

Emanuela Carla dos Santos  
(Organizadora)

# Comunicação Científica e Técnica em Odontologia



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Emanuela Carla dos Santos

(Organizadora)

# Comunicação Científica e Técnica em Odontologia

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## **APRESENTAÇÃO**

A Odontologia vem ampliando cada vez mais sua área de atuação dentro do campo da saúde. Hoje aliamos o conhecimento teórico de base às novas tecnologias e técnicas desenvolvidas através de pesquisas para elevar a qualidade e atingir excelência na profissão.

Diante da necessidade de atualização frequente e acesso à informação de qualidade, este E-book, composto por dois volumes, traz conteúdo consistente favorecendo a Comunicação Científica e Técnica em Odontologia.

O compilado de artigos aqui apresentados são de alta relevância para a comunidade científica. Foram desenvolvidos por pesquisadores de várias instituições de peso de nosso país e contemplam as mais variadas áreas, como cirurgia, periodontia, estomatologia, odontologia hospitalar, bem como saúde do trabalhador da Odontologia e também da área da tecnologia e plataformas digitais.

Espero que possam extrair destas páginas conhecimento para reforçar a construção de suas carreiras.

Ótima leitura!

**Prof<sup>a</sup>. MSc. Emanuela Carla dos Santos**

## SUMÁRIO

<b>CAPÍTULO 1</b> .....	<b>1</b>
OS CONTEÚDOS DE CIRURGIA E TRAUMATOLOGIA BUCOMAXILOFACIAIS NA FORMAÇÃO DO CIRURGIÃO-DENTISTA GENERALISTA	
Karine Angar	
Adair Luiz Stefanelli Busato	
Alan Carlos Corradine Binotto	
Aurelício Novaes Silva Júnior	
Pedro Antônio Gonzáles Hernandez	
<b>DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901041</b>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 2</b> .....	<b>16</b>
ANSIEDADE EM PACIENTES SUBMETIDOS A EXODONTIA DE TERCEIROS MOLARES: RELAÇÃO ENTRE ANSIEDADE ODONTOLÓGICA E CORTISOL SALIVAR	
Marcus Antonio Brêda Júnior	
Valdemar Mallet da Rocha Barros	
Darklison Pereira Santos	
Fabiola Singaretti de Oliveira	
Ricardo José de Holanda Vasconcellos	
Ricardo Viana Bessa Nogueira	
<b>DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901042</b>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 3</b> .....	<b>30</b>
INFLUÊNCIA DOS DENTIFRÍCIOS NAS PROPRIEDADES FÍSICA E MECÂNICA DE COMPÓSITOS RESINOSOS	
Mayara Zaghi Dal Picolo	
Suelem Chasse Barreto	
Josué Junior Araujo Pierote	
Carlos Tadeu dos Santos Dias	
Luis Alexandre Maffei Sartini Paulillo	
<b>DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901043</b>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 4</b> .....	<b>43</b>
MONITORING OF ABFRACTION LESIONS BY CONFOCAL LASER MICROSCOPY METHOD	
Cristiane Aparecida Nogueira Bataglioni	
Flávia Cassia Cabral Rodrigues	
Shelyn Akari Yamakami	
César Bataglioni	
Juliana Jendiroba Faraoni	
Regina Guenka Palma Dibb	
<b>DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901044</b>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 5</b> .....	<b>52</b>
ANÁLISE DA RUGOSIDADE SUPERFICIAL DO ESMALTE DENTAL BOVINO SUBMETIDO A AGENTES CLAREADORES	
Ana Paula Martins Gomes	
Ana Maria Martins Gomes	
Antônio Augusto Gomes	
Elaine Cristina Vargas Dadalto	
Lilian Citty Sarmiento	
Luciana Faria Sanglard	
Renata De Oliveira Guaré	
<b>DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901045</b>	

**CAPÍTULO 6 ..... 68**

ANÁLISE DAS PLACAS OCLUSAIS E DA QUALIDADE DE VIDA DE PACIENTES TRATADOS COM DIAGNÓSTICO DE DISFUNÇÃO TEMPOROMANDIBULAR

Lea Maria Franceschi Dallanora  
Camila Karen Fillipiaki  
Analu Buzanello  
Fábio José Dallanora  
Mariana Machado T. de M. Costa  
Leonardo Flores Luthi  
Grasieli de Oliveira Ramos  
Acir José Dirschnabel  
Bruna Eliza de Dea

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901046**

**CAPÍTULO 7 ..... 79**

DISFUNÇÃO TEMPOROMANDIBULAR EM POLICIAIS MILITARES

Raísa Rebeqa Silva de Araújo  
Lorena Mendes Temotéo Brandt  
Alessandro Leite Cavalcanti

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901047**

**CAPÍTULO 8 ..... 86**

RAPID PROTOCOL OF LLLT IN PATIENTS WITH MIOFASCIAL PAIN AND MOUTH OPENING LIMITATION: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Vitória de Oliveira Chami  
Anna Carolina Teixeira Centeno  
Gisele Jung Franciscatto  
Débora do Canto Assaf  
Tatiana Bernardon Silva  
Vilmar Antônio Ferrazzo  
Mariana Marquezan

