Evaluation of the Effect of Melatonin on Periodontal Tissues in Rats with Periodontitis Induced Experimentally

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Authors’ contributions
This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To analyze the effects of melatonin administration on the periodontal tissues of rats, linked or not with ligature-induced periodontal disease.

Materials and Methods: 40 male Wistar rats aged eight weeks, divided into Control Group (GCON), Ligature Group (GLIG), Melatonin Group (GMEL) and Ligature and Melatonin Group (GLIGMEL). GLIG and GLIGMEL were induced to experimental periodontitis by placing a ligature on the lower molars for 30 days. During the experiment, after 16 days with the ligature, melatonin was administered orally for 10 mg/kg for 14 days in GMEL and GLIGMEL. In the end, euthanasia was performed and the hemimandibles were collected for the respective histological and radiographic analyzes; for the results, Shapiro-Wilk, ANOVA-One-Way and Tukey's multiple comparison tests were used.

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Results: A significantly lower alveolar bone loss (p<0.05) was demonstrated in the animals that received the administration of melatonin, in which it had a prophylactic function against the effects of the disease, evidenced in radiographic, histomorphometric and histological analyzes in the bone cell count.

Conclusion: Results show that the therapy with administration of melatonin promotes a protective effect on the alveolar bone tissue of rats with induced experimental periodontitis.

Keywords: Melatonin; periodontitis; bone; alveolar.

1. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between oral health and general health has been grounded in the literature for a long time, especially highlighting the possibility that oral infection may expose individuals to other systemic diseases [1].

Periodontal disease is an inflammatory disease that affects adjacent structures of the oral cavity, which is the dental support tissue, in which the immune response is deregulated, generating oxidative stress and, subsequently, tissue destruction [2]. According to Lundmark et al. [3], there is a loss of connective tissue fixation, destruction of the alveolar bone, and loss of the tooth.

This oral pathology has been classically described as progressive, going through several phases, that is, the initial and advanced phases [4], expressing itself as an inflammatory process with the presence of edema, redness, and bleeding gums. Duplat et al. [1] demonstrated a varied number of cytokines produced in response to systemic exposure of lipopolysaccharides from Gram-negative bacteria. The central cytokines involved in this pro-inflammatory response are tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α) and interleukins 1, 6, and 8 (IL-1; IL-6; IL-8). According to Montero et al. [5], the use of topical melatonin was associated with a significant improvement in the gingival index and the depth of the pocket, in addition to the concentrations of interleukin-1β, IL-6, and prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) in the crevicular gingival fluid.

Melatonin, known as N-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine, is an indolaminergic hormone naturally produced and secreted by the pineal gland; it is synthesized from tryptophan and derived from serotonin after two enzymatic transformations, in addition to the new pineal synthesis that occurs in the retina, skin, gastrointestinal tract, stem cells and lymphocytes. The circadian production of this by the pineal gland explains its chronobiological influence on the activity of the organism, including the endocrine and non-endocrine rhythms [6].

The administration of melatonin can inhibit the activation of brain defense cells (microglia) and decrease the production of substances that activate inflammation (cytokines) in neuroinflammatory models in rats [7]. Thus, it can present applications in Dentistry, as, for example, in periodontal disease, due to its antioxidant activities, stimulating the proliferation of fibroblasts, anti-inflammation, and bone remodeling [6].

According to Cutando et al. [8], patients with periodontal disease showed changes in cytokine levels, in which TNF-α, IL-6, and CRP are significantly higher than healthy individuals, thus confirming that melatonin can modulate the inflammatory action of these molecules. In addition to its potent antioxidant activity, melatonin has anti-inflammatory properties, preventing excessive expression of pro-inflammatory mediators and inhibiting the effects of various pro-inflammatory cytokines. The anti-inflammatory activity can protect the oral cavity against free radicals produced by inflammatory diseases, such as periodontitis [5].

This study aimed to evaluate the effect of melatonin administration on the periodontal tissues of rats submitted or not to ligature-induced periodontal disease.

