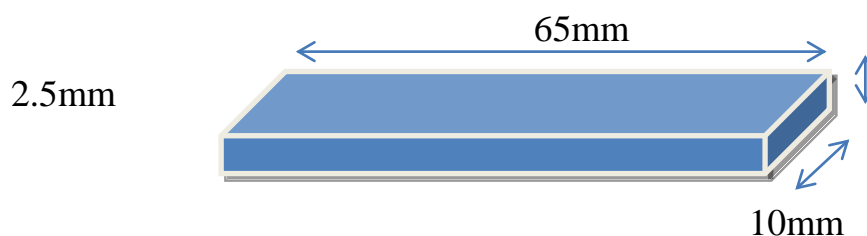


Fig (2-14): measurements of specimens used for transverse strength test.

B. Testing procedure

The test was achieved using instron testing machine, each specimen was positioned on bending fixture, consisting of two parallel supports (50)mm apart, the full scale load was 50kg, and the load was applied with cross head speed of 1mm/min by rod placed centrally between the supports making deflection until fracture occurred (Fig 2-15 A& B).

The transverse bend strength was calculated using the following formula (2.4):

(2.4)

$$\text{Transverse strength(MPa)} = \frac{3Pl}{2bd^2} \text{---(Anusavice,2008)}$$

Since:

P: is the peak load.

l: is the span length.

b: is the sample width.

d: is the sample thickness.



A



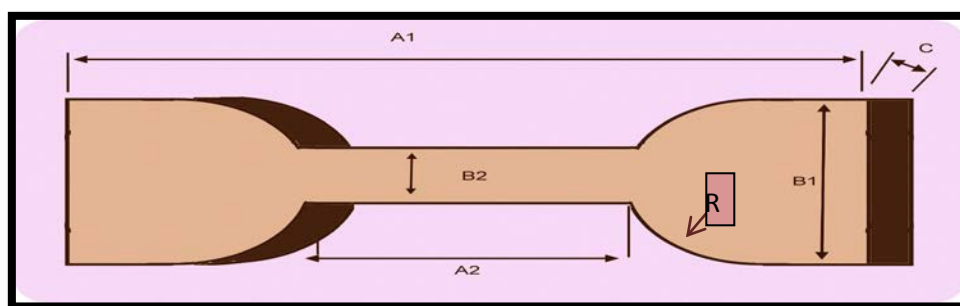
B

Fig (2-15): A- Instron testing machine, B- Specimen under testing.

2-2-10-2-3 Tensile strength test

A. Specimen design

Flat dumbbell – shaped specimen were prepared with dimension given by (ISO 527: 1993 plastic determination of tensile properties) (Fig 2-16). Six specimens of each concentration were prepared make a total of (60) specimens for tensile strength measurements



A₁: overall length 60 ± 2 mm.

A₂: length of narrow parallel –sided portion 16 ± 1 mm.

B₁: width at ends 12 ± 1 mm.

B₂: width of narrow parallel – sided portion 3 ± 0.2 .

C: thickness 2 ± 0.2 .

R: large radius 12 ± 1 mm.

Fig (2-16): Dimensions of tensile strength test specimen.

B. Equipment and procedure

The specimens stored in distal water for 48 hrs at 37°C before testing (ADA No. 12, 1999). The test was measured using Tinius Olsen testing machine (Fig 2-17A) at a cross head speed of 0.5 mm/min and with 50 mm grip – to – grip distance (Fig 2-17B), The force at the failure was recorded in Newton (N) and the tensile strength values were calculated from the following equation (2.5):

(2.5)

$$\text{Tensile strength (N/mm}^2\text{)} = \frac{F \text{ (N)}}{A \text{ (mm}^2\text{)}} \quad \text{(ASTM,1986)}$$

Since:

F: Maximum load at failure (Newton).

A: Cross sectional area (mm²).



A



B

Fig (2-17): A-Tinius Olsen tensile machine for tensile strength test, B-Specimen under testing..

2-3 Statistical analysis

The result of the study was analyzed by SPSS software (version, 20, USA). In the present study, the statistical methods which were used in order to analyze and assess the results are:

1- Descriptive statistics which include:

- 1) Arithmetic mean (M).
- 2) Standard deviation (SD).
- 3) Standard error (SE).
- 4) Range (min to max).
- 5) Graphical presentation by (Bar chart).
- 6) Statistical Tables.

2- Inferential statistics:

ANOVA (one-way analysis of variance test) for assessing differences between more than two groups, LSD (Least Significant Difference test) was used for examining differences between 2 group means when ANOVA model was significant, Cohen's d to evaluate the effect size on the parameter and for comparison between the different parameters (Cohen's $d < 0.3$ = weak, Cohen's $d \geq 0.8$ = strong, in between the two values = moderate), Pearson's r (linear correlation Coefficient) to show the strength, direction and statistical significance of linear association between 2 quantitative normally distributed variables, and Beta (β) to show the amount of change in dependent variable for each unit increase in independent or explanatory effect.



CHAPTER THREE

RESULTS

Results

Results of the conducted tests are presented in this chapter

They includes:-

1. Cytotoxicity test including:
 - A. Effect on cell morphology.
 - B. Cell viability.
2. Visual inspection of AgNO₃ – loaded resin samples.
3. Antibacterial activity assay which include several experiment:
 - A. Determining the level of antimicrobial activity of different concentrations of silver nitrate solution on the growth *mutans streptococci* group.
 - B. Determining the inhibitory effects of AgNO₃ –loaded resins on the growth of *mutans streptococci* group through the below experiments :
 - i. Estimation the inhibition zone of AgNO₃ –loaded resins.
 - ii. Effect of AgNO₃ –loaded resin on viable count of *mutans streptococci* group colonies.
4. *In vitro* Ag release test.
5. Characterization of AgNO₃ –loaded resins.
6. Mechanical tests:

These tests are:

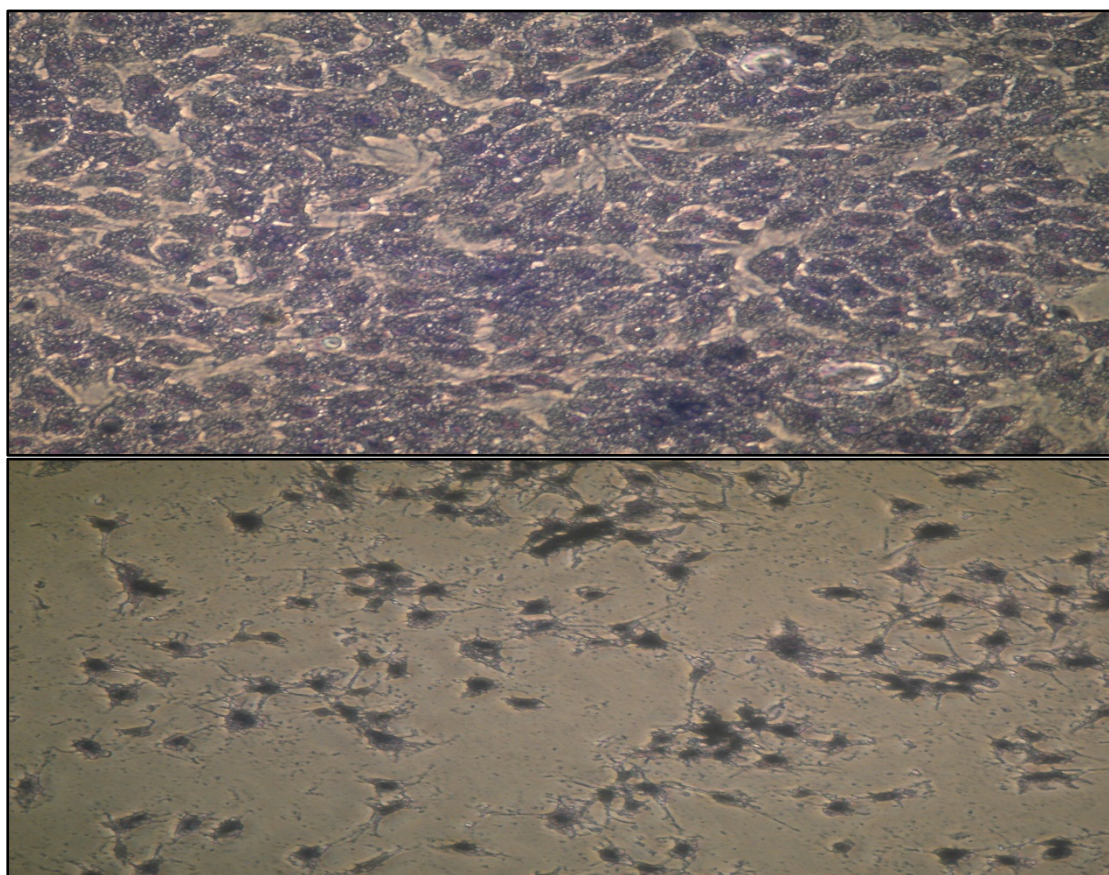
- a. Impact strength test.
- b. Transverse strength test.
- c. Tensile strength test.

3-1 Cytotoxicity test

3-1-1 Effect on cell morphology

The first and most readily noticeable effect following exposure of cells to toxic materials is the alteration in cell shape or morphology in a monolayer culture .Microscopic observation of treated cells showed distinct morphological changes indicating unhealthy cells, and appeared to be clustered with few cellular extensions, the cell spreading patterns were restricted, whereas the control appeared normal. (Fig 3-1).

A



B

Fig (3-1): A- REF cells without treatment. B- REF cells treated with silver nitrate (100x).

3-1-2 Cell viability

As shown in table 3- 1 and Fig 3-2 the highest mean inhibitory effect of AgNO₃ on the growth of REF cells at concentrations of AgNO₃ (300 and 600 ppm) was 83.2% and 83.3% respectively. The lowest inhibitory effect was observed at 900 ppm (70.8%).

As shown in table 3- 2 and Fig 3-3 the mean Optical Density (OD) for cytotoxicity effect was highest in the control group (0.33 nm) and lowest in the group with (300, 600 ppm) AgNO₃ (= 0.055nm) for both concentrations. The difference observed in mean OD in between different concentrations of AgNO₃ and control group was statistically significant. The strongest cytotoxic effect was observed at 600 ppm AgNO₃ (Cohen's d=9.12). On the other hand, the lowest effect of AgNO₃ regarding the cytotoxic effect was observed at 900 ppm AgNO₃ (Cohen's d= 7.05). The effect of AgNO₃ concentrations on the growth of REF cells was statistically significant and rated as strong effect.

Table 3-1: Descriptive data of percent cell inhibition % (cytotoxic effect)

	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)								
	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	300 ppm	600 ppm	900 ppm
Percent cell inhibition % (cytotoxic effect)									
Range	(82.6 to 83.5)	(77.7 to 82.6)	(76.2 to 81.4)	(75.3 to 80.2)	(74.7 to 81.7)	(79.9 to 84.8)	(82 to 85.1)	(82 to 84.1)	(66.8 to 77.7)
Mean	82.9	80.4	78.7	77.5	77.6	82.2	83.2	83.3	70.8
SD	.52	2.48	2.61	2.48	3.64	2.46	1.64	1.14	5.98
SE	.30	1.43	1.51	1.43	2.10	1.42	.95	.66	3.45
N	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 3- 2: Descriptive data of optical density OD for cytotoxic effect (nm)

	Control	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)									P (ANOVA)
		9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	300 ppm	600 ppm	900 ppm	
OD for cytotoxic effect											<0.001
Range	(0.233 to 0.415)	(0.054 to 0.057)	(0.057 to 0.073)	(0.061 to 0.078)	(0.065 to 0.081)	(0.06 to 0.083)	(0.05 to 0.066)	(0.049 to 0.059)	(0.052 to 0.059)	(0.073 to 0.109)	
Mean	.328	.056	.064	.070	.074	.073	.058	.055	.055	.096	
SD	.0428	.0017	.0081	.0085	.0081	.0119	.0080	.0053	.0038	.0197	
SE	.0101	.0010	.0047	.0049	.0047	.0069	.0046	.0031	.0022	.0114	
N	18	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Difference in mean compared to control	Reference	-0.272	-0.264	-0.258	-0.255	-0.255	-0.270	-0.273	-0.274	-0.233	
Cohen's d	Reference	-9.07	-8.51	-8.33	-8.21	-8.22	-8.71	-9.11	-9.12	-7.05	
P (LSD)	Reference	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

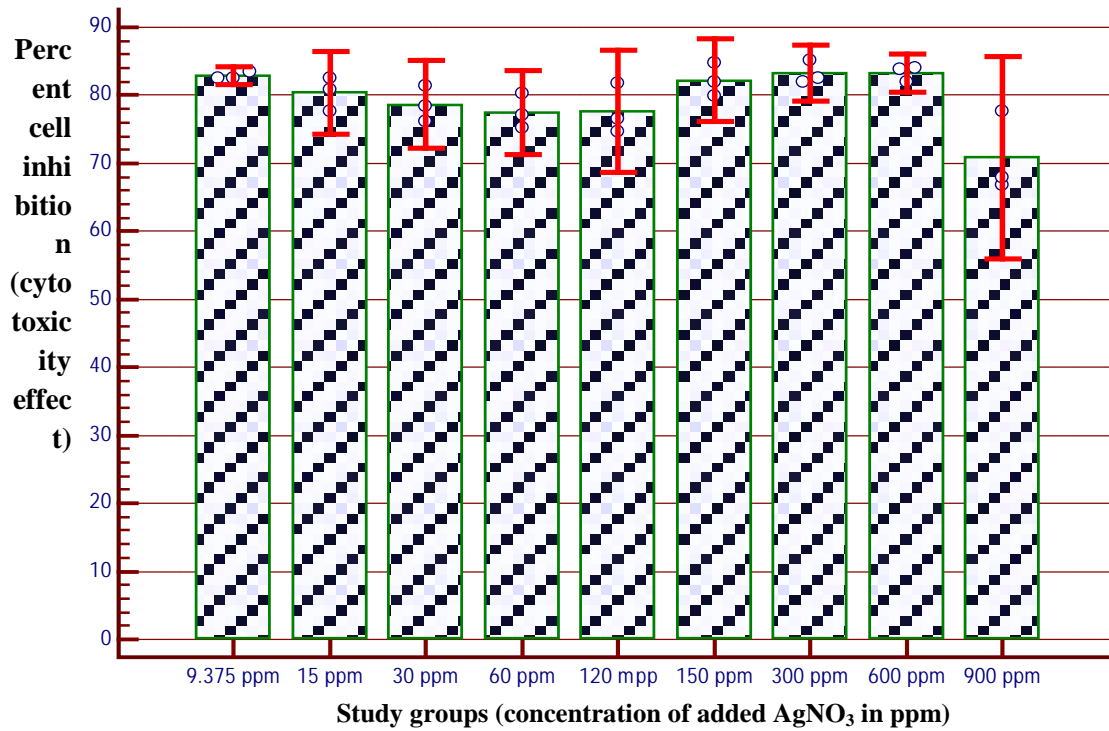


Fig (3-2): Bar chart showed the mean inhibitory effect of AgNO₃ (with its 95% confidence interval) on the growth of REF cells