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901048**

**CAPÍTULO 9 ..... 92**

AVALIAÇÃO DA PADRONIZAÇÃO DO CALIBRE APICAL DE CONES DE GUTA-PERCHA E O EFEITO DA PERDA DE PESO DESTES CONES APÓS A DESINFECÇÃO POR DIFERENTES LÍQUIDOS

Cássia Bocchino Seleme  
Ana Flávia Pereira Heck  
Elisa Karina Donda  
Maria Isabel Anastacio Faria de França  
Alexandre Roberto Heck  
Egas Moniz de Aragão  
Alessandra Timponi Goes Cruz  
Guilherme Jun Cucatti Murakami

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.2961901049**

**CAPÍTULO 10 ..... 108**

AVALIAÇÃO IN VITRO DA PRODUÇÃO E EXTRUSÃO DE DEBRIS COM INSTRUMENTOS RECIPROCANTES

Karina Domingues Holzmann  
Tainara Caroline Cogo de Oliveira  
Júlio Cezar Chidoski-Filho  
Fábio André dos Santos  
Aline Cristine Gomes Matta  
Fabrício Rutz da Silva

**CAPÍTULO 11 ..... 122**

DETECÇÃO DO 4º CANAL EM PRIMEIROS MOLARES SUPERIORES UTILIZANDO QUATRO MÉTODOS CLÍNICOS DIFERENTES

Layse Ribeiro Schuster  
Simone Helena Ferreira Gonçalves  
Ana Paula Martins Gomes  
Gabriela Marcelle Almeida Santos  
Carlos Xavier Muniz  
Juliana Boa Sorte de Oliveira

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010411**

**CAPÍTULO 12 ..... 131**

IMPACTO DE DIFERENTES INSTRUMENTOS ROTATÓRIOS NA DISTRIBUIÇÃO DE ESTRESSE DURANTE O TRATAMENTO DE CANAIS RADICULARES

Júlia Adornes Gallas  
Shelyn Akari Yamakami  
Igor Bassi Ferreira Petean  
Ana Paula Macedo  
Aline Evangelista Souza-Gabriel  
Manoel Damião de Sousa Neto  
Regina Guenka Palma-Dibb

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010412**

**CAPÍTULO 13 ..... 144**

MEDIDA DA ACIDEZ E ALCALINIDADE DE PASTAS ENDODÔNTICAS ASSOCIADAS À ALOE VERA

Jorge Pereira Júnior  
Nayane Chagas Carvalho Alves  
Juliana Cordeiro Cardoso  
Diana Santana de Albuquerque  
Maria Amália Gonzaga Ribeiro

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010413**

**CAPÍTULO 14 ..... 155**

ANÁLISE DAS CONDIÇÕES BUCAIS, PARÂMETROS SALIVARES, DIETA E HIGIENE ORAL QUANTO AO RISCO DE CÁRIE E EROÇÃO DENTAL EM PACIENTES OBESOS INDICADOS PARA CIRURGIA BARIÁTRICA

Laís Renata Almeida Cezário Santos  
Laís Brandão Nobre  
Ana Clara de Almeida Silva  
Barbara Maria Cavalcante Lôbo  
Geisa Gabriella Rodrigues de Oliveira  
Evanisa Helena Maio de Brum  
Kristiana Cerqueira Mousinho  
Sylvia Amélia Vasconcelos de Albuquerque  
Natanael Barbosa dos Santos

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010414**

**CAPÍTULO 15 ..... 172**

ODONTOGERIATRIA: SAÚDE BUCAL DE IDOSOS RESIDENTES EM INSTITUIÇÕES FILANTRÓPICAS DE LONGA PERMANÊNCIA

Larissa Raimundi

Ligia Dalastra  
Alice Ribeiro Danielli  
Emanuela Carla dos Santos  
Daniela Faglioni Boleta Ceranto  
Eliana C Fosquiera

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010415**

**CAPÍTULO 16 ..... 184**

CÁRIE DE RADIAÇÃO – EFEITOS DA RADIOTERAPIA DE CABEÇA-E-PESCOÇO NA DENTINA RADICULAR: IMPLICAÇÕES CLÍNICAS E TERAPÊUTICAS

Marília Mattar de Amoêdo Campos Velo  
Marina Ciccone Giacomini  
Letícia Ferreira de Freitas Brianezzi  
Giovanna Speranza Zabeu  
Rafael Simões Gonçalves  
Cassia Maria Fischer Rubira  
Paulo Sérgio da Silva Santos  
Linda Wang

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010416**

**CAPÍTULO 17 ..... 199**

EFEITOS DO ALENDRONATO DE SÓDIO NO REPARO ÓSSEO

Fernanda Tiboni  
Suyany Gabrielly Weiss  
Jennifer Tsi Gerber  
Allan Fernando Giovanini  
Rafaela Scariot