2. METHODOLOGY

In total, 40 adult male Wistar rats, eight weeks old, were used, whose body weight varied on
average from 250 to 400 g, from the Central Vivarium of the Center for Biological and Health Sciences (CCBS) of the Western Paraná State University (UNIOESTE). They were kept in a sectoral vivarium of the Physiology and Endocrinology Laboratory of UNIOESTE (LAFEM), under controlled conditions of temperature (23 ± 2ºC) and light (12-hour light-dark cycle). All animals were separated in individual boxes in groups of 3-5 per box (41 cm long X 34 cm wide X 17 cm high) and fed a standard diet (commercial feed) and water at will for the entire experimental period.

The project was approved by the Ethics Committee on the Use of Animals (CEUA) of UNIOESTE (APPENDIX A), following the Ethical Principles in Animal Experimentation, adopted by the National Council for the Control of Animal Experimentation (CONCEA).

2.1 Experimental Groups

The entire sample calculation of the study was based on the ANOVA test to calculate the size of samples, with a power of 90% and a significance level of 5%, as well as in previous studies by groups of researchers [9-11]. This explanation is necessary to demonstrate the number of animals used for the experiment. The number of animals per group was based on this sample calculation and the other studies [9-11].

The animals were randomly divided into four groups of 10 animals each, totaling 40 male Wistar rats of 8 weeks of age for the experiment.

1. Control Group (GCON): No disease and no treatment;
2. Ligature Group (GLIG): In which periodontal disease by ligature was induced;
3. Melatonin Group (GMEL): Rats treated with oral melatonin;

2.2 Protocol of Periodontal Disease Induction

The animals in the LIG and LIG-MEL groups were anesthetized with 0.08mL/100g Ketamine Chloridate (Dopalen, Sespo Indústria e Comércio, Paulínia-SP) and 0.04mL/100g Xylazine Hydrochloride (Anasedan, Sespo Indústria e Comércio, Paulínia-SP) via intraperitoneal, and positioned on an appropriate operating table, which allowed the maintenance of the mouth opening, facilitating access to the teeth of the posterior region of the mandible. With the aid of a modified clamp and an explorer probe, a size 40 cotton thread was placed around the lower right and left first molars. This ligature acted as a gingival irritant for 30 days, favoring the accumulation of bacterial plaque and, consequently, the development of PD [12].

2.3 Melatonin Administration

The animals in the groups MEL and LIGMEL received a dose of 10 mg/kg of body weight of melatonin orally after 16 days from the beginning of the experiment with a 1mL dosing plastic syringe; the melatonin was administered for 14 days, in the evening, for maintenance of melatonin production [13]. In Brazil, the melatonin is approved by the competent organs of the Brazilian government as a supplement, so this melatonin was obtained in a manipulated manner Active Pharmaceutical Industry/Paraná/Brazil. Lot:ML/80301, so that it could be administered at a dose of 10mg / Kg of body weight.

2.4 Euthanasia of Animals

On the last day of the experiment (30th), all animals were weighed and then euthanized. Subsequently, the right and left hemi-mandibles were collected for histological and histomorphometric analysis, in addition to radiographic analysis, respectively. This is a method followed by the group of researchers responsible for the experiment, as performed in other animal experiments [9-11].

2.5 Histological Processing

After the euthanasia of the animals, the right hemi-mandibles were collected, dissected, and fixed in a 10% formaldehyde solution for 48 hours. After this period, they were washed in running water for 24 hours and immersed in a 5% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) solution, prepared in the proportion of 100mL of distilled water to 5 grams of acid. The pieces were kept in the descaling solution for approximately twenty days and evaluated daily in order to verify the expected degree of descaling, with the TCA solution being renewed every five days.

After this time, the pieces were rewashed under running water for 12 hours, and the routine
histological processing was done for inclusion in paraffin, being dehydrated in series of alcoholic crescents and diaphanized in N-Butyl alcohol (Purified Paraffin, code 1228, lot 1008459, Vetec Química Fina, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). The blocks were cut in a manual microtome (Olympus, CUT 4055 - Charleston, South Carolina, USA), and 7 µm thick cuts were obtained, which were mounted on histological slides per group and stained using the Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) technique [14].

2.6 Histological Analyses

Microscopic analysis was performed by a single examiner through the evaluation of stained histological sections. The slides were analyzed with the aid of a light microscope (Leica Microsystems, Switzerland). They were photomicrographed with an Olympus® DP71 microscope (USA), commonly transmitted for morphological observations of the gingival tissue, alveolar process, and osteocyte, osteoblast, and osteoclast count of the animals' hemi-mandibles.