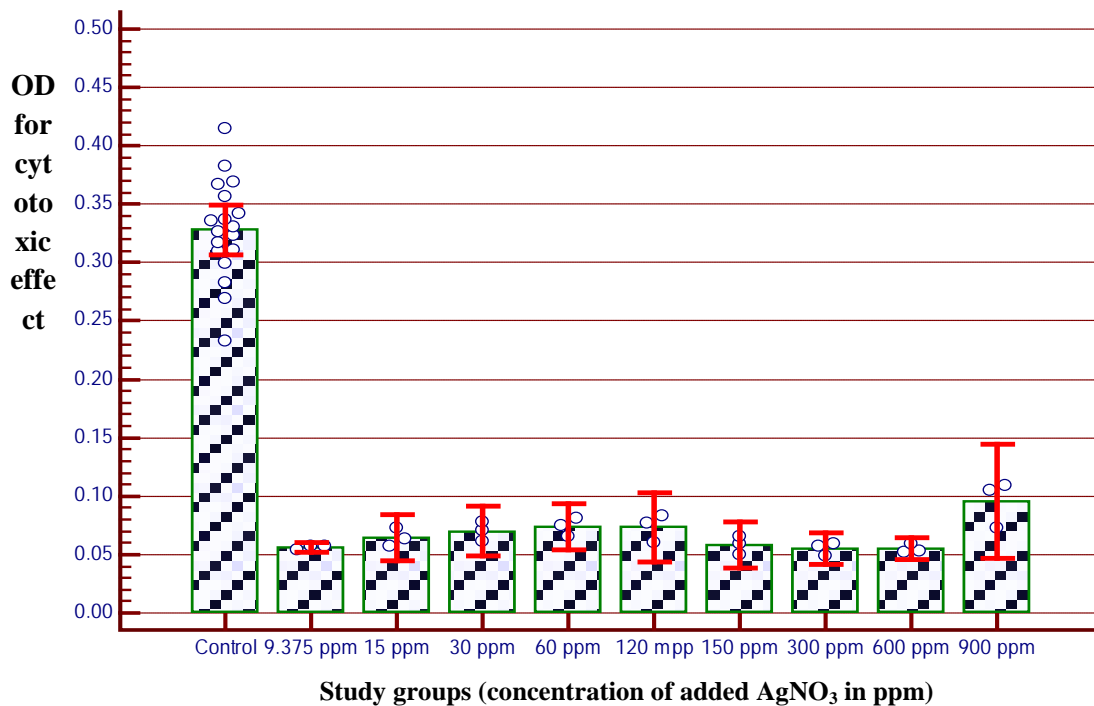
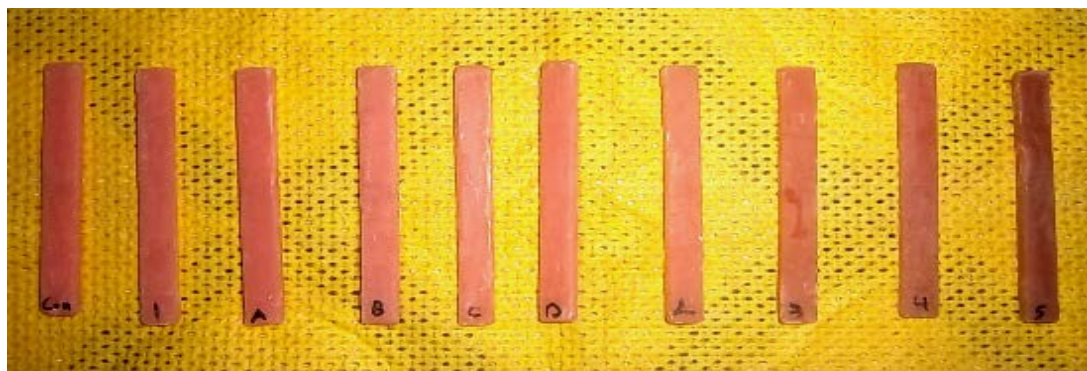


Fig (3-3): Bar chart showed the mean optical density (with its 95% confidence interval) for REF cells of control and the study groups of AgNO₃.

3-2 Visual inspection of AgNO₃ –loaded resin samples

As the concentration of AgNO₃ increased, the prepared AgNO₃ –loaded resin samples start to show visually some darkening started at 300 ppm AgNO₃ and above Fig. (3-4).



Control	9.37	15	30	60	120	150	300	600	900ppm
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Fig (3-4): AgNO₃–loaded resins from left to right: control, (9.375, 15, 30, 60, 120, 150, 300, 600, and 900 ppm).

3-3 Identification of microorganisms

3-3-1 Identification of *mutans streptococci* group

3-3-1-1 Colony Morphology

On the selective MSB agar plates, *mutans streptococcal* group colonies appeared light blue, in color, spherical or ovoid in shape with raised or convex surface, adhered well to the agar surface. Some colonies appeared as irregular with rough or frosted-glass surface appearance (rough colonies), while others appeared with smooth surface (smooth colonies). Most of *mutans streptococcal* group colonies had a depression at the middle of the colony containing a drop of polysaccharide, or sometimes the whole colony submerged in a pool of polysaccharide fig. (3-5).

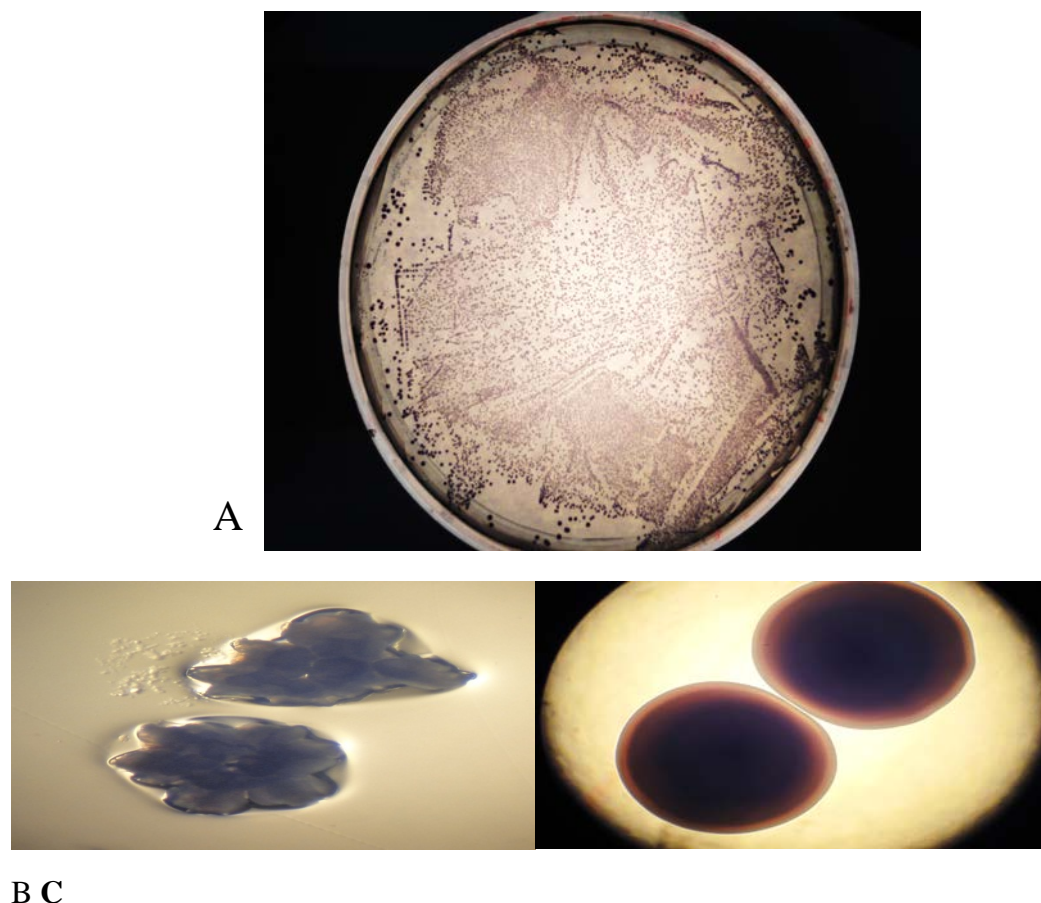


Fig (3-5): A-Photographic image for MSB agar with *mutansstreptococcaigroupcolonies*, B&C-Dissecting microscope images for Different forms of *mutans streptococcigroup colonies* on MSB agar(40x).

3-3-1-2 Morphological examination of the microbial cells

This test had been done to confirm the diagnosis of *mutans streptococci* group by the gram's staining. *mutansstreptococci* group cells were gram positive, spherical or ovoid in shape, arranged in short or medium length non spore forming chains (Fig 3-6).

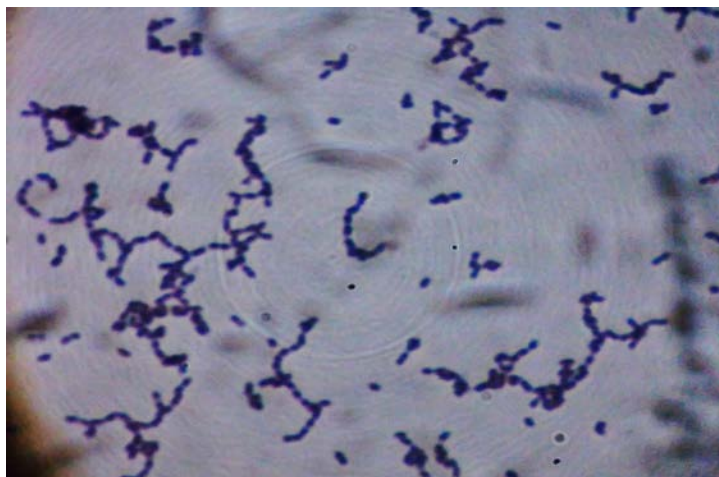


Fig (3-6): Gram's stain showing the *mutans streptococci* group (1000x magnification).

3-3-1-3 Biochemical tests

All colonies of *mutans streptococci* group were catalase negative and had the ability to ferment mannitol. A positive reaction was indicated by the change in color of indicator from red to yellow by the formation of acid after incubation (Fig 3-7).

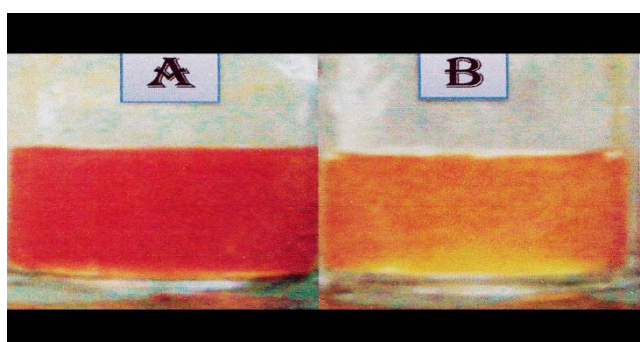


Fig (3-7): Biochemical identification of *mutans streptococci* group, a positive reaction indicated by the change in color of indicator from red (A) to yellow (B).

3-4Antibacterial activity of AgNO₃ on the growth of *mutans streptococcigroup*

3-4-1 Determining the level of antimicrobial activity of different concentrations of silver nitrate solution on *mutans streptococcigroup*.

As shown in Fig 3-8 and table 3- 3 concentration of AgNO₃ had a statistically significant strong positive (direct) liner correlation with diameter of inhibition zone ($r = 0.76$).

For each one ppm increase in AgNO₃ concentration the diameter of inhibition zone is increased by 0.01mm ($\beta = 0.01$).The mean diameter of inhibition zone for the concentrations of AgNO₃ , positive and negative control is illustrated in Fig.(3-9).