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010417**

**CAPÍTULO 18 ..... 209**

INFLUÊNCIA DA HIPOSSALIVAÇÃO NO PH BUCAL E NA PRESENÇA DE NITRITO NA SALIVA

Amanda Rafaela da Silva Amorim  
Mayara Ricardo Moraes  
Mariana de Lyra Vasconcelos  
Herculano Ramirez Floro Alonso  
Kelly de Moura Ferreira  
Lilianny Querino Rocha de Oliveira  
José de Amorim Lisboa Neto  
Camila Maria Beder Ribeiro Girish Panjwani

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010418**

**CAPÍTULO 19 ..... 217**

RELAÇÃO ENTRE PH SALIVAR E PRESENÇA DE NITRITO NA CAVIDADE BUCAL ATRAVÉS DA ANÁLISE BIOQUÍMICA DA SALIVA

Amanda Rafaela da Silva Amorim  
Mayara Ricardo Moraes  
Mariana de Lyra Vasconcelos  
Herculano Ramirez Floro Alonso  
Kelly de Moura Ferreira  
José de Amorim Lisboa Neto  
Camila Maria Beder Ribeiro Girish Panjwani

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010419**



**CAPÍTULO 20 ..... 227**

ANÁLISE BIOQUÍMICA DA SALIVA PARA DETECÇÃO DA PRESENÇA DE NITRITOS

Amanda Rafaela da Silva Amorim  
Mayara Ricardo Moraes  
Mariana de Lyra Vasconcelos  
Herculano Ramirez Floro Alonso  
Kelly de Moura Ferreira  
José de Amorim Lisboa Neto  
Camila Maria Beder Ribeiro Girish Panjwani

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010420**

**CAPÍTULO 21 ..... 235**

ESTUDO COMPARATIVO DA ESTRUTURA DO FÍGADO ENTRE RATAS JOVENS, ADULTAS E IDOSAS

Andréia Affonso Barretto Montandon  
Eleny Zanella Balducci  
José Paulo de Pizzol Júnior  
Cleverton Roberto Andrade

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010421**

**CAPÍTULO 22 ..... 250**

APLICAÇÃO LOCAL DO LÁTEX DA **HANCORNIA SPECIOSA** GOMES A 2.5% NÃO FAVORECE A NEOFORMAÇÃO E NEM A MINERALIZAÇÃO ÓSSEA EM RATOS

Francielly Andressa Felipetti  
Juliana dos Santos Neves  
Ingrid Grazielle Sousa  
Pedro Duarte Novaes

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010422**

**CAPÍTULO 23 ..... 260**

“AVALIAÇÃO DE CIRURGIA GUIADA DE IMPLANTE INTEGRANDO TOMOGRAFIA COMPUTADORIZADA E ESCANEAMENTO ÓTICO PARA FABRICAÇÃO DE GUIA CIRÚRGICO”

Eduardo Mendes de Paula  
Vinícius Fabris  
Fernando Esgaib kayatt  
Flávio Domingues das Neves  
Milena Bortolotto Felipe Silva  
Ricardo Raitz

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010423**

**CAPÍTULO 24 ..... 269**

CORROSION RESISTANCE AND ANTI-BIOFILM EFFECT OF ROCK ROSE REMEDY: A POTENTIAL PREVENTIVE MEASURE IN IMPLANT THERAPY

Ana Beatriz Sliachticas Monteiro

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010424**

**CAPÍTULO 25 ..... 283**

IMPLANTES DENTÁRIOS IMEDIATOS INSTALADOS EM ALVÉOLOS INFECTADOS: REVISÃO SISTEMÁTICA DE REVISÕES SISTEMÁTICAS

Olavo Barbosa de Oliveira Neto  
Fabiano Timbó Barbosa  
Célio Fernando de Sousa Rodrigues  
Fernando José Camello de Lima

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010425**

**CAPÍTULO 26 ..... 296**

AVALIAÇÃO MULTIPROFISSIONAL DO FREIO LINGUAL E DA MAMADA DA DÍADE MÃE-BEBÊ  
RELATO DE EXPERIÊNCIA

Danielly Cunha Araújo Ferreira  
Marília Neves Santos  
Laíza Fernandes Martins  
Marcela Magna Gomes Araújo Godoy  
Camila Raíssa Oliveira Gontijo  
Alessandra Maia de Castro

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010426**

**CAPÍTULO 27 ..... 311**

DEFEITOS DE DESENVOLVIMENTO DO ESMALTE NA DENTIÇÃO DECÍDUA: AMELOGÊNESE,  
CARACTERÍSTICAS CLÍNICAS, FATORES ETIOLÓGICOS E PERINATAIS

Elisa Miranda Costa  
Ana Carolina Mendes Pinheiro  
Judith Rafaelle Oliveira Pinho  
Cecília Cláudia Costa Ribeiro  
Erika Bárbara Abreu Fonseca Thomaz