2.7 Gingival Morphometry

Morphometric measurements were made on the marginal, buccal and right lingual gingiva in all groups, using an image analyzer program (Image Tool 3.0), coupled to a light microscope with a 10x objective, at intervals of 10 cuts between one count and another in the severity of the cuts (approximately 50 µm) [10].

The measurements were made from pre-determined morphological points in the marginal gingiva, as shown in Fig. 1. The results were expressed in µm. Besides, the total area of the gingiva and connective tissue was checked.

2.8 Bone Morphometry

The quantification of osteoblasts, osteocytes, and osteoclasts present in five consecutive fields of the vestibular alveolar bone crest (ABC) starting from the highest point of the crest was performed. For observation, a 400x magnification was used. Two observations were made per field and then the average of the values for each animal and group was obtained [10].

The measurement of the ABC was performed using a microscope coupled to a computer, which allowed capturing the images, using the LazEz® software. A measure of the shortest distance between the apex of the buccal ABC and the cementoenamel junction was measured using a 40x magnification, with Image Tools 3.0 software (University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX, USA). The measurements (in pixels) were repeated once a day on three different days to obtain an average between the values [10].
2.9 Radiographic Analysis

Soon after euthanasia, the left hemi-mandible of each animal was removed and placed in buffered formaldehyde (pH 7.2) for 48 hours. The hemi-mandibles were placed with the lingual face on the Kodak RVG 6100 digital radiographic sensor with 20 pl/mm image resolution, theoretical sensor resolution of 27.03 pl/mm, optical fiber 1, 22 x 30 active surface dimensions mm, and matrix dimensions (pixels) 1200 x 1600 (1.92 million). Such positioning occurred so that the buccal and lingual cusps of the first molars were in the same vertical plane. A GE-1000 X-ray machine set to 15mA, 65Vp, 18 pulses, 50 cm focus/film distance with an X-ray incidence perpendicular to the pieces was used. The digitized images were analyzed with Image Tools 3.0 (University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX, USA). Linear measurements were made from the cementoenamel junction to the ABC on the mesial side of the first lower left molar; these measurements were repeated once a day on three different days. An average value was carried out between the values and measurements were made in pixels [12].

2.10 Statistical Analysis

For statistical analysis, all numerical values were expressed as mean ± standard deviation. At first, using the Bioestat 5.3 program (Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development, Amazonas, Brazil), the Shapiro-Wilk test was performed to assess the normal distribution of data. Subsequently, parametric ANOVA - One-Way tests were performed, followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test to assess the observed differences considered significant when p <0.05 (5%). The data were presented in the form of tables and graphs.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Histological Analysis of the Right Hemi-Mandible

3.1.1 Control group

In this group, the evaluation of the parameters was within the normal range for the tissues of the oral, junctional, sulcular epithelium and connective tissue, without the presence of an inflammatory process. The alveolar bone was intact, compact and regular, with the bony crest showing height in the portion of the cervical third of the root. The presence of osteoclasts, osteocytes, and osteoblasts was observed, incremental lines in the pattern of normal bone remodeling. Still, the cementoenamel junction, cementum, and periodontal ligament were observed, without particularities (Figs. 2-A and 3-A).

3.1.2 Ligature group

In the group in which periodontal disease was induced by ligature, abnormalities were observed in the morphology of the oral, junctional, and sulcular epithelia, with migration to the apical region and connective tissue with a predominance of an acute inflammatory state. As for bone cells, there was a higher concentration of osteoclasts when compared to the other groups (Figs. 2-B and 3-B).

3.1.3 Melatonin group

In the group in which only melatonin was administered, the oral, junctional, and sulcular epithelial tissue was healthy, and of the connective tissue, as well as in the control group, without the presence of phlogistic signs. The alveolar bone remained intact, and the presence of bone cells was observed, both osteoclasts and osteocytes, as well as osteoblasts (Figs. 2-C and 3-C).