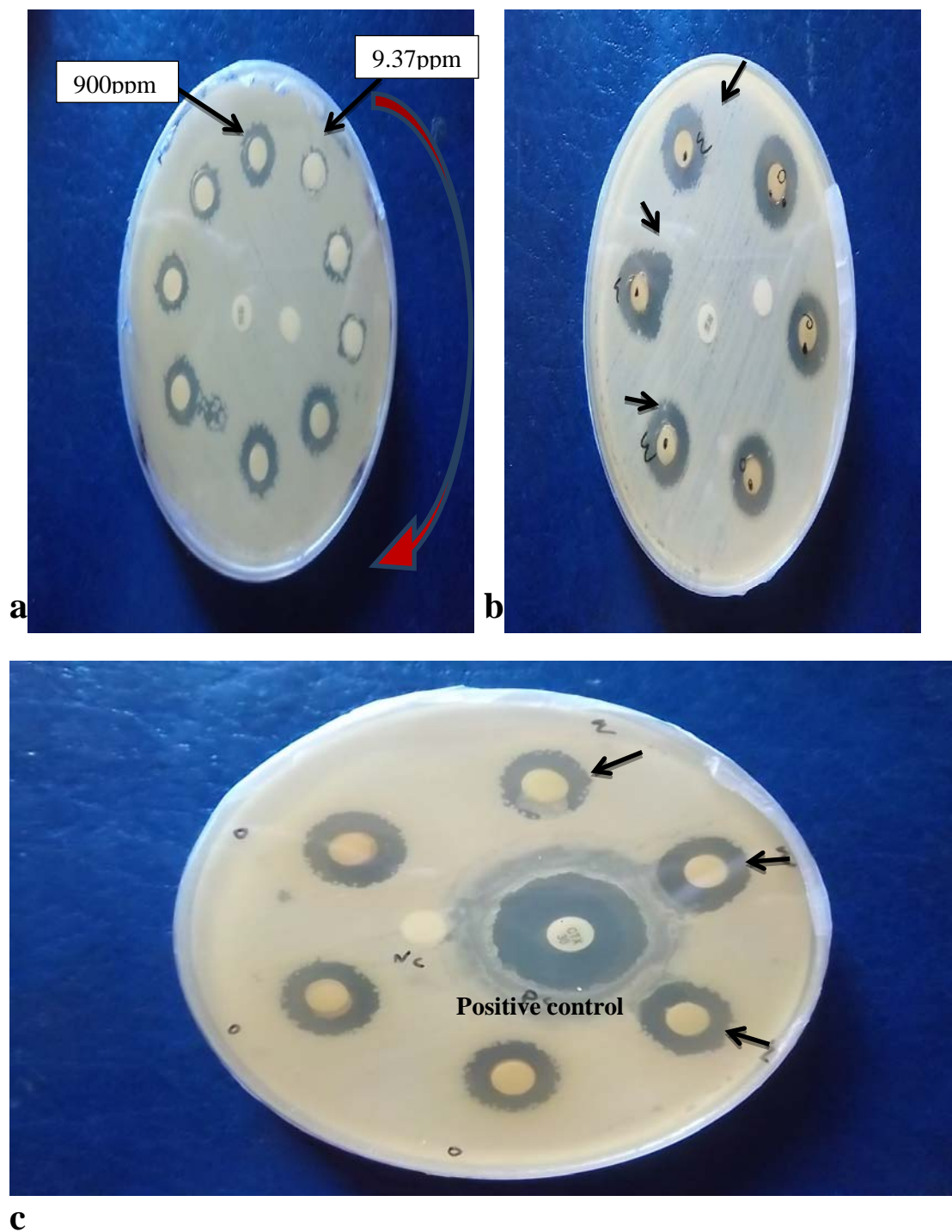


Fig (3-8): Photograph images of the zone of inhibition of AgNO₃ solutions:(a)The zone of inhibition of different concentrations of AgNO₃ solutions compared with deionized water at the center. (b) The zones of inhibition in 600ppmas determined by arrows & 900ppm were compared with deionized water at the center. (C) The zones of inhibition in 600ppmas determined by arrows & 900ppm were compared with Ceftriaxone (positive control).

Table 3-3: Descriptive data of diameter of inhibition zone (mm)

	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)											P (ANOVA)	
	Positive control (Ceftriaxone)	Control	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	300 ppm	600 ppm	900 ppm		
Diameter of inhibition zone (mm)													<0.001
Range	(20 to 23)	(0 to 0)	(6.12 to 6.8)	(6.54 to 7.31)	(7.39 to 7.72)	(7.15 to 8.14)	(8.16 to 8.89)	(9.44 to 11.28)	(10.67 to 12.35)	(11.56 to 13.62)	(12.45 to 14.45)		
Mean	21.2	0.0	6.4	6.9	7.6	7.8	8.7	10.3	11.6	12.8	13.6		
SD	1.05	0.00	.26	.21	.13	.29	.23	.56	.67	.78	.69		
SE	.33	0.00	.08	.07	.04	.09	.07	.18	.21	.25	.22		
N	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
Difference in mean compared to control		Reference	6.4	6.9	7.6	7.8	8.7	10.3	11.6	12.8	13.6		
Cohen's d		Reference	35.56	45.75	84.26	39.24	54.48	25.70	24.58	23.19	27.74		
P (LSD)		Reference	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		
Difference in mean compared to positive control (Ceftriaxone)		Reference	-21.2	-14.8	-14.4	-13.6	-13.4	-12.5	-11.0	-9.7	-8.5	-7.64	
Cohen's d		Reference	-28.31	-19.26	-18.91	-18.20	-17.38	-16.47	-12.89	-11.00	-9.12	-8.58	
P (LSD)		Reference	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

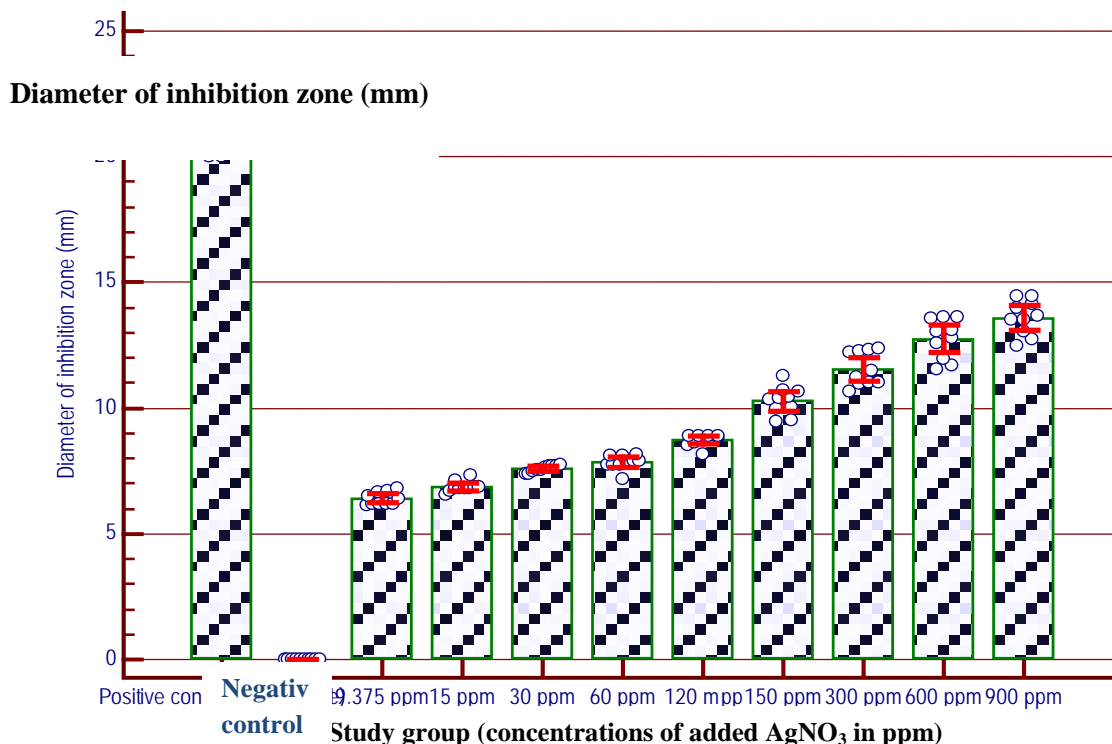


Fig (3-9): Bar chart showed the mean diameter of inhibition zone (with its 95% confidence interval) for AgNO_3 concentrations, positive and negative control.

3-4-2 Inhibitory effect of AgNO_3 -loaded resins on the growth of *mutans streptococcig* group

3-4-2-1 Estimation the inhibition zone of AgNO_3 -loaded resins

No inhibition zone detected with AgNO_3 - loaded resins.

3-4-2-2 Effect of AgNO₃ –loaded resinon viable count of *mutansstreptococci* group colonies

As shown in table 3-4and Fig 3-10(A&B) at baseline the mean inhibitory effect of AgNO₃ loaded resin disks on the growth of *mutansstreptococci* group(antibacterial efficacy ABE %) at lowest concentration of AgNO₃(9.375 and 15 ppm) was 96.6% .The lowest inhibitory effect was observed at 150ppm and 300ppm (ABE= 42.2% and 44.4%) respectively. After 30 and 90 days of immersion in artificial saliva the mean inhibitory effect was 100% (ABE) at any concentration of AgNO₃.

As shown in Figs 3-11, 3-12, 3-13and table 3- 5at baseline the mean count of CFU/ml was highest in control group (1800 CFU/ml) and lowest in the group with 9.375ppm and 15 ppm of AgNO₃(60 CFU/ml).The mean count of CFU/ml was highest in the group 150ppm AgNO₃ (1040 CFU/ml). The difference observation in mean CFU/ml between different concentration of AgNO₃ and control group was statistically significant. The strongest effect of AgNO₃ compered to control was observed at 9.375ppm and 15 ppm respectively (Cohen's d = 5.46). On the other hand the lowest effect of AgNO₃on CFU/ml was observed at 150 ppm (Cohen's d = 2.3) .The effect of any concentration of AgNO₃compared to control was statistically significant and rate as strong effect. On the other hand, total inhibition of bacterial growth was observed at 30 or 90 days of immersion in artificial saliva Fig. (3-14 and 3-15).

Table 3-4: Descriptive data of inhibitory effect of AgNO₃ loaded resin discs on the growth of *mutansstreptococci* (ABE%)

Inhibitory effect of AgNO ₃ loaded resin discs on the growth of <i>mutans.strept.</i> (ABE%)	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)								
	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	300 ppm	600 ppm	900 ppm
Follow up time (days) = baseline									
Range	(94.4 to 100)	(94.4 to 100)	(83.3 to 88.9)	(77.8 to 83.3)	(61.1 to 72.2)	(33.3 to 50)	(38.9 to 50)	(72.2 to 83.3)	(72.2 to 83.3)
Mean	96.6	96.6	87.8	81.1	65.6	42.2	44.4	76.7	76.7
SD	3.07	3.07	2.50	3.01	4.65	6.34	3.92	4.65	4.65
SE	1.37	1.37	1.12	1.35	2.08	2.83	1.76	2.08	2.08
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Follow up time (days) = after 30 days									
Range	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)
Mean	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SD	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Follow up time (days) = after 90 days									
Range	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)	(100 to 100)
Mean	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SD	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

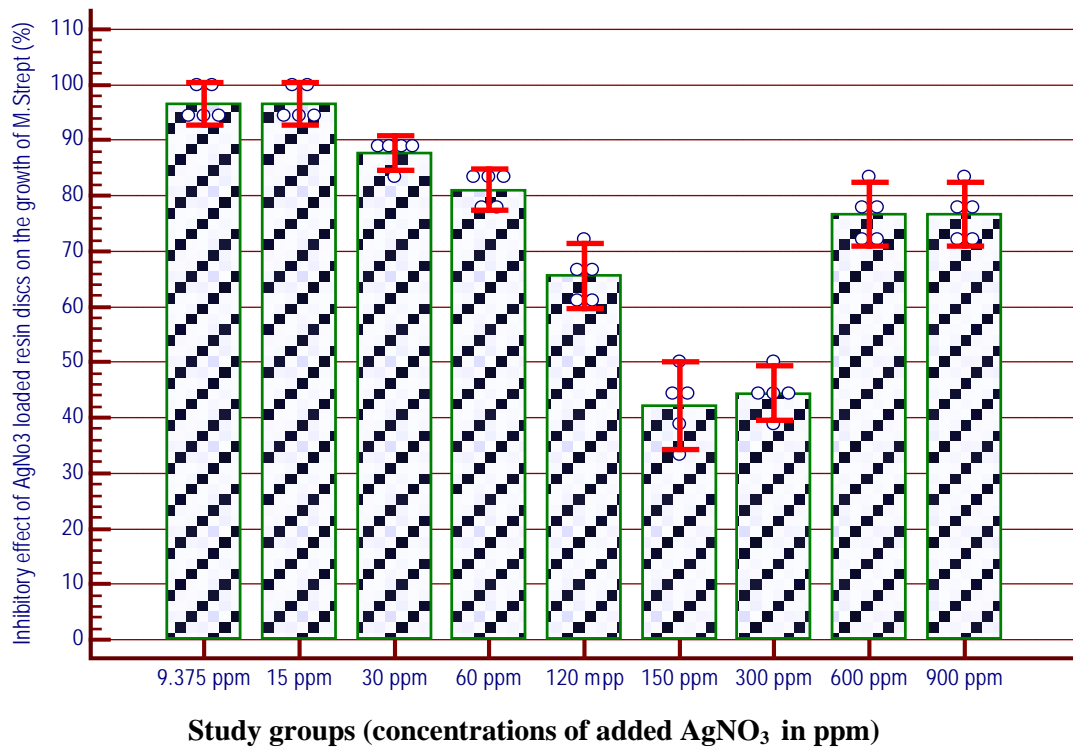


Fig (3-10 A): Bar chart showed the ABE (%) (with its 95% confidence interval) of AgNO₃ loaded resin disks on the growth of *mutansstreptococci* group at baseline.

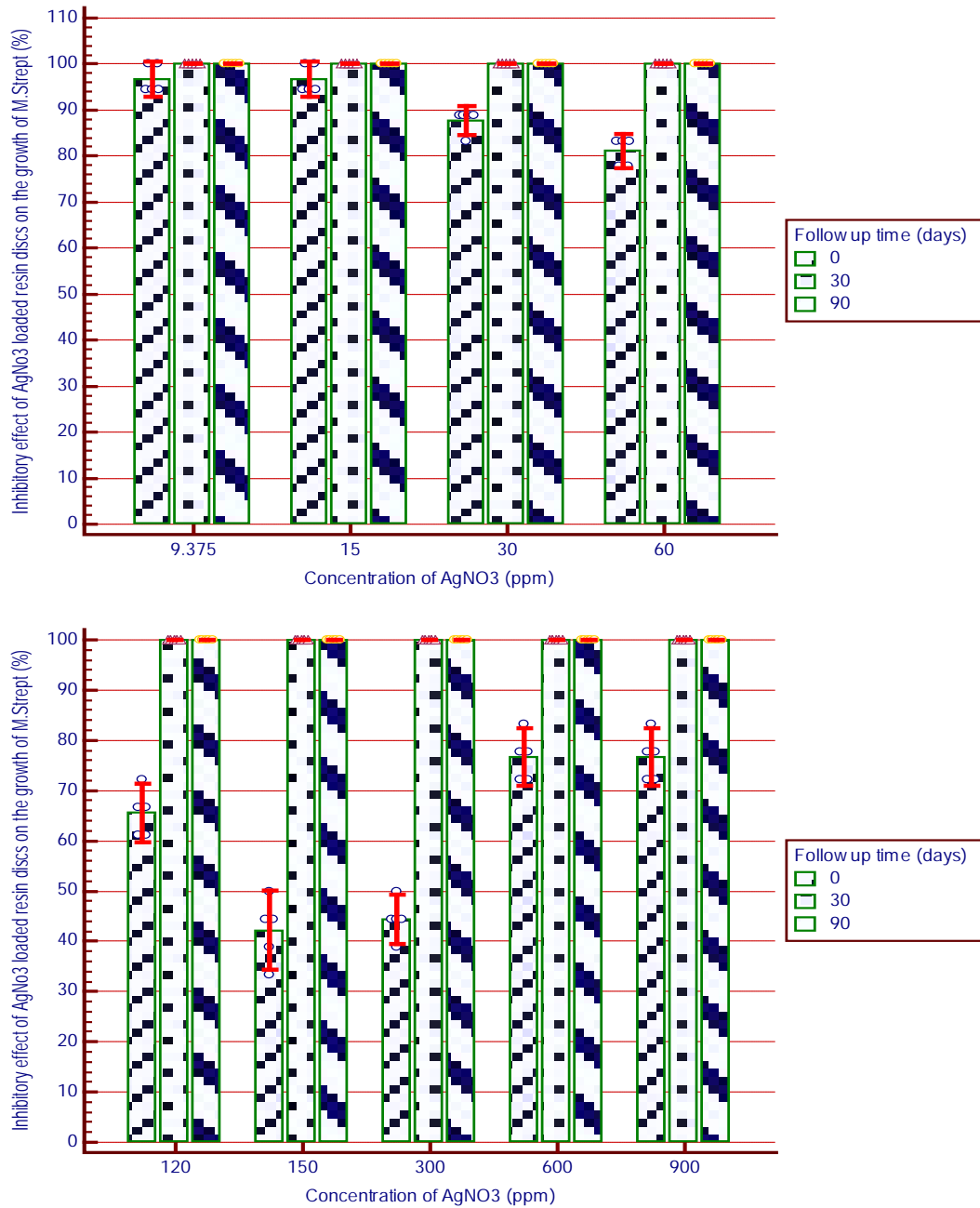


Fig (3-10 B):Bar chart showed the ABE (%) (with its 95% confidence interval) of AgNO₃ loaded resin disks on the growth of *mutansstreprococci*group at the designed periods.