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010427**

**CAPÍTULO 28 ..... 325**

EFFECT OF ND:YAG LASER AND FLUORIDE TREATMENT ON THE PERMEABILITY OF  
PRIMARY TOOTH ENAMEL

Juliana Jendiroba Faraoni  
Shelyn Akari Yamakami  
Danielle Torres Azevedo  
Juliana dos Reis Derceli  
Walter Raucci Neto  
Regina Guenka Palma-Dibb

**DOI 10.22533/at.ed.29619010428**

**SOBRE A ORGANIZADORA..... 337**

## CORROSION RESISTANCE AND ANTI-BIOFILM EFFECT OF ROCK ROSE REMEDY: A POTENTIAL PREVENTIVE MEASURE IN IMPLANT THERAPY

**Ana Beatriz Sliachticas Monteiro**

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**ABSTRACT:** Staphylococci is the leading etiologic agent of implant-related infection. In presence of rock rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) floral remedy, we evaluated the corrosion behavior of commercially pure titanium as well as quantified the *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm formation. To analyze the corrosion resistance of pure titanium, electrochemical corrosion tests were performed. We submitted pure titanium samples into a physiological (pH 6.50) or pathogenic (pH 2.50) artificial saliva environment at 37°C. For the in vitro static biofilm assays, a multivirulent *Staphylococcus aureus* strain was used for assessment of biofilm formation over pure titanium disks in the absence/presence of rock rose floral. Triplicates were performed for both corrosion tests and biofilm experiments. P values were determined by two-way analysis of variance for pairwise comparisons (corrosion) and Student's t-test (biofilm assays). Results were considered significant when p-value < 0.05. Rock rose floral treatment reduced *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm formation on titanium surface and promoted a higher titanium corrosion resistance

in artificial saliva at low pH. We have shown that rock rose remedy can prevent bacteria adhesion over the pure titanium in a healthy oral environment (pH 6.50) and did not interfere in the titanium corrosion response.

**KEYWORDS:** *Corrosion; Titanium; Staphylococcus aureus; Peri-Implantitis; Rock Rose; Floral*

### INTRODUCTION

Community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA), has been associated with severe infections and high mortality rates. The pathogenesis of pneumonia [1], endocarditis [2], catheter and skin [3] infection caused by USA300 clone have been extensively researched. On an oral environment, both *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* were able to grow as part of the subgingival biofilm on hydroxyapatite disks and on titanium surfaces. Although *Staphylococcus aureus* is a non-oral bacteria, when integrated to the oral microflora leads to either aggressive periodontitis or peri-implantitis [4,5].

Peri-implantitis is an infectious disease that occurs in the tissue surrounding a dental implant with loss of supporting bone resembling periodontitis on natural teeth [6,7]. Prognosis of

the affected implant will be contingent upon early detection and treatment [8]. Peri-implantitis therapies depend on the amount of bone loss and on the esthetic impact of the implant, comprising a nonsurgical or a surgical phase. The former includes debridement by mechanical means, ultrasonic, or laser devices, either alone or combined with antiseptic and/or antibiotic agents. For the surgical phase regenerative techniques are usual approaches [9]. In this light, implantoplasty, chemical decontamination or debridement could modify the titanium implant surface favoring bacteria biofilm accumulation. Excessive mechanical stress, poor design of the implant and titanium corrosion are also important factors in the onset and development of peri-implantitis. [10-13].

Titanium and its alloys have been widely used either for orthopedic replacements or dental implants [14] because of their low specific mass, good mechanical properties, high corrosion resistance and adequate biocompatibility [15]. The corrosion resistance of titanium is due to the formation of a stable film of titanium oxide on its surface; however, depending on the conditions of the medium where the titanium is exposed, dissolution of this oxide may occur at some points, especially within an acidic environment [16]. Many electrochemical techniques are used to evaluate the stability of this passive film of titanium oxide, such as anodic polarization, impedance spectroscopy, electrochemical noise, etc. These techniques intend to obtain parameters related to the titanium-solution interaction. The presence of aggressive agents may lead to the dissolution of the passive film on the titanium surface. For instance, low pH that occurs during infections along with fluoride ions represent harmful conditions to titanium [17-19].

Titanium corrosion and wear processes of dental implants can release ions or debris into the tissue resulting on a hypersensitivity response reported in susceptible patients [20]. The titanium oxide film over part of the surfaces reduces to a very low intensity the transformation of metal into ions. This oxide film passivates the surface and also strongly reduces the corrosion [21]. The passivation, however, does not mean immunity against corrosion. Indeed, several situations can increase the instability of the passive film, such as pitting, fretting, galvanic effects, and again the low pH [22].

Artificial saliva is a common medium used to simulate the oral environment for corrosion evaluation. The effect of pH as low as 3.0 tends to increase the roughness of pure and Ti-6Al-4V in saliva [23] predisposing to *Staphylococcus aureus* adhesion. In this sense, the use of adjuvant therapies that could avoid biofilm-related infections are welcome, as long as they do not interfere with the titanium oxide film stability. Hence, the search for treatment that could reduce the problems related to implant failure is desirable.