3.1.4 Ligature-melatonin group

In this group, a bone retraction pattern was observed; however, the combination with melatonin treatment had less marked bone resorption, and, related to bone cells, it presented a lower concentration of osteoclasts and a higher concentration of osteoblasts/osteocytes, suggesting the prophylactic effect of melatonin on bone tissue. The oral junctional, sulcular, and connective tissues maintained the different morphological patterns of GCON, GMEL, and GLIGMEL (Figs. 2-D and 3-D), with collagen inhibition and destruction in the connective tissue spaces.

3.2 Histomorphometric Measurement of Gingival Tissue

The observed results demonstrated in all gingival morphometry measurements that there is no statistically significant difference between the groups where the induction of experimental periodontitis did not occur (p<0.05). Concerning the groups that had experimental periodontitis induced, all presented measures significantly increased (p<0.05) to the other groups (Table 1).
Also, the groups that had periodontitis experimentally induced, both in the area of the epithelium and in the area of the connective tissue, had significant measures (p <0.05) when compared with the other groups (Table 2).

### 3.3 Radiographic and Histomorphometric Analysis of the Alveolar Bone

As shown in Table 3, GLIG had significantly fewer osteocytes and osteoblasts, as well as significantly higher osteoclastic activity compared to the other groups (p<0.05). GLIGMEL, however, showed less osteoclastic activity and a significantly higher number of osteocytes and osteoblasts, when compared to groups GCON and GMEL (p <0.05).

The radiographic and histomorphometric analysis of the alveolar bone of the lower first molars (Tables 4 and 5) demonstrated a greater significant alveolar bone loss (p<0.05) in the groups in which periodontitis was induced by ligature, thus demonstrating the action of periodontitis induced on bone tissue. It is also noteworthy that in the GLIG group, alveolar bone loss was more statistically significant than in the GLIGMEL group. Thus, the group that received treatment with melatonin had less bone loss than the group without treatment.

![Fig. 2. Photomicrographs of the alveolar bone crest of Wistar rats. A: GCON; B: GLIG; C: MEL; D: GLIGMEL. Bone matrix (BM), osteocytes (Ot), osteoblasts (Ob), osteoclasts (Oc), erythrocytes (hollow arrow) inside the blood vessel (VS), periodontal ligament area (Pd), incremental lines (IL). Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) staining, sagittal section](image-url)
Fig. 3. Photomicrographs of the teeth of Wistar rats. A: GCON; B: GLIG; C: MEL; D: GLIGMEL. Alveolar Bone Crest (ABC); Junctional epithelium (JE); Sulcular epithelium (SE). Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) staining, 4x, sagittal section.

Table 1. Histomorphometric analysis of the gingiva of the right hemimandible of animals of all groups. The values represent mean ± standard deviation and are expressed in pixels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gingival crest epithelium height (C)</th>
<th>Epithelial width/buccal base (E)</th>
<th>Connective tissue height (H)</th>
<th>Connective tissue width/base (L)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>535.88 ± 57.45 A</td>
<td>295.25 ± 47.36 A</td>
<td>430.49 ± 49.35 A</td>
<td>119.49 ± 36.73 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature</td>
<td>639.42 ± 35.05 B</td>
<td>490.75 ± 77.82 B</td>
<td>538.26 ± 28.56 B</td>
<td>247.50 ± 24.40 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melatonin</td>
<td>517.64 ± 64.36 A</td>
<td>313.29 ± 74.85 A</td>
<td>411.23 ± 55.16 A</td>
<td>145.40 ± 29.55 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature + Melatonin</td>
<td>594.66 ± 48.77 C</td>
<td>403.81 ± 68.37 C</td>
<td>503.48 ± 39.76 C</td>
<td>193.20 ± 58.43 C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The letters correspond to the comparisons within the same parameter. Different letters, statistically different groups with p <0.05, after the ANOVA test and Tukey’s test