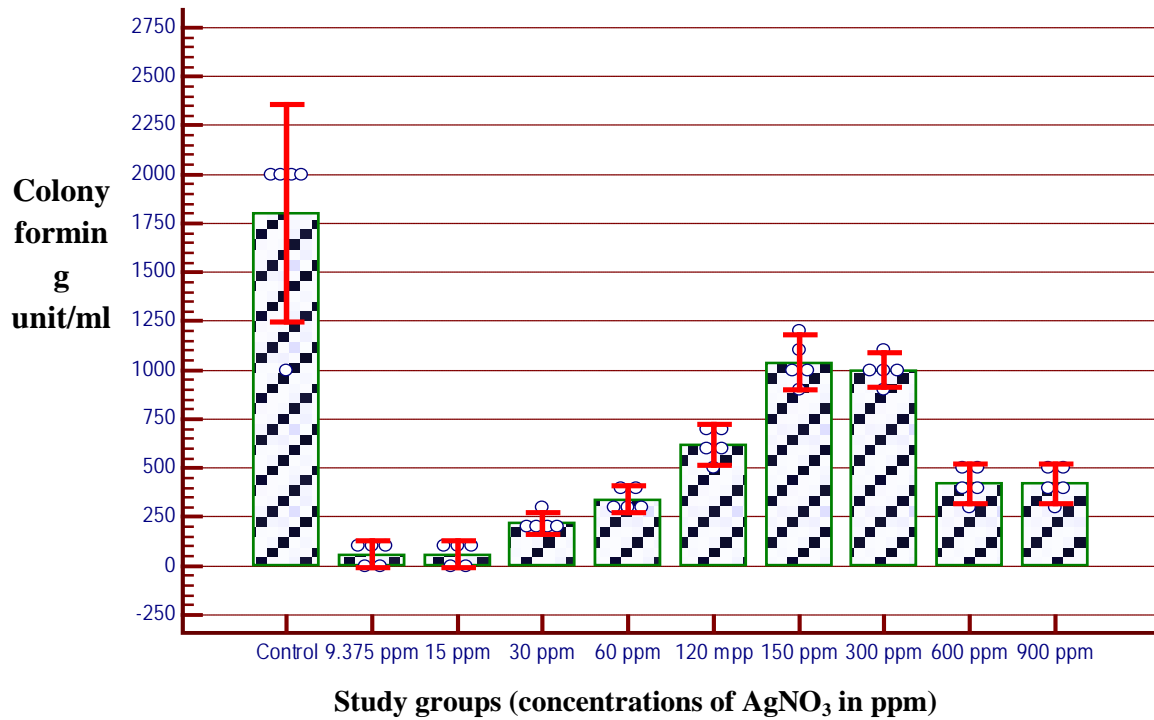


Fig (3-11): Bar chart showed the mean count of CFU/ml (with its 95% confidence interval) at baseline.



Fig (3-12): Photographic image of MSB agar plate with *mutans streptococci* colonies as control plate.

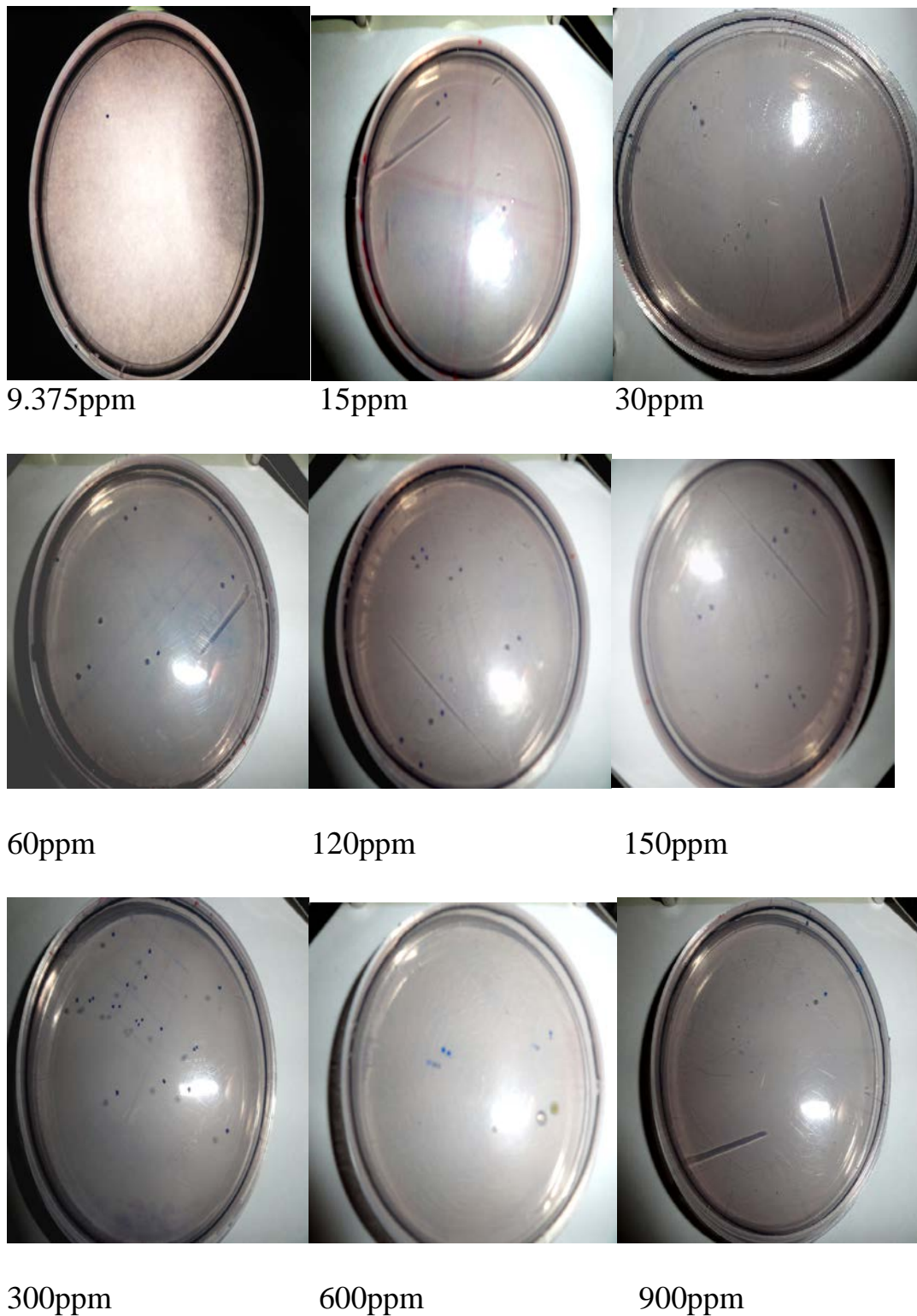


Fig (3-13): Photographic images of MSB agar plates represent the baseline (pretreatment) viable counts of *matans streptococci* group colonies.

Table 3-5: Descriptive data of Colony forming unit/ml

Colony forming unit/ml	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO3 in ppm)										P (ANOVA)
	Control	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	300 ppm	600 ppm	900 ppm	
Follow up time (days) = baseline											
Range	(1000 to 2000)	(0 to 100)	(0 to 100)	(200 to 300)	(300 to 400)	(500 to 700)	(900 to 1200)	(900 to 1100)	(300 to 500)	(300 to 500)	<0.001
Mean	1800	60	60	220	340	620	1040	1000	420	420	
SD	447.21	54.77	54.77	44.72	54.77	83.67	114.02	70.71	83.67	83.67	
SE	200	24.49	24.49	20	24.49	37.42	50.99	31.62	37.42	37.42	
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Difference in mean compared											
to control	Reference	-1740.0	-1740.0	-1580.0	-1460.0	-1180.0	-760.0	-800.0	-1380.0	-1380.0	
Cohen's d	Reference	-5.46	-5.46	-4.97	-4.58	-3.67	-2.33	-2.50	-4.29	-4.29	
P (LSD)	Reference	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Follow up time (days) = after 30 days											
Range	(1500 to 2300)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	<0.001
Mean	1940	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SD	288.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SE	128.84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Difference in mean compared											
to control	Reference	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	-1940.0	
Cohen's d	Reference	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	-9.52	
P (LSD)	Reference	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

Continue

Colony forming unit/ml	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)										P (ANOVA)	
	Control	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 mpp	150 ppm	300 ppm	600 ppm	900 ppm		
Follow up time (days) = after 90 days												<0.001
Range (1600 to 2200)	(1600 to 2200)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	(0 to 0)	
Mean	1900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SD	223.61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SE	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
N	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Difference in mean compared to control	Reference	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	-1900.0	
Cohen's d	Reference	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	-12.02	
P (LSD)	Reference	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
P (ANOVA) for difference in mean between the 3 time intervals =	0.79[NS]	0.016	0.016	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Effect of after 30 days compared to baseline												
Difference in mean	140.0	-60.0	-60.0	-220.0	-340.0	-620.0	-1040.0	-1000.0	-420.0	-420.0		
Cohen's d	0.37	-1.55	-1.55	-6.96	-8.78	-10.48	-12.90	-20.00	-7.10	-7.10		
P (LSD)	0.52[NS]	0.011	0.011	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Effect of after 90 days compared to baseline												
Difference in mean	100.0	-60.0	-60.0	-220.0	-340.0	-620.0	-1040.0	-1000.0	-420.0	-420.0		
Cohen's d	0.28	-1.55	-1.55	-6.96	-8.78	-10.48	-12.90	-20.00	-7.10	-7.10		
P (LSD)	0.64[NS]	0.011	0.011	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

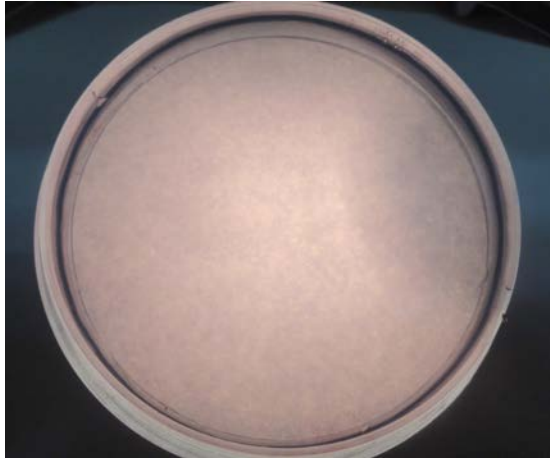


Fig (3-14): Photographic image of MSB agar plate represent the viable counts at 30 or 90days immersion in artificial saliva, there was complete inhibition of bacterial growth.