Floral therapies are recognized by the World Health Organization - WHO as an alternative treatment. Furthermore, knowing that the Brazilian experience in medicine and dentistry has shown that these therapies do not produce side effects, as well as being available at low cost to patients [24], we hypothesized that rock rose floral therapy could intervene with bacteria adhesion without jeopardizing the titanium corrosion

properties especially in low pH medium. The performed assays were intended to verify this hypothesis.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **In vitro static biofilm assays**

For in vitro static biofilm assays, the overnight culture of a multivirulent methicillin resistant wild-type strain *Staphylococcus aureus* (USA300) were diluted 1:100 in TSB supplemented with 0.5% glucose (TSB-G). Diluted bacteria were mixed with 20% pooled human plasma and used for assessment of biofilm formation on commercially pure titanium (Ti-CP) samples that were fixed to the bottom of a 12-well polystyrene plate with Lubriseal grease (Thomas Scientific) and sterilized by ultraviolet irradiation. Multi-well plates were incubated at 37°C with shaking at 100 rpm for one hour and then further incubated at 37°C without shaking for 24h. The wells were washed three times with phosphate buffered saline to remove non-adherent cells. Adherent biofilms were fixed with methanol, stained with crystal violet and washed three times with sterile water. Biofilm biomass formed on the pure titanium samples were determined by solubilizing crystal violet with 33% acetic acid as previously described elsewhere [25] and measured at 490-nm light wavelength using microtiter plate reader (Biorad). Pre-treated titanium samples were immersed into 2.0 mL of rock rose floral (*Helianthemum nummularium* from Healing herbs® Bach Flower Essences, Ltd) for 18h before adding *Staphylococcus aureus* culture. All biofilm biomass experiments were performed in triplicates, and at least three separate experiments were performed with similar results.

Unpaired Student's t-test with the Tukey multiple comparison post-hoc test, was used to assess the statistical significance of between-group differences in bacterial count in vitro biofilm biomass.

### **Electron microscopy**

Fixed titanium samples were processed according to standard methods and sputter coated with gold and analyzed using JEOL JCM- 5000 Neoscope scanning electron microscope.

### **Corrosion tests**

The corrosion test apparatus consisted of a standardized three-electrode cell. A silver-silver chloride electrode (Ag/AgCl at 3M potassium chloride) was used as the reference electrode and a platinum foil used as the counter electrode. The working electrode was represented by commercially pure titanium (Ti-CP) samples which were embedded in an autopolymerizing epoxy resin with 1.0 cm<sup>2</sup> of exposed area. Prior to each measurement, the sample surface was abraded using a 600 grade emery

paper under water flow, subsequently washed with double-distilled water, degreased with ethanol and dried with warm air. The temperature of the electrochemical cell was maintained at  $37.0 \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  using a thermostat system. A computer controlled potentiostat (Reference 600 model, Gamry Instruments) was employed to carry on the electrochemical tests.

The artificial saliva solution was used as the electrolyte, respecting the following composition: KCl 960 mg, NaCl 674 mg, MgCl<sub>2</sub> 41

mg, K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> 274 mg, CaCl<sub>2</sub> 117 mg, D-sorbitol 24.0g, carboxymethyl cellulose 8.0g, completed with deionized water to a final volume of

L [26]. The pH was adjusted to 6.50 or 2.50 using sufficient lactic acid at 25°C. The electrolyte was used in the corrosion tests with or without the addition of rock rose floral (*Helianthemum nummularium*) at a concentration of 2.0 mL·L<sup>-1</sup>. The artificial saliva solution was used as the electrolyte, respecting the following composition: KCl 960 mg, NaCl 674 mg, MgCl<sub>2</sub> 41 mg, K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> 274 mg, CaCl<sub>2</sub> 117 mg, D-sorbitol 24.0g, carboxymethyl cellulose 8.0g, completed with deionized water to a final volume of 1.0 L [26]. The pH was adjusted to 6.50 or 2.50 using sufficient lactic acid at 25°C. The electrolyte was used in the corrosion tests with or without the addition of rock rose floral (*Helianthemum nummularium*) at a concentration of 2.0 mL·L<sup>-1</sup>.

The electrochemical corrosion tests on the titanium samples consisted of 1) the open circuit potential measurements during 86,400s, one measurement every 60s 2) the electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements performed at the corrosion potential of 8 mV sine wave perturbation in a frequency range from 20 kHz to 3 mHz with 10 points per frequency decade and 3) the potentiodynamic polarization with an applied potential scan rate of 0.30 mV·s<sup>-1</sup>. Initial potential started 0.25 V below the corrosion potential and the final potential was 2.0 V vs. Ag/AgCl reference. All measurements were repeated at least three times for each condition to obtain representative results.