Table 2. Histomorphometric analysis of the gingiva of the right hemimandible of animals of all groups, the values represent mean ± standard deviation and are expressed in pixels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Epithelium area</th>
<th>Connective tissue area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>57067.5 ± 15043.7 A</td>
<td>27372.6 ± 7343.27 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature</td>
<td>103427 ± 26224.8 B</td>
<td>66648.7 ± 9380.57 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melatonin</td>
<td>59407.8 ± 14117.6 A</td>
<td>30951.1 ± 10359.5 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature + Melatonin</td>
<td>80353.1 ± 19639.0 C</td>
<td>50769.2 ± 11471.1 C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The letters correspond to the comparisons within the same parameter. Different letters, statistically different groups with p <0.05, after the ANOVA test and Tukey’s test
Table 3. Morphometric analysis of the right hemi-mandible of rats from the experimental groups to quantify osteocytes, osteoblasts and osteoclasts. The values represent mean ± standard deviation and are expressed in units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Osteoblast</th>
<th>Osteocyte</th>
<th>Osteoclast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCON</td>
<td>20.97 ± 2.75 A</td>
<td>101.87 ± 17.26A</td>
<td>0.10 ± 0.08A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLIG</td>
<td>13.3 ± 1.79 B</td>
<td>71.86 ± 5.86 B</td>
<td>0.64 ± 0.37B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMEL</td>
<td>21.6 ± 0.78 A</td>
<td>94.12 ± 8.21A</td>
<td>0.15 ± 0.05A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLIGMEL</td>
<td>16.15 ± 2.95 C</td>
<td>83.1 ± 4.49 C</td>
<td>0.30 ± 0.18C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Different letters on the same line indicate statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) between groups, within the same parameter, after the ANOVA test and Tukey’s test.

Table 4. Radiographic analysis of the distance from the cementoenamel junction to the alveolar bone crest on the mesial side of the left first molar of rats of all groups. The values represent the mean ± standard deviation and are expressed in pixels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean ± standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>63.70 ± 17.40 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature</td>
<td>102.43 ± 11.19 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melatonin</td>
<td>59.10 ± 16.80 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature +Melatonin</td>
<td>87.38 ± 18.27 C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Different letters indicate statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) between the groups after the ANOVA test and Tukey’s test.

Table 5. Histomorphometric analysis of the distance from the cementoenamel junction to the alveolar bone crest on the mesial side of the left first molar of rats of all groups. The values represent the mean ± standard deviation and are expressed in pixels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean ± standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>865.96 ± 251.78 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature</td>
<td>1413.36 ± 230.05 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melatonin</td>
<td>825.85 ± 322.97 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature +Melatonin</td>
<td>1142.03 ± 271.71 C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Different letters indicate statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) between the groups after the ANOVA test and Tukey’s test.

4. DISCUSSION

PD is characterized as an inflammation in the oral cavity that is directly influenced by the action of inflammatory cytokines, especially TNF-α, IL-1, IL-6, among others; besides, these cytokines have a direct effect on bone loss [1]. Studies with periodontal therapy in humans turn out to be very limited due to ethical issues and the risks involved in the experiment, so the use of experimental animal models [10,12,15].

The literature establishes an increase in inflammatory mediators in PD, such as TNF-α [15-17], which accentuate the inflammatory process causing damage to the tissues of the periodontium. Still, it is worth noting that, in the histological parameters analyzed (Figs. 2 and 3), animals with PD presented marked alveolar bone resorption, as well as other changes in other periodontal tissues, thus highlighting the effectiveness of the experimental model, as well as the consequences of the development of periodontitis. Several studies demonstrate that groups with PD have more significant alveolar bone resorption [16,18-20].

Thus, in an inflammatory process, the high concentrations of TNF-α associated with the increase of 46 reactive oxygen species are the main factors that accentuate this inflammatory process leading to the destruction of bone tissues [21].

The use of melatonin, with therapeutic action in this study, was related to its various uses within experimental therapy [22,23]. According to the literature, the most commonly used routes for administration of melatonin in laboratory animals are intraperitoneally, orally, and through gavage [15,24].

In the last decade, several studies associated with drugs for the prevention and treatments of
periodontitis have appeared, with several types of research in progress [15,25]. Therefore, this study sought to collaborate to understand the use of melatonin and its influence on periodontal tissues.

Similar to the radiographic analysis (Table 4), histomorphometric analysis of bone tissue (Tables 3 and 5) showed less alveolar bone loss (p<0.05) in GLIGMEL compared to GLIG, but with significantly higher bone destruction when compared the other groups (p<0.05). These results collaborate with the study by Marani (2018), in which the animals that were submitted to melatonin therapy presented protection against bone resorption, thus favoring the alveolar bone formation.