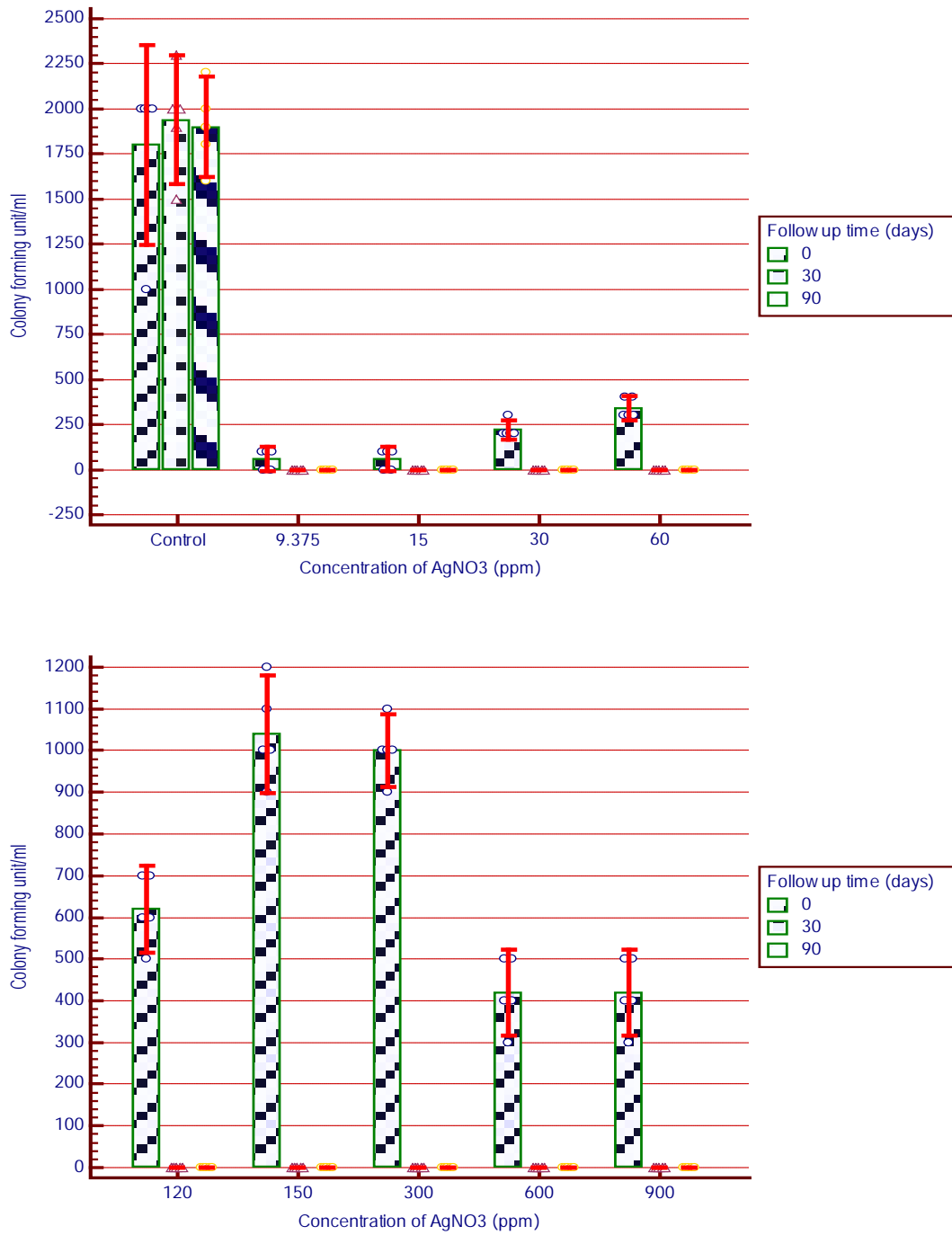
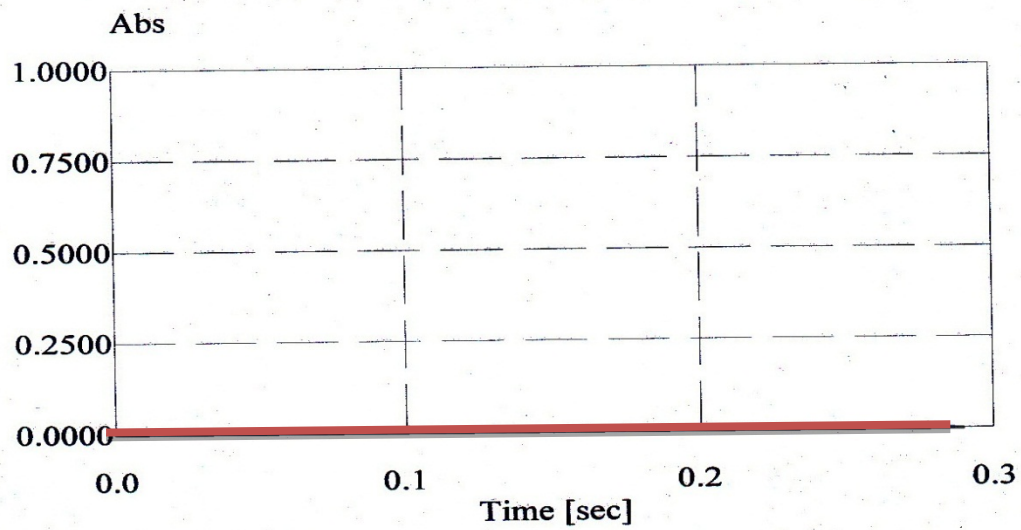


Fig (3-15): Bar chart showed the mean count of CFU/ml (with its 95% confidence interval) at the three designed periods.

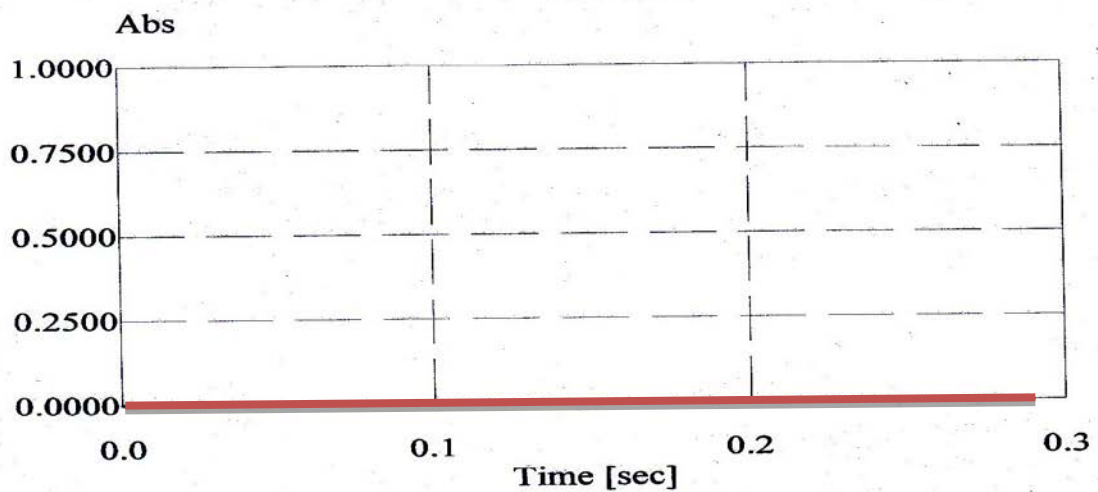
3-5 *In vitro* Ag release test

The Artificial saliva that was used as immersion medium for the AgNO₃-loaded resins regarding all concentrations of AgNO₃ (9.375, 15, 30, 60, 120, 150, 300, 600, 900 ppm) and control specimens was analyzed. Despite the high sensitivity of the analytical technique used, no Ag was detected in the artificial saliva under all immersion times (30 days and 90 days) and concentrations of silver nitrate used (Fig. 3-16 A&B).

Fig. (3-16C) shows similar clear solution (no precipitation of silver halide) in the artificial saliva that used as stored medium for all AgNO₃-loaded resins.



A



B

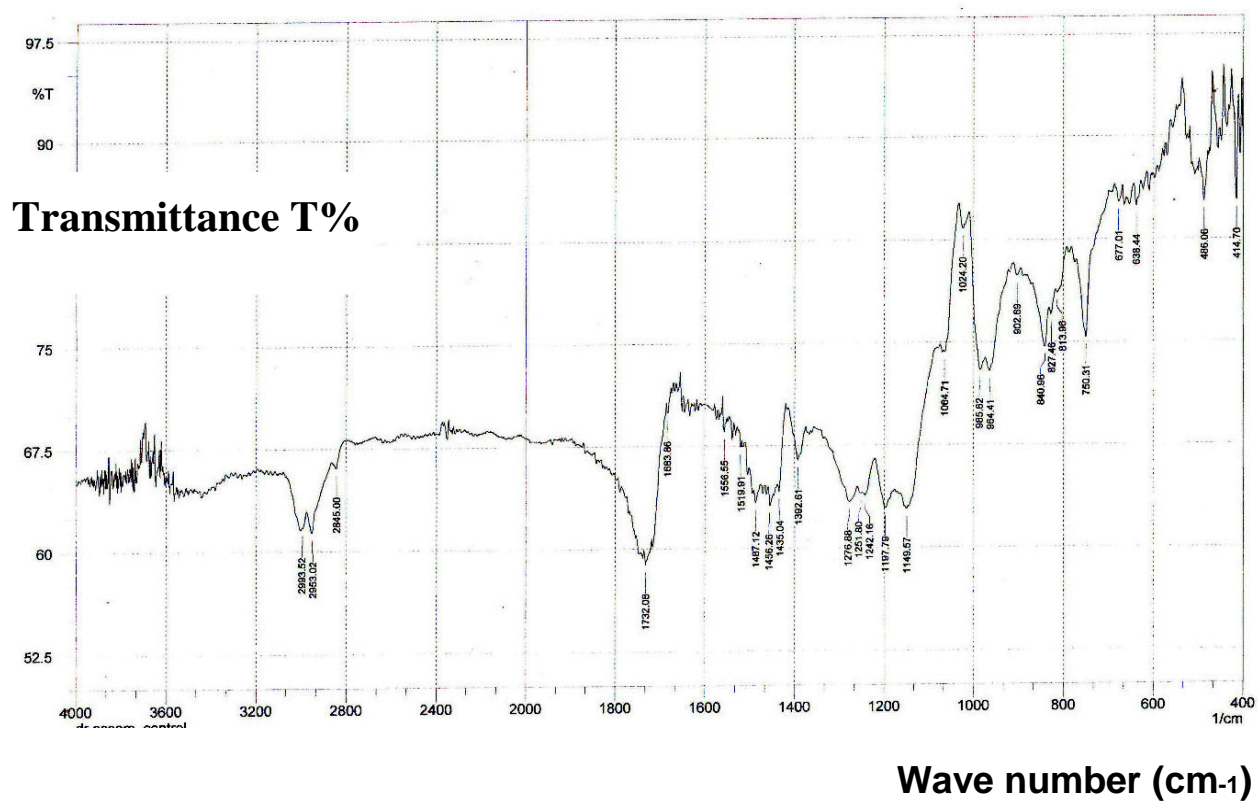
Fig (3-16A&B): A-absorption spectrum found for the artificial saliva with control acrylic specimen (without silver nitrate), B- Spectrum of one of the specimens which was similar for all other specimens. Spectrum clearly showssimilar absorption as that of the control.



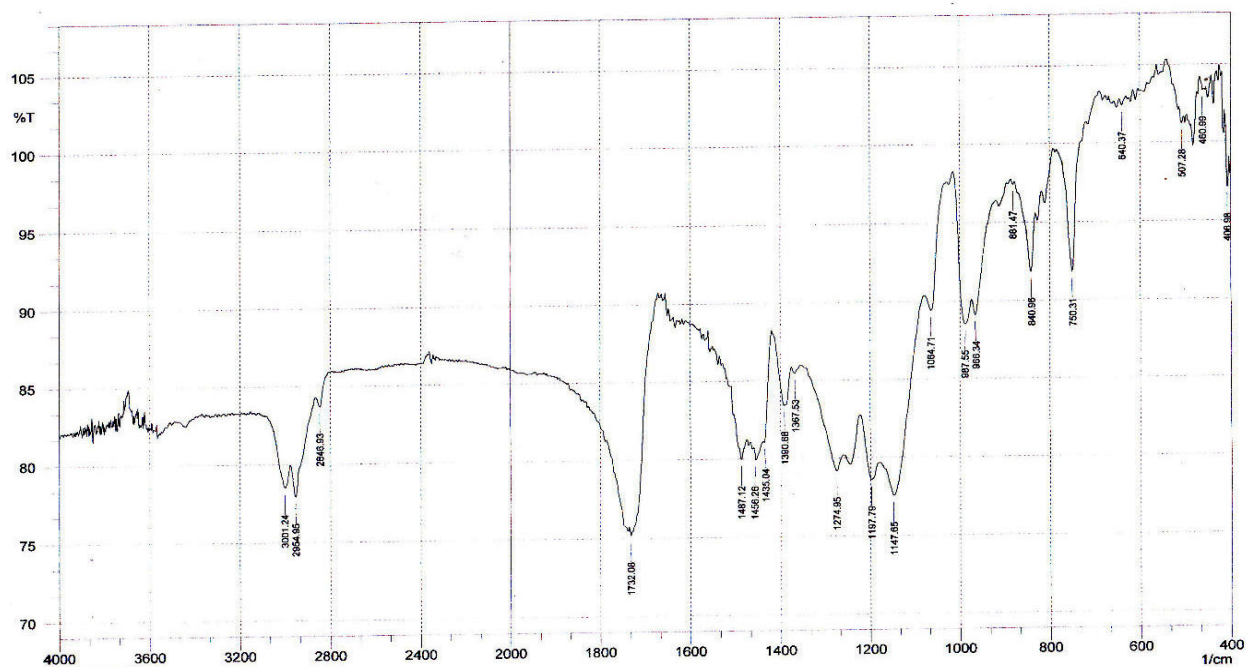
Figure (3-16C) shows similar clear solution of artificial saliva (no precipitation of silver halide) only the tested AgNO_3 -loaded resin discs at the bottom of the test tubes. .

3-6 Characterization of AgNO_3 -loaded resins.

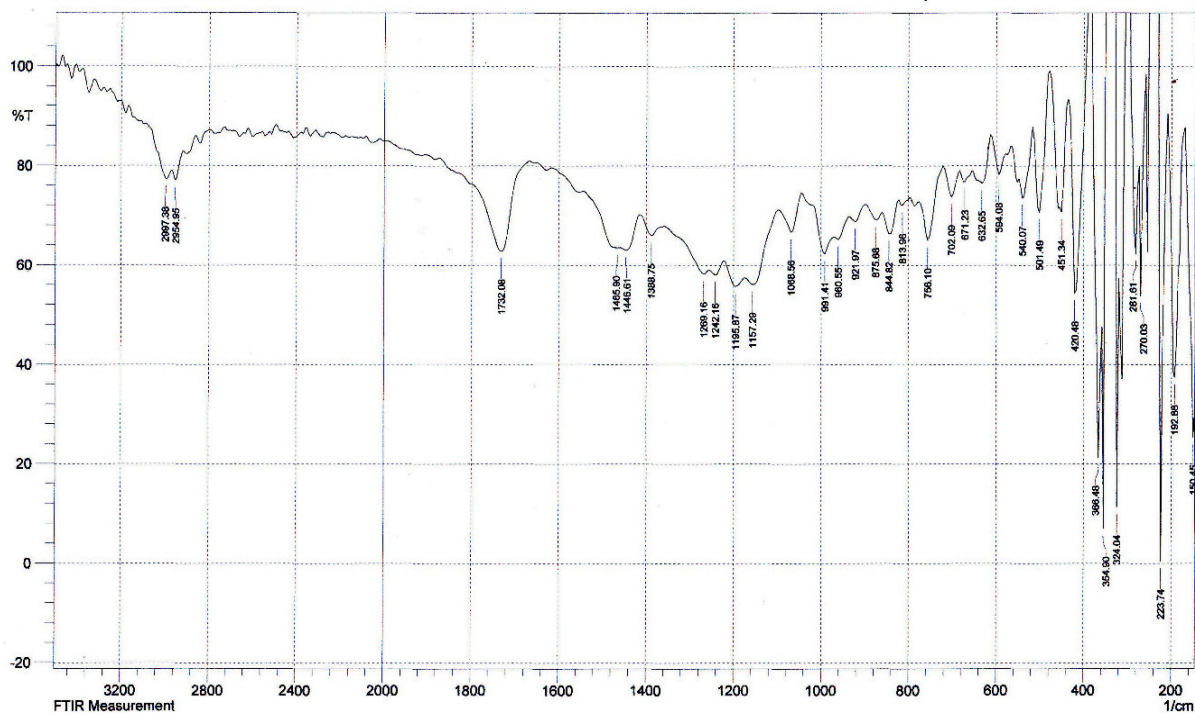
The results of FTIR (Fourier transform infra-red) spectra of PMMA and AgNO_3 -loaded resins in KBr and Caesium Iodide (CsI) discs, showed no change in the shape of absorption peaks between PMMA (control) and AgNO_3 -loaded resins indicating no chemical bond between the PMMA and AgNO_3 Figures (3-17A, B, C, D).