### Statistical analysis

The presented statistical analysis consists of a factor analysis to verify if the pH and/or the presence of the floral influences the following corrosion parameters: corrosion potential ( $E_{\text{corr}}$ ), corrosion current density ( $J_{\text{corr}}$ ), passivation current ( $J_{\text{pass}}$ ) and polarization resistance ( $R_p$ ). The analysis consists of an ANOVA 2 using two factors (pH and the presence of rock rose floral), with two levels each. The two levels for each factor were:

- Hydrogenionic potential: pH of 2.50 and 6.50;
- Rock rose floral: with and without floral.

For ANOVA 2 factor analysis, the following model describes each observation:

$$y_{ijk} = \mu + \tau_i + \beta_j + (\tau\beta)_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ijk}$$

where  $\mu$  is the medium global effect,  $\tau_i$  is the  $i$ -th effect of the factor A and  $\beta_j$  is the  $j$ -th effect of the factor B, the  $(\tau\beta)_{ij}$  is the  $ij$ -th effect of interaction of the factors A and B.  $\varepsilon_{ijk}$  is a random error centered at zero.

The ANOVA 2 analysis verifies whether the factors: pH and floral presence or the interaction among them are significant for a given statistical level. The significance evaluation can be based in a P-value obtained from F statistics, where a higher P-value than a chosen factor means that the given variable is significant. In this work, this factor was arbitrarily chosen as 0.05.

## Results

In this paper, we essentially performed two types of tests, both important regarding factors in the onset of peri-implantitis. One test is the assessment of *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm formation over pure titanium disks and the other is the electrochemical evaluation of titanium in artificial saliva with and without floral remedy.

### Titanium surface treated with rock rose floral do not form *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm

The in vitro biofilm formed on the titanium surface treated with rock rose floral had only 20% of the biofilm biomass regularly formed by the USA300 strain on pure titanium surfaces, indicating that the floral remedy interfered with the bacteria attachment, as shown in figure 1A.

Scanning electron microscopic observation of the titanium surface revealed the structure of the biofilm established by USA300 strain composed of bacterial microcolonies within a matrix. From biomass assay with floral treated titanium, visual evaluation of representative biofilm images appeared with a total biofilm volume significantly lower, looser and thinner on the surface. Taken together, these results strongly indicate that the rock rose floral remedy severely attenuated *Staphylococcus aureus* attachment on pure titanium surface. The surface attachment reduction is clearly noted in figure 1B.