In general, there is evidence that melatonin can benefit bone tissue. In a study by Arabaci et al. [18], who investigated the effects of systemic administration of melatonin (10 mg/kg, intraperitoneally for 15 days) on alveolar bone resorption in an experimental periodontitis model in rats, it was demonstrated that there was less osteoclastic activity in the treated group, characterized by the reduction of RANKL.

In a model of femur fracture in mice, Histint et al. [26] highlighted that this hormone helps in the formation of calluses and the bone remodeling process, and the expression of RANKL and OPG during the healing of the fracture. Corroborating the results, Muñoz et al. [27] highlighted that the topical use of melatonin associated with growth hormone accelerated bone healing around implants in a study carried out with dental implants in dogs. Cutando et al. highlighted a significant increase in bone density and formation, postulating that melatonin increases osseointegration in dental implants in dogs.

Evidence indicates that melatonin also influences by inhibiting osteoclast differentiation; this occurs by suppressing the expression of the activating ligand of the NFκB receptor (RANKL), which, through its stimulating actions in the differentiation of osteoblasts, activates melatonin 2 (MT2) receptors in osteoblasts. Such activation increases the activity of MAPKs and beta-catenin signaling pathways, which stimulates osteoblastogenesis by increasing the gene expression of runt-related transcription factor 2 (Runx2), which induces osteogenic expression including osterix, bone morphogenetic proteins-2 (Bmp-2) [25].

The literature shows that salivary and gingival melatonin levels decrease in individuals with periodontitis compared to clinically healthy subjects, indicating that melatonin may play a protective role against PD [25]. The decrease in the levels of salivary melatonin in periodontal diseases can occur in response to increased oxidative stress and bacterial attack, depleting it in the oral cavity [28] and reinforcing its antioxidant and free radical scavenger action. Therefore, melatonin favors bone formation, promoting osteoblastic differentiation, and acting as scavengers of free radicals with antioxidant properties [25].

Studies show the benefits of treatment with melatonin in controlling an inflammatory process due to the attenuation of TNF-α production [25,29, 30]. This effect of the hormone on TNF-α levels involves some mechanisms pointed out in the literature, among them, it is highlighted that melatonin has anti-inflammatory effects through the inhibition of the bearing and the adhesion of neutrophils [29].

Therefore, melatonin attenuates the production of inflammatory mediators such as TNF-α by mitigating the initial stage of an inflammatory process [25]. Studies point out its actions in inflammatory processes, such as PD, which contribute to the increase in the levels of local and systemic inflammatory mediators, including TNF-α and IL-6 [14,16,17].

5. CONCLUSION

Thus, the results here presented indicate that the therapy with administration of melatonin promotes a protective effect on the alveolar bone tissue of rats with experimental periodontitis induced.

6. LIMITATIONS

Thus, it can be concluded, even with the limitations of the study, such as time of administration and lack of serum melatonin dosage, that therapy with administration of melatonin promotes a protective effect on the alveolar bone tissue of rats with experimentally induced periodontitis.

CONSENT

It is not applicable.
ETHICAL APPROVAL

As authors, we declare that all experiences have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate ethics committee and, therefore, have been carried out by the ethical standards set out in the 1964 Helsinki Declaration.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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APPENDIX A

Autorização

O protocolo intitulado “Avaliação do efeito da melatonina sobre os tecidos periodontais e encéfalo de ratos adultos submetidos à periodontite experimental”, sob a responsabilidade de Carlos Augusto Nassar que envolve a produção, manutenção ou utilização de animais pertencentes ao filo Chordata, subfilo Vertebrata, para fins de pesquisa científica encontra-se Aprovado para execução, está de acordo com as Normas editadas pelo Conselho Nacional de Controle de Experimentação Animal (CONCEA) e foi aprovado pelo Comitê de Ética no Uso de Animais (CEUA) do UNIOESTE em reunião de 17/08/2018.

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Garcia, 23/08/2018

Prof. Dra. Luciana Oliveira de Faria
Coordenadora do CEUA
Portaria n° 3730/2016 - GRE

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