A- PMMA

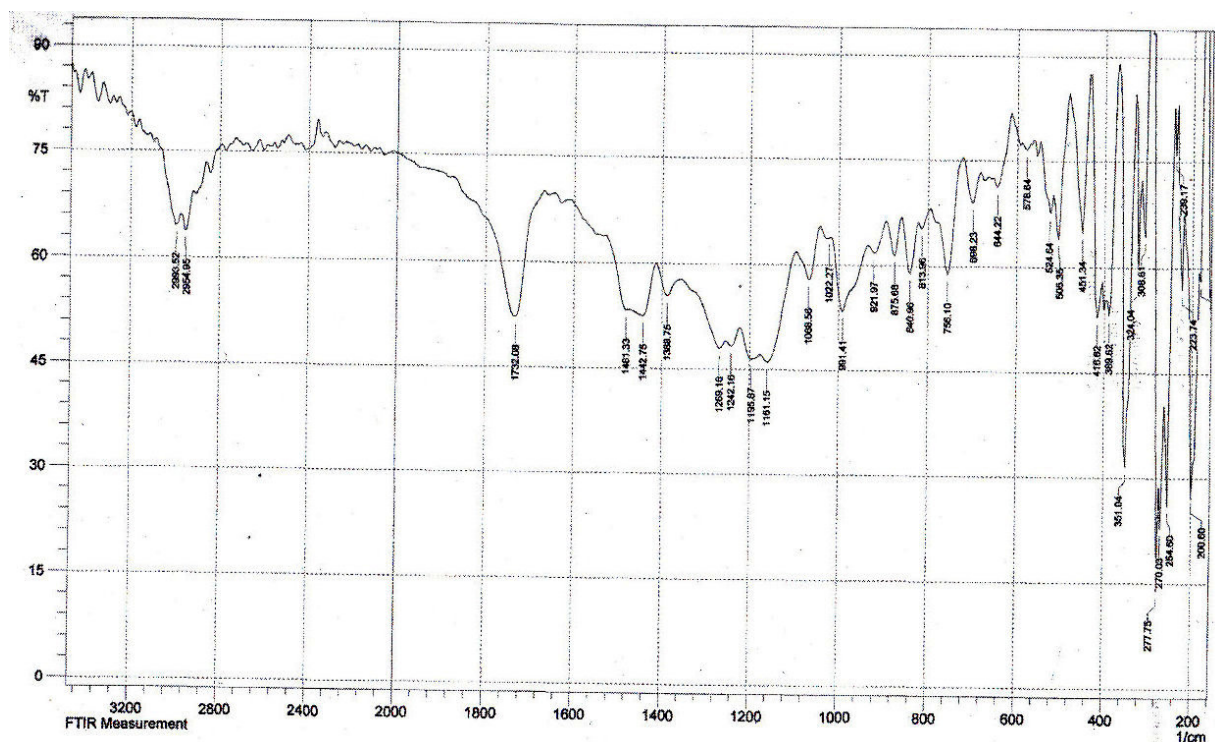
B-AgNO₃-loaded resinFig.3-17: FTIR spectrum of A- PMMA and B-AgNO₃-loaded resin in KBr disc.

Tr
ans
mit
tan
ce
T



Wave number (cm-1)

C-PMMA



D-AgNO₃-loaded resin

Fig.3-17:FTIR spectrum of C- PMMA and D-AgNO₃-loaded resin in Caesium Iodide (CsI) disc.

3-7Mechanical tests:

These tests are:

- a. Impact strength test.
- b. Transverse strength test.
- c. Tensile strength test.

3-7-1 Impact strength test

As shown in Table 3- 6 and Fig 3-18 the mean impact strength was highest in the group with 60 ppm AgNO₃ (12.8 KJ/ m²) and lowest in the control group (10.6 KJ/m²). The difference in mean impact strength between the concentrations of AgNO₃ and control group was statistically insignificant. Compared to control the lowest concentration of AgNO₃ (9.375ppm) was associated with an average increase in impact strength of 0.1KJ/m². The effect of this very low concentration was evaluated as weak (Cohen's d = 0.17). This effect was statistically insignificant .The 60 ppm AgNO₃ was associated with highest increase in mean impact strength of 2.2.This effect was statistically significant which rated as a strong effect (Cohen's d = 2.63) .

Table 3-6: Descriptive data of impact strength test (KJ/m²)

	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)							P (ANOVA)
	Control	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	
Impact strength (KJ/m ²)								0.05[NS]
Range	(9.67 to 11.11)	(9.94 to 11.62)	(10.53 to 12.23)	(9.78 to 13.51)	(11.27 to 13.72)	(9.25 to 12.66)	(8.86 to 15.17)	
Mean	10.6	10.7	11.5	11.8	12.8	10.7	11.8	
SD	0.65	0.56	0.63	1.54	0.95	1.57	2.09	
SE	0.27	0.23	0.26	0.63	0.39	0.64	0.85	
N	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Difference in mean compared to control	Reference	0.1	0.9	1.2	2.2	0.1	1.2	
Cohen's d	Reference	0.17	1.37	1.03	2.63	0.12	0.78	
P (LSD)	Reference	0.88[NS]	0.24[NS]	0.1[NS]	0.006	0.85[NS]	0.11[NS]	

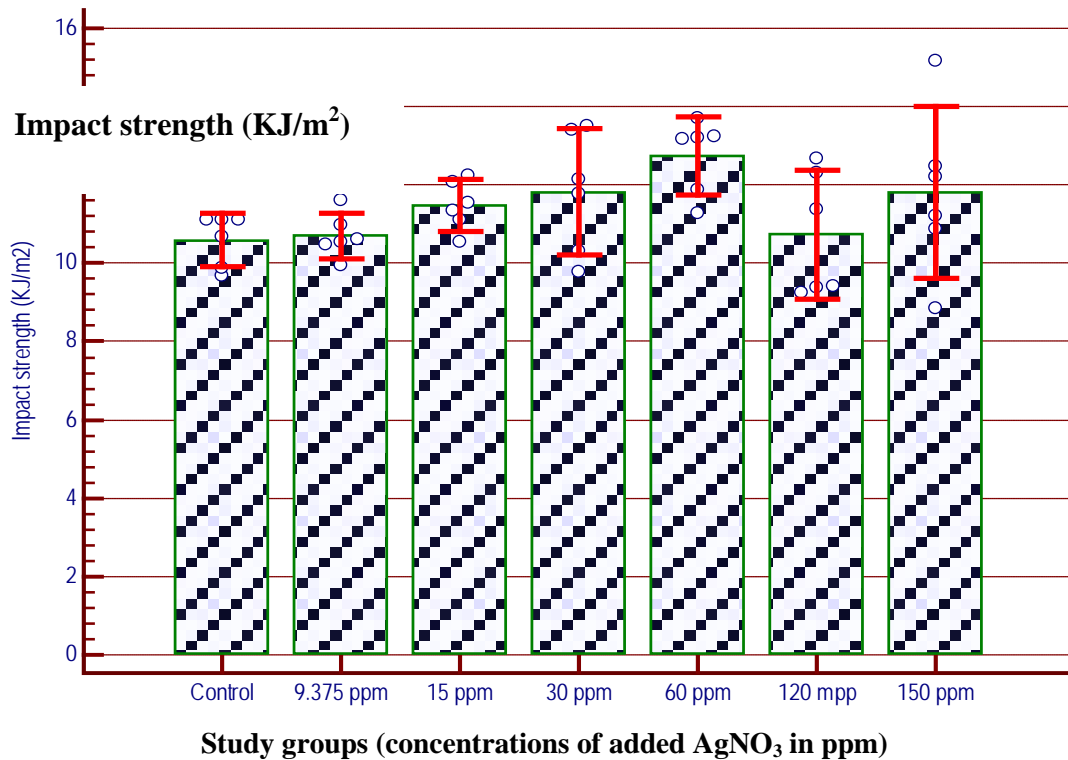


Fig (3-18) Bar chart showed the mean impact strength (with its 95% confidence interval) for the concentrations of AgNO₃ and control group.

3-7-2 Transverse strength test

As shown in table 3- 7 and Fig 3-19 the mean transverse strength was highest in the control group (77.8 MPa) and lowest in the group with 120 ppm of AgNO₃ (55.4MPa). The difference in mean transverse strength between the concentrations of AgNO₃ and control group was statistically significant.

Compared to control the lowest concentration of AgNO₃ (9.375 ppm) was associated with an average reduction in transverse strength of (14MPa) ,the effect of this very low concentration was evaluated as strong (Cohen's d = 4.18) . This effect was statistically significant .The strongest effect was with 120 ppm AgNO₃(reduction in transverse strength) (Cohen's d greater than 6).

Table 3-7: Descriptive data of transverse strength test (MPa)

	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)								P (ANOVA)
	Control	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm		
Transverse strength (MPa)									<0.001
Range	(74.4 to 81.6)	(57.6 to 67.2)	(56.4 to 72)	(60 to 74.4)	(58.5 to 79.2)	(48 to 57.6)	(57.6 to 76.8)		
Mean	77.8	63.8	67.0	66.4	64.8	55.4	69.6		
SD	2.78	3.83	5.65	5.76	7.37	3.75	6.57		
SE	1.13	1.56	2.31	2.35	3.01	1.53	2.68		
N	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		
Difference in mean compared to control	Reference	-14.0	-10.8	-11.4	-13.0	-22.4	-8.2		
Cohen's d	Reference	-4.18	-2.42	-2.51	-2.33	-6.77	-1.61		
P (LSD)	Reference	<0.001	0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.012		

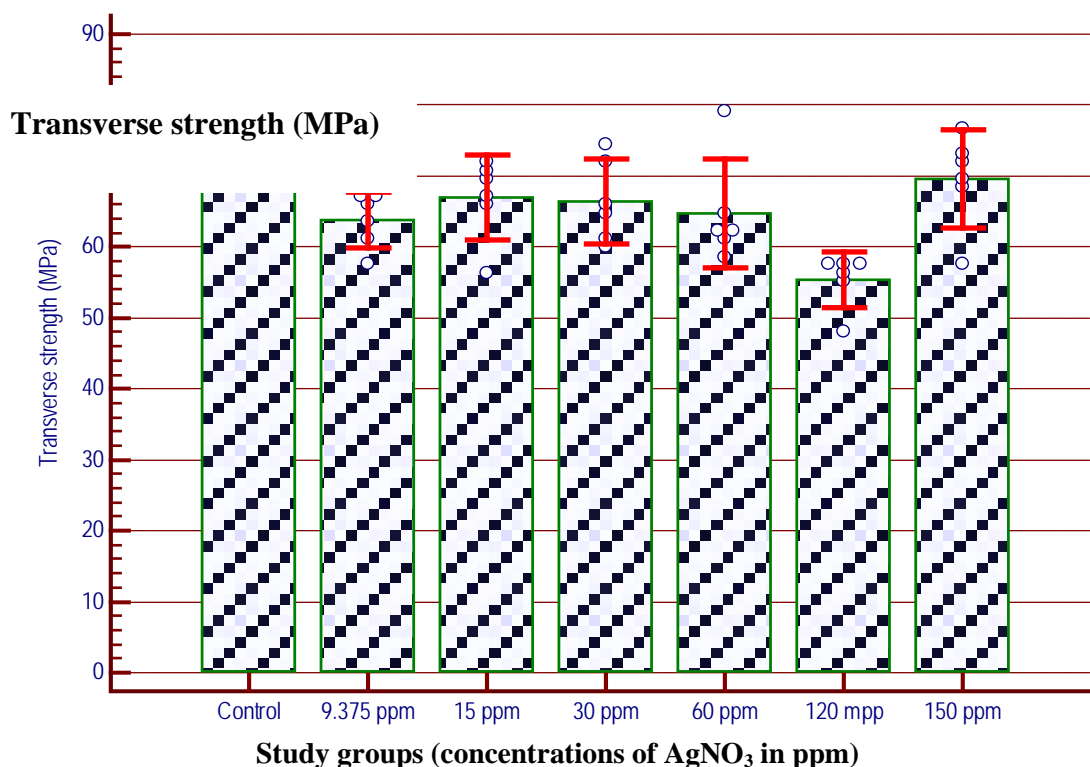


Fig (3-19): Bar chart showed the mean transverse strength (with its 95% confidence interval) for the concentrations of AgNO₃ and control group.

3-7-3 Tensile strength test

As shown in table 3- 8 and Fig 3-20 the mean tensile strength was highest in the control group (54 MPa) and lowest in the group with 60 ppm AgNO₃(36.8MPa). The difference in mean tensile strength between the concentrations of AgNO₃ and the control group was statistically significant. Compared to control the lowest concentration of AgNO₃(9.375ppm) was associated with an average reduction in tensile strength of 5 MPa. However, this effect was statistically insignificant. The 15 ppm AgNO₃ was associated with very small and statistically insignificant reduction in tensile strength of 2.1MPa. On the other hand, the AgNO₃ concentration associated with strongest effect (reduction in tensile strength) was the 60 ppm (Cohen's d greater than 4).