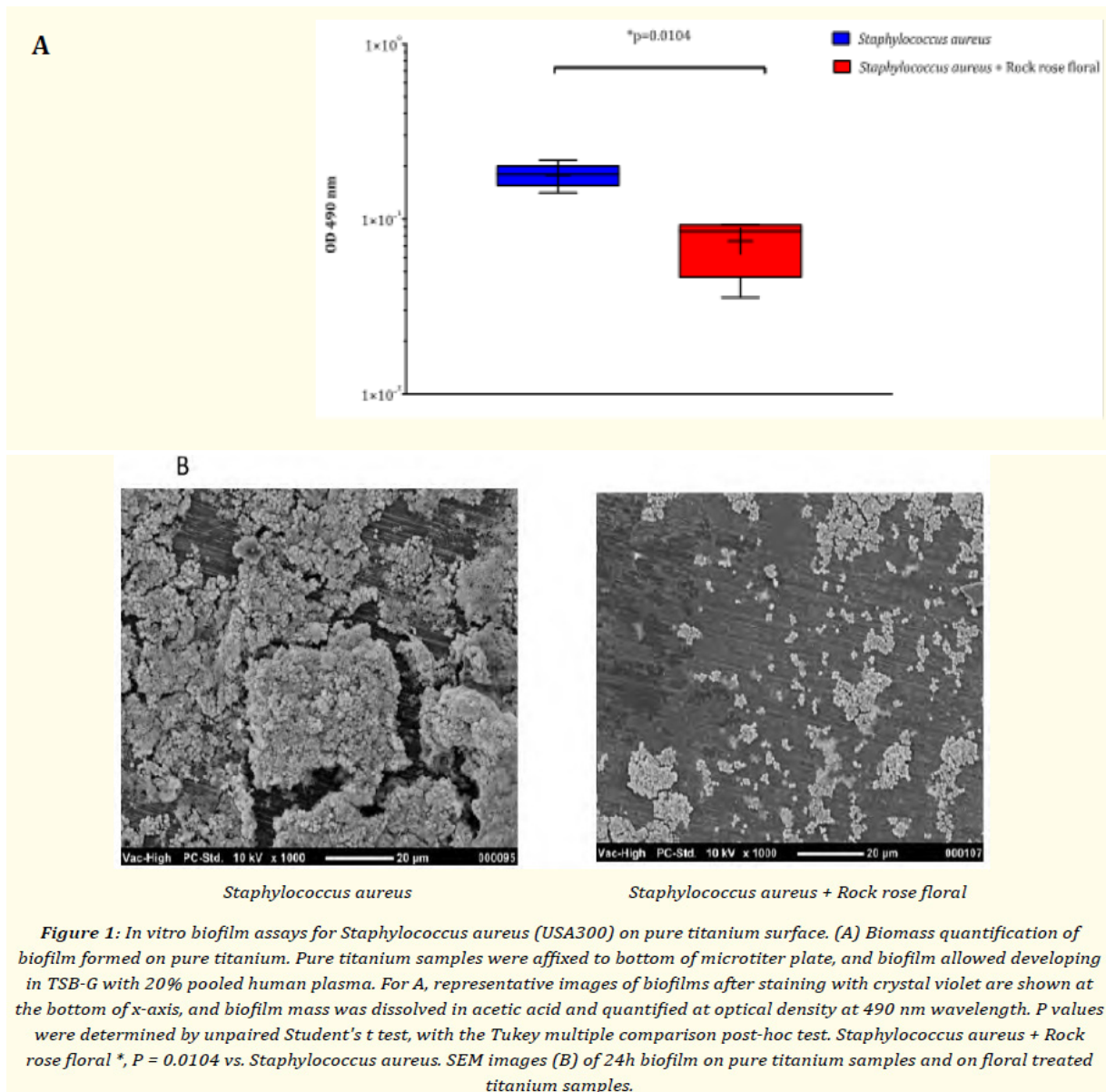


Table Analyzed	Transform of USA300 versus Rock rose on titanium
Column B	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> + Rock rose floral
vs.	vs.
Column A	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (USA300)
Unpaired t test	
P value	0.0001
P value summary	***
Significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ )?	Yes
One- or two-tailed P value?	Two-tailed
t, df	$t=5.7$ $df=11$
How big is the difference?	
Mean $\pm$ SEM of column A	$-0.7544 \pm 0.02145$ , $n = 9$
Mean $\pm$ SEM of column B	$-1.156 \pm 0.09905$ , $n = 4$
Difference between means	$-0.4012 \pm 0.07037$
95% confidence interval	$-0.556$ to $-0.2463$
R squared (eta squared)	0.7471
F test to compare variances	
F, DFn, Dfd	9.48, 3, 8
P value	0.0104
P value summary	*
Significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ )?	Yes

Supplementary data from figure 1A



## Rock rose floral confers corrosion resistance to pure titanium

Figure 2 shows the representative results of the open potential versus time. As a general tendency, the potential increased as soon as the specimens were immersed in the artificial saliva solutions and then stabilized after 24h exposure in all cases. Higher open potential is a good indicator of a corrosion resistant response on the surface for a given medium. The steady-state value represents the corrosion potential.

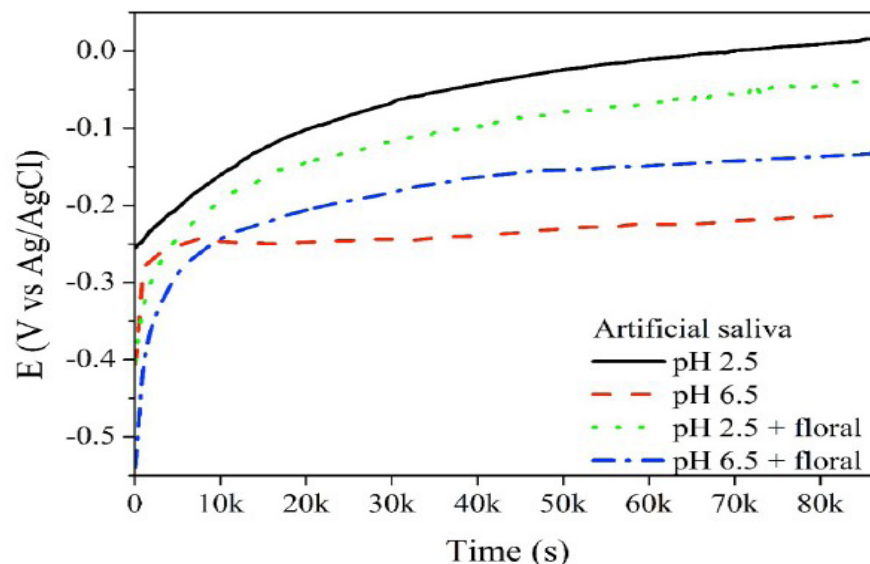


Figure 2: Evolution of open potential during 24h for the Ti-CP in the artificial saliva at different pH and in the presence and in the absence of the rock rose floral.