Table 3- 8: Descriptive data of tensile strength test (MPa)

	Study groups (concentration of added AgNO ₃ in ppm)							P (ANOVA)
	Control	9.375 ppm	15 ppm	30 ppm	60 ppm	120 ppm	150 ppm	
Tensile strength (MPa)								<0.001
Range	(49.54 to 62.5)	(46.06 to 55.2)	(39.71 to 57.8)	(38.84 to 53.7)	(31.48 to 41.69)	(38.25 to 43.4)	(38.3 to 45.56)	
Mean	54	49	51.9	44	36.8	40.7	41.5	
SD	4.82	3.3	6.64	5.18	3.37	2.1	3.34	
SE	1.97	1.35	2.71	2.12	1.38	0.86	1.36	
N	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Difference in mean compared to control	Reference	-5.0	-2.1	-10.0	-17.2	-13.3	-12.5	
Cohen's d	Reference	-1.21	-0.36	-2.00	-4.13	-3.58	-3.01	
P (LSD)	Reference	0.05[NS]	0.42[NS]	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

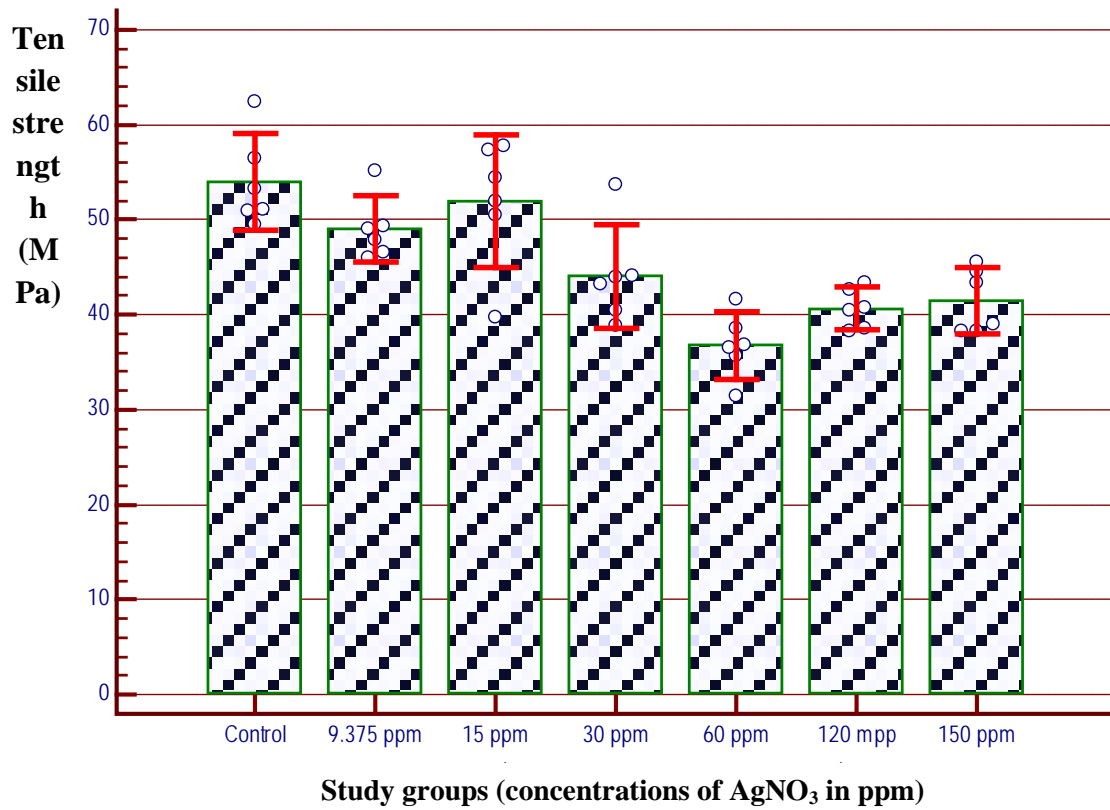


Fig (3-20): Bar chart showed the mean tensile strength for the concentrations of AgNO₃ and control group.



CHAPTER FOUR

DISCUSSION

Discussion

4-1 Cytotoxicity test

The *in vitro* assessment of REFCytotoxicity used to be a useful method for characterizing cell toxicity mechanism. The embryonic fibroblast had a strong uptake capacity of Ag particles and more sensitive in cytotoxicity screening test thus could be considered a promising candidate for cell model for cytotoxicity screening (Cao *et al.*, 2008).

4-1-1 Effect on cell morphology

The first and most readily noticeable effect following exposure of cells to toxic materials is the alteration in cell shape or morphology in a monolayer culture as illustrated in fig. (3-1) that shows distinct morphological changes of treated cells indicating unhealthy cells (Al Shemry and Al Bayati, personal communication, 2012). This could be due to disturbance in cytoskeletal functions as a consequence of silver treatment. Similar results were observed by other groups in dermal fibroblast cells treated with citrate-coated gold (Pernodet *et al.*, 2006). Only a few floating cells were observed under the microscope suggesting the absence of wide spread cell death due to necrosis.

4-1-2 Cell viability

Viability assay was a vital step in toxicology that explains the cellular response to a toxicant. Significant decrease ($P < 0.001$) in cell viability was observed regarding all concentrations of AgNO_3 with the strongest cytotoxic effect was at 300,600 ppm AgNO_3 as shown in tables (3-1, 3-2) and figures (3-2, 3-3). Probably as a result of reduction in ATP production, generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), and damage to

the mitochondria respiratory chain. The ROS production is believed to be trigger to DNA damage, followed by cell cycle arrest at G₂/M. All data taken in the present study together suggest that silver particles at range concentrations used result in G₂/M arrest in the cells which might lead to cell death since DNA repair pathway was unsuccessful. Induction of apoptosis especially in low doses of silver nitrate accompanied by proliferation arrest at high concentration 900ppm AgNO₃, this could be interpreted as agglomeration and subsequent precipitation, up take rate of Ag particles will drop; a situation where cells sustain DNA damage and gain resistance to cell death (**Hidalgo and Dominguez, 1998 ; Hossain and Huq, 2002**).

4-2 Visual inspection of AgNO₃-loaded resins

It is believed that the discoloration for AgNO₃ loaded resins which was observed at 300ppm AgNO₃ and above as illustrated in figure (3-4) was due to the presence of metal oxides from antibacterial metal ions during an oxidation- reduction reaction that occurs during a polymerization reaction, as well as the oxidation of the silver ions on the material surface (**Nakanoda et al., 1995; Yutani and Yamamoto, 2002**). It was also reported that by adding such antibacterial agent, due to the Ag⁺ in it, the color tone of the denture base resin varies (**Kurokiet al., 2010**).

4-3 Antibacterial activity of AgNO₃ on the growth of *mutans streptococcigroup*

Mutansstreptococcugroup was an appropriate bacterium to use in this study model because the virulence properties of this organism is well established (**Krethet *al.*, 2008**), and it's the organism associated with dental caries (**Loesche, 1986**).

This microorganism was grown selectively on MSB agar plates with addition of bacitracin at a concentration of 0.2 units/ml and sucrose at a concentration of 20% (**Gold *et al.*, 1973; Wade *et al.*, 1986**). This medium supported the growth of *mutans streptococci* group with good suppression of other organisms. This was based on information in **Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology (9th ed., 1994)** for differential characterization of *mutans streptococci* group. Blood agar with bacitracin added could be used for recovery of *mutans streptococci* group, but other media like TYC agar incorporated with bacitracin and sucrose might be used as an improved selective isolation medium (**Wade *et al.*, 1986**).

It has been generally believed that the mechanism of the antimicrobial effects of silver ions Ag⁺ involved their absorption and accumulation by the bacterial cells that would lead to shrinkage of cytoplasm membrane or its detachment from the cell wall(**Fenget *al.*,2003; Gill *et al.*, 2005**). In addition to the ability of Ag⁺ to react with sulphhydryl groups, other proteins residues, and enzymes associated with cell membrane leading to denaturation, structural damage and mitochondrial dysfunction that seen in bacterial and fungal cells (**Lansdown , 2006**).

No obvious statistically difference were observed in control specimens (fabricated without incorporation of AgNO₃) in there antibacterial activity between three time intervals as shown in table (3-5), figure (3-15)

which agrees with Arizono *et al.* (1992) and Casemiro *et al.* (2008) who reported that no antibacterial activity of tested acrylic resin fabricated without incorporation of antibacterial agent.

It is clear that the inhibitory effect with different concentrations of AgNO₃ solutions on the growth of *mutans streptococcus* group is a concentration dependent as shown in table (3-3), fig.(3-8, 3-9).

The outcomes of this study demonstrate the susceptibility of *mutans streptococcus* group to the lethal effect of tested AgNO₃ solutions by observation of inhibition zone. This outcome is in agreement with previous findings which showed the antimicrobial activity of liquid – solubilized silver ions against various oral pathogens (Burneet *et al.*, 1987 ; Spacciapoliet *et al.*, 2001).

The inhibitory effect of AgNO₃-loaded resins at baseline period (T₀) illustrate no zone of inhibition was observed indicating that there were no Ag⁺ ions leached out of the specimens, only the microbes that made contact with AgNO₃- loaded resins were killed as demonstrated through the total killing of *mutans streptococcus* group after 30(T₃₀) and 90(T₉₀) days of immersion AgNO₃ -loaded resin discs in artificial saliva as shown in tables (3-4),(3-6) and figures (3-10B),(3-14),(3-15).

These procedures indicated that the AgNO₃-loaded resins may provide its biocidal functions mainly through direct contact. Since no Ag ions were detected in the immersion medium that was analyzed spectrophotometrically using atomic absorption spectrophotometer. The result of this study is in agreement with some other studies that confirmed "contact kill" hypothesis like for the PMMA- based polymeric silver sulfadiazine against *E.coli* and *S.aureus* (Cao *et al.*, 2009) , and introducing variety of medical tools using silver in ionized and elementary form to create surfaces resistance to bacterial adhesion and

colonization like burns and traumatic wound dressing ,dental work ,scaffold, hip prosthetics , wound sutures, artificial tendons ,surgical masks antimicrobial glass to fight hospital – acquired infection (**stickler, 2000; Balazset al., 2004; silver et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2007; Thomas et al., 2007; ; AGC Flat Glass Europe, 2007; Balanet al., 2008; Low et al.; 2008; Dammet al., 2008; Raiet al., 2009**) .

The increasing in the antibacterial activity of the newly developed resin from the baseline period(T_0) as illustrated in ABE which was as high as 96.6% (ABE) for 9.375 and 15ppm $AgNO_3$ (table 3-4),(fig 3-10A) with a statistical significant reduction($P < 0.001$) in mean count of CFU/ml of any concentration of $AgNO_3$ compared to control (table 3-5) ,(figures 3-11, 3-12, 3-13) till reach total inhibition of bacterial growth after 30(T_{30}) and 90(T_{90}) days immersion in artificial saliva (ABE 100%) (table 3-4),(figure 3-10B), and the CFU/ml was zero at any concentration of $AgNO_3$ (table 3-5),(figures 3-14,3-15) was in agreement with **Damm and M`unstedt (b) in 2008** who illustrate that transportation of silver ions from the bulk to the surface more relevant with increases immersion time. The transportation processes through the matrix are influenced by polymer properties and when shown with longer immersion time.

Since the *mutans streptococci* group has the ability to form a biofilm(**Rozen, 2001**), a high concentrations of $AgNO_3$ in different testing periods were used in this study to show the ability of $AgNO_3$ within the PMMA resin of killing the bacterial cells of the biofilms. Total killing of bacteria after treatment in artificial saliva was observed. This finding is in agreement with **Bjarnshotet al.(2007)** who studied the action of silver on mature *in vitro* biofilm of *P.aeruginosa*, concentrations of 5-10 ppm silver sulphadiazine eradicated the biofilm; whereas lower concentrations(1ppm) had no effect. The antimicrobial

action of silver against the formation of the biofilm is also time dependent (**Stobieet al., 2008**).

The fluctuation in the number of bacterial count as shown in figures (3-10A, 3-11, 3-13) might be due to in low dose of AgNO_3 there was inhibition in bacterial growth accompanied by proliferation arrest at high concentrations. It could also be interpreted as a situation where cells sustain DNA damage and gain resistance to cell death (**Hossain and Huq, 2002**).

The result of cytotoxicity assay and antibacterial experiments demonstrated that silver ions exhibit lower toxicity to REF cells which was as high as 83%. While its activity increased about 97% inhibition of bacterial growth. This could be due to the difference in the membrane structure and enzyme properties between normal cells and bacterial cells. Yet prokaryotic cells and eukaryotic cells have entirely different physiological functions which determine sensitivity and survival rate upon exposure to silver ions. Eukaryotic cells have prominent nucleus, a complex DNA repair mechanism and cell cycle pathway to control cell death and survival, which are absent in prokaryotic cells (**AshaRaniet al., 2009**).

4-4 *In vitro* Ag release test

This study evaluated the incorporation of silver nitrate into an acrylic denture base resin by means of atomic absorption spectroscopy. AgNO_3 – loaded resins containing the different concentrations of silver nitrate used in the present study were kept in artificial saliva, and aliquots of the media were collected after 30 (T_{30}) and 90 (T_{90}) days of storage under 37°C of incubation aiming to assess the influence of time on the release of silver ions. It was found that there were no silver ions released from the

AgNO₃ – loaded resins prepared in the period of the time designed as shown in Fig.(3-18A&B). This result depended on the measurements spectrophotometrically. Furthermore, figure(3-18C) shows similar clear solution (no precipitate) for any artificial saliva that used as a stored medium to all AgNO₃ – loaded resins indicated no silver halides precipitation presence that can results from interaction of Ag⁺ ions (if Ag⁺ ions was released from AgNO₃ – loaded resins) and halides of the stored medium producing a precipitate which colors varies depend on the type of halide (Svehla, 1979; Chemeurope, 2012).

The particle release of silver from the surface of the loaded resin should occur during the initial period. Thus, the rate of release should decrease with the necessity of water diffusion into the polymeric mass. Usually, water diffusion into the PMMA body could result in the plasticizing of the material, allowing the migration of the particles or Ag⁺ toward the surface, which would be released into the water (Kumar and M^{unstedt}, 2005a). However, the results of the atomic absorption spectroscopy, which is very sensitive, did not indicate the presence of Ag in liquid media, even after the AgNO₃ – loaded resins have been immersed for the longest period (T₉₀). Furthermore, other tests were also conducted to evaluate if Ag release would occur in a different medium storage such as deionized water. However, Ag was also not detected by the atomic absorption spectroscopy analysis.

Previous studies indicated that silver was not released from PMMA/Ag nanocomposite in spite using nanocomposite (Damm and M^{unstedt}, 2008b; Monteiro *et al.*, 2011). The finding of the present study was in agreement with Monteiro *et al.* (2011) who evaluated denture base resin containing silver colloidal nano particles stored in artificial saliva, finding that artificial saliva presents substances with potential ionic charge (sodium carboxy – methyl – cellulose, sorbitol ,

potassium chloride, sodium chloride, sodium fluoride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium phosphate, potassium thiocyanate) an attraction between inorganic particles in this liquid and Ag^+ in the PMMA would possibly occur; however, Ag^+ was also not detected by the atomic absorption spectroscopy analysis.

For instance, Fig.(3-16) illustrates the absorption spectrum for the artificial saliva with control acrylic specimen (without silver nitrate), and spectrum of one of the specimens which was similar for all other specimens regardless of the concentration of silver nitrate (9.37- 900 ppm) and storage period. Spectrum clearly shows similar absorption as that of the control; however, some authors **Dammet *al.*(2007); Damm and M'unstedt (2008b)** have reported that the release of Ag^+ from polyamide/silver nanocomposites immersed in deionized water was proportional to the storage period. Obviously, the differences in synthesis method of antimicrobial composite and the different properties of these polymers may attribute to this result. Since polyamide is a more hydrophilic polymer than PMMA used in the present study and for this reason, allows plasticizing by the action of water. PMMA, on the other hand, is a more hydrophobic material than polyamide, which may have generated a barrier for water diffusion and consequently Ag^+ release (**Dammet *al.*, 2007**). In addition, the cross-linking agent ethylene glycol dimethacrylate present in the monomer of Pro Base acrylic resin that used in this study may have restricted the rotation of polymeric chains, decreasing the velocity of water diffusion to the polymer (**S'oderholm, 1984**).

The glass transition temperature (T_g) is another physical property involved in the diffusion of liquid substances in polymeric materials. The T_g may be influenced by the polymer thickness, and, for PMMA, it ranges from 97°C to 125°C (**Vallittu *et al.*, 1998; Kong and Jang, 2008**).

The higher the polymer thickness, the higher the T_g , and the lower the plasticization effect. In addition, the velocity of water sorption and the migration of the particles or Ag^+ to the polymeric surface would be reduced (Kong and Jang, 2008). Since Ag was not detected, it means the silver particles are strongly fixed on the polymer base.

4-5 Characterization of $AgNO_3$ – loaded resins

Since there is no change in the shape of absorption peaks between PMMA (control) and $AgNO_3$ – loaded resin samples as illustrated in the results of FTIR Figures (3-17A, B, C, D) thus there is no chemical bond between the PMMA and $AgNO_3$ (Singhoet *al.*, 2012).

.4-6 Mechanical tests

The addition of silver nitrate to heatpolymerizedacrylic resins is consistent with the current trend of incorporating antimicrobials into dental materials(Abe *et al.*, 2003;Pesci-Bardonet *al.*, 2006). It is important to evaluate the mechanical properties of acrylic resins containing silver nitrate because removable and complete dentures are subjected to repeated flexural forces. Midline fractures are related to the flexural strength of the resins. On the other hand localized deformation upon stretching is related to tensile strength. The higher impact strength of the base resins reduces the possibility of fracturing when the prosthesis is dropped onto a hard surface (Jerolimovet *al.*, 1985).

Because of dark coloration that appeared at 300ppm AgNO₃ and above, such kind of concentrations were not taken in consideration of the most mechanical evaluation.

Among the specimens fabricated, the addition of silver nitrate in different concentrations reduces tensile strength(above 15ppm AgNO₃) as shown in Table (3-8), Fig.(3-20)and transverse strength Table (3-7)Fig. (3-19) when compared with control as the concentration of silver nitrate increased, this is probably due to Ag⁺ ions being reduced as the concentration of Ag increase, generating atom clusters and smaller particle size during the curing process which compete with complete polymerization process(Fan *et al.*, 2011). The plasticization effect of the resultant residual monomer will reduce the molecular binding force. On the other side, the results of FTIR Figures(3-17A,B,C,D)showed no chemical bonding between PMMA and AgNO₃.Therefore we suppose that Ag⁺ ions attack the double bond in the alkene group of the monomer molecule and will convert it to residual monomer (Cope and Bach,1973). This process will reduce the molecular binding force between the reactant molecules and allows greater deformation upon stretching or flexion

through exhibiting multiple micro fractures that weaken the AgNO₃ – loaded resin samples(**Jagger,1978;Jerolimovet al., 1985**).

Some other studies also showed that adding an antibacterial agent may affect the material properties,**Kuroki et al.(2010)**have reported that there were significant differences of residual monomer in the samples treated by adding antimicrobial agents (Zeomic,BacteKiller,Novaron) although it was insignificant between the control and samples.

Fan et al. (2011) found that by adding 0.15% (w/w) AgBz (silver benzoate) and above there was decrease in the degree of curing, result in reduction in Rockwell hardness for light cure resin.**Nakanodaet al.(1995)**have reported that, as a result of tensile tests andbending tests, adding Silver-Zeolite to a heat-curing resin tends to decrease the material property dependingon the additive concentrations of antibacterial agent of Zeomic.

There wasin significant reduction in tensile strength with the lowest concentrations of AgNO₃ (9.375 and 15ppm) compared with controlas shown in Table (3-8), Fig. (3-20). This outcome is in agreement with **Wakasaet al. (1997)** who reported that when the antimicrobial agent (Zeomic) is added to self –cure acrylic resin between 1% and 2%, the polymerization behavior of the resin is not inhibit.

On the other hand the results of impact strength for the different concentrations of AgNO₃ shows in significant increase in impact strength (P= 0.05 NS) when compared with control as shown in Table (3-6), Fig.(3-18) .The 60ppm AgNO₃ was associated the highest increase in impact strength by 2.2KJ/ m² .This could be due to the slow curing process allows greater number of nucleation sites to form and smaller particle sizes, thereby generating more particles(**Fan et al., 2011**), the total particle / matrix interfacial surface area available for energy dissipation increase, the critical stress for particle /matrix debonding also

increase (**Chen *et al.*,2007**).Also The increasing in the impact strength could be due to the presence of residual monomer (**Cope and Bach,1973;Kuroki *et al.*;2010**).This plasticizing effect render the fabricated acrylic resin samples more capable to absorb energy on impact and are more resistant to fracture(**Anusavice, 2008**).

The result of this study disagree with **Casemiro *et al.* (2008)** who added (2.5-10%) by wet. Ag- Zeolite as a powder to acrylic dental resin resulted decrease in impact strength.



CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

This study presented a method of AgNO₃ incorporation into heat cure PMMA denture base resin and concluded:

1. The cytotoxic study on REF cells demonstrates that there was 70.8-82.9% inhibition with AgNO₃ concentrations range from 9.375-900ppm.
2. Antibacterial experiments demonstrated that AgNO₃ is effective against *mutans streptococcig*roup bacteria. However, the concentration and immersion times are important factors.
3. There was no Ag⁺ ions released, even after 90 days of storage in artificial saliva. Furthermore, Ag was also not detected in deionized water as different storage medium by the atomic absorption spectroscopy analysis.
4. Regarding the mechanical tests, the results showed increasing in impact strength compared to control. There was reduction in transverse strength when compared with control. While for tensile strength there was significant reduction above 15 ppm AgNO₃.
5. Darkening of AgNO₃ – loaded resins was visually detected and shown to be started with concentration of 300ppm AgNO₃ and above.

Suggestions

1. The experimental AgNO₃- loaded resin should be examined *in vivo* to record any uncommon problems might happen during the period of wearing.
2. Investigation the effect of adding AgNO₃ to light cure or microwave resin on mechanical and physical properties.
3. Scanning Electron Microscope study to investigate the morphology of the newly developed denture base resin.
4. Other mechanical and physical properties should be investigated for the AgNO₃ – loaded resin such as, surface hardness, fatigue resistance, dimensional stability, porosity, water sorption.



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APPENDICES

Appendices

Appendix (1): Data represent the values of impact strength test (KJ/ m²).

Control	9.375ppm AgNO ₃	15ppm AgNO ₃	30ppm AgNO ₃	60ppm AgNO ₃	120ppm AgNO ₃	150ppm AgNO ₃
11.11	10.61	11.53	11.76	13.72	9.42	12.47
11.10	10.99	11.34	13.41	13.21	12.66	8.86
9.89	10.49	12.23	12.15	11.89	11.38	12.20
9.67	11.62	12.09	9.78	13.24	9.25	10.87
11.10	10.55	10.53	10.32	13.18	12.30	15.17
10.69	9.94	11.11	13.51	11.27	9.39	11.20

Appendix (2): Data represent the values of transverse strength (MPa).

Control	9.375ppm AgNO ₃	15ppm AgNO ₃	30ppm AgNO ₃	60ppm AgNO ₃	120ppm AgNO ₃	150ppm AgNO ₃
74.4	67.2	56.4	60	61.2	56.4	68.4
76.8	57.6	72	64.8	62.4	57.6	76.8
75.6	61.2	69.6	72	62.4	48	57.6
80.4	67.2	70.8	61.2	79.2	57.6	73.2
81.6	66	66	74.4	58.5	57.6	72
77.7	63.6	67.2	66	64.8	55.2	69.6

Appendix (3): Data represent the values oftensile strength (MPa).

Control	9.375ppm AgNO ₃	15ppm AgNO ₃	30ppm AgNO ₃	60ppm AgNO ₃	120ppm AgNO ₃	150ppm AgNO ₃
51.1	47.91	39.71	53.7	35.6	42.66	43.37
62.5	55.20	50.5	43.26	38.56	38.25	39.06
56.5	49.35	57.3	38.84	41.69	38.51	45.56
53.3	46.54	54.4	40.4	36.59	43.40	44.57
51.0	46.06	57.8	44	31.48	40.70	38.31
49.54	49.01	51.94	44.05	36.78	40.50	38.3

الخلاصة

صنعت في السنين الاخيرة العديد من المواد غير العضوية الحاوية على الفضة والمضادة للبكتريا . وكانت كمحاولة لتكون عديمة اللون , ثابتة كيمائيا وتستمر لفترات طويلة تتحرر منها ايونات الفضة ببطيء على امل ان يتم استعمالها بنجاح كمضادات للبكتريا في المجالات الطبية وطب الاسنان لمنع تسوس الاسنان والتهاب الاسنان المزروعة .

تم تحضير تراكيز مختلفه من نترات الفضة (120, 60, 30, 15, 9, 37, 150, 300, 600, 900 جزء بالمليون) من محلول قياسي 1000 جزء بالمليون. وعرضت خلايا ليفانيه جنينيه للجرذ لتراكيز من نترات الفضة لتقييم التأثيرات السمية الخلويه لهذه الماده . حضر الراتنج الاكريلي حسب الطريقة المقترحه من قبل المصنع, واطيف محلول نترات الفضة بحجم ثابت (0,2 مليلتر). استخدم ضابط سيطره خاليا من نترات الفضة . حفظت النماذج الخاصه بالتأثير على البكتريا وكذلك تحرير ايون الفضة في محلول اللعاب الاصطناعي على درجه حراره 37 درجه مئوية لمدته 30 و 90 يوما . فحصت النماذج المحضره في تجارب المقاومه للبكتريا (*mutans streptococci group*) قبل المعامله وبعد 30 و 90 يوما من الغمر في اللعاب الاصطناعي . كما اجري الكشف عن تحرير الفضة في محاليل اللعاب الاصطناعي المستخدم بمختلف الفترات ولكافه المجاميع بأستعمال جهاز مقياس الطيف للامتصاص الذري.

اجريت بعض الاختبارات الميكانيكيه (قوه الصدمه, القوه المستعرضه, وقوه الشد) على الماده المصنعه.

اظهرت النتائج المتعلقه بأختبار التسمم الخلوي على الخلايا الليفانيه الجنينيه للجرذ حصول تأثير منع النمو بنسبه 82,9 - 70,8 % . وكانت كفاءه تأثير الماده المصنعه والحايويه على 9,37 - 900 جزء بالمليون قد وصلت الى 76,7 - 96,6 % . في حين سبب منع كامل للنمو الجرثومي

(100%) بعد الغمر في محلول اللعاب الاصطناعي لفته 30 أو 90 يوما. لم يلاحظ اي اثر للفضه في محلول اللعاب حتى بعد الغمر لمدته تسعون يوما.

لم يكن هناك اي اتحاد كيميائي بين نترات الفضة والبولي مثيل ميثاكريليت . كانت هناك زياده احصائيه غير معنويه ($P=0.05NS$) في قوه الصدمه بالمقارنه مع مجموعته السيطره . اما اختبار القوه المستعرضه فكانت هناك قله معنويه ($P<0.001$) مقارنه بالسيطره . أما قوه الشد فقد لوحظ حصول قله غير معنويه في التراكيز ($P=0.05NS$) 9,37 و 15 ($P=0.42NS$) جزء بالمليون . إلا إنه كان معنويا في التراكيز التي اعلى من 15 جزء بالمليون . ظهر بدايه تلون باللون الداكن للماده عندما كان تركيز نترات الفضة 300 جزء بالمليون فأعلى.

نستنتج من هذه الدراسه بأن مزج نترات الفضة مع مثيل ميثاكريليت كان ممكنا وبالإمكان اجراءه . لم يلاحظ وجود ايونات الفضة حتى بعد تسعون يوما غمر عينات الراتنج الاكريلي الممزج مع نترات الفضة في محلول اللعاب الاصطناعي وذلك بأستعمال جهاز مقياس الطيف للامتصاص الذري . كما انه لم يتم ملاحظته وقياسه بذات الجهاز بعد الغمر بالماء الفاقد للتأين . وجد بأن لنترات الفضة الممزوجه مع ال مثيل ميثاكريليت تأثير مضاد للبكتريا وهذا يساعد في السيطرة على الاصابات الجرثوميه التي تصاب بها الاسنان والانسجه الرخوه الفمويه للمرضى مستخدمى طقم الاسنان إظافه لقاعده طقم الاسنان.

تأثير إضافة نترات الفضة على الفعالية البكتيرية في مادة قاعدة طقم الراتنج الأكريليك الحراري وعلى بعض خواصه الميكانيكية

رسالة مقدمة إلى
مجلس كلية طب الأسنان-جامعة بغداد
كجزء من متطلبات ترقية الماجستير
في صناعة الأسنان

من قبل
عُلا خليفه أحمد الحسيني
بكالوريوس طب وجراحة الفم والأسنان

بإشراف
الأستاذ الدكتور نبيل عبد الفتاح
بروفيسور