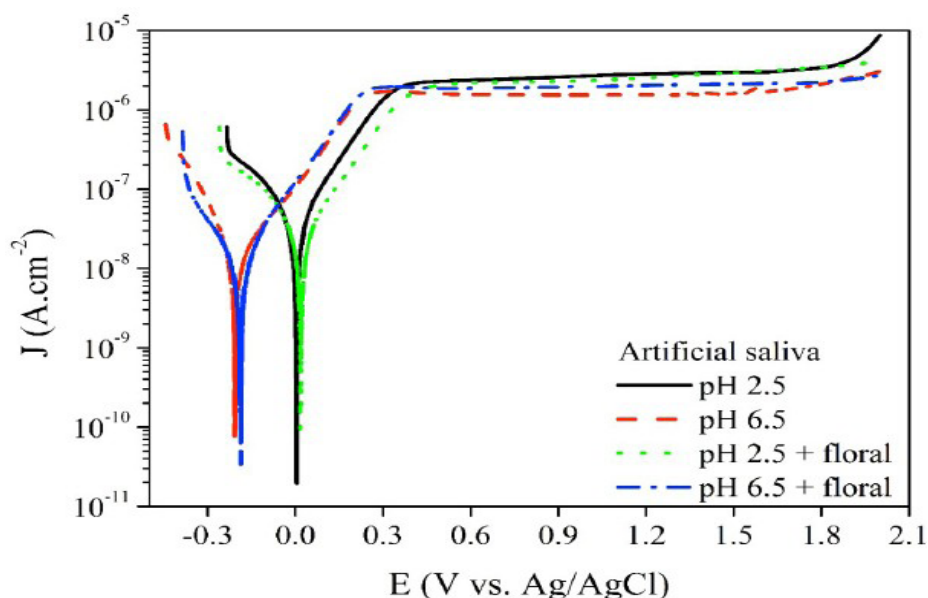


Figure 3: Potentiodynamic polarization curves obtained for Ti-CP in artificial saliva at 37°C, in two pH in the presence and in the absence of the rock rose floral.

Figure 3 presents the potentiodynamic polarization curves of Ti-CP in artificial saliva at different pH in the presence and in the absence of floral at 37°C.

The corrosion potential ( $E_{corr}$ ) and the corrosion current density ( $j_{corr}$ ) obtained

by fitting the Tafel plots and passivation current ( $j_{pass}$ ) are shown in table 1.

Artificial saliva	pH	$E_{corr}$ (V vs. Ag/AgCl)	$J_{corr}$ ( $\mu A \cdot cm^{-2}$ )	$J_{pass}$ ( $\mu A \cdot cm^{-2}$ )
without floral	6.50	$-0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.026 \pm 0.005$	$2.38 \pm 0.48$
	2.50	$0.02 \pm 0.03$	$0.180 \pm 0.011$	$2.43 \pm 0.34$
with floral	6.50	$-0.12 \pm 0.02$	$0.016 \pm 0.004$	$1.97 \pm 0.07$
	2.50	$-0.02 \pm 0.02$	$0.042 \pm 0.008$	$2.48 \pm 0.29$

Table 1: Corrosion parameters of Ti-CP in the artificial saliva.

Corrosion parameters of Ti-CP in the artificial saliva at 37°C in two pH and in the presence and in the absence of rock rose floral. Results are presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

The  $J_{corr}$  increase in the acidified artificial saliva was reported in the literature [27,28], the obtained results were therefore expected. A statistical analysis with ANOVA 2 ( $P < 0.05$ ) demonstrated that the rock rose floral presence improves corrosion resistance of Ti-CP in artificial saliva. The effect is accentuated in the acidified pH (Figure 4), which is an attempt to mimic the oral infection effect [29].

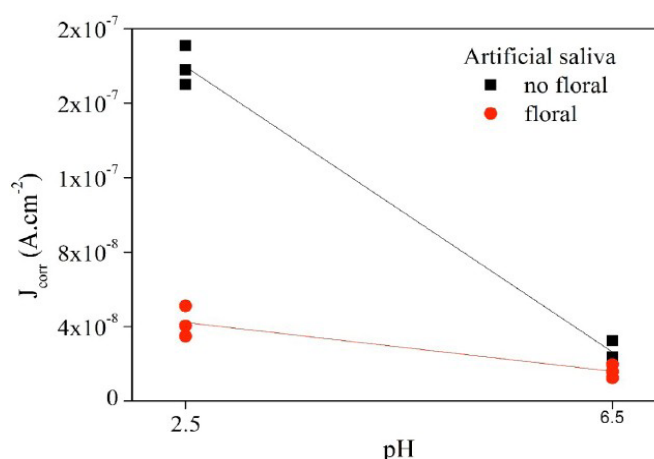


Figure 4: Effect of pH and rock rose floral on corrosion current density.

The reduction of pH increases the corrosion current density most likely because of the instability of the passive film. However, it is an important effect that the floral acts as a corrosion inhibitor at low pH. The corrosion is reduced to approximately a quarter of the artificial saliva without floral. Some interaction also can be observed at pH and rock rose floral because the lines are concurrent. In the normal condition of saliva, i.e. pH around neutrality, the rock rose floral has practically no effect because the film is very protective. Nonetheless, in low pH the rock rose floral, such as in the case of infection, the floral presents a positive response in regards to the corrosion of Ti-CP. The passivation current density does not show significant variations under different test conditions.

The EIS spectra in the Nyquist plot obtained at the corrosion potential for the different pH with and without the rock rose floral are presented in figure 5. The smaller

diameter of the semicircle observed with the artificial saliva at pH 2.50 was expected due to the aggressiveness of the electrolyte, as was the larger diameter for the artificial saliva at pH 6.50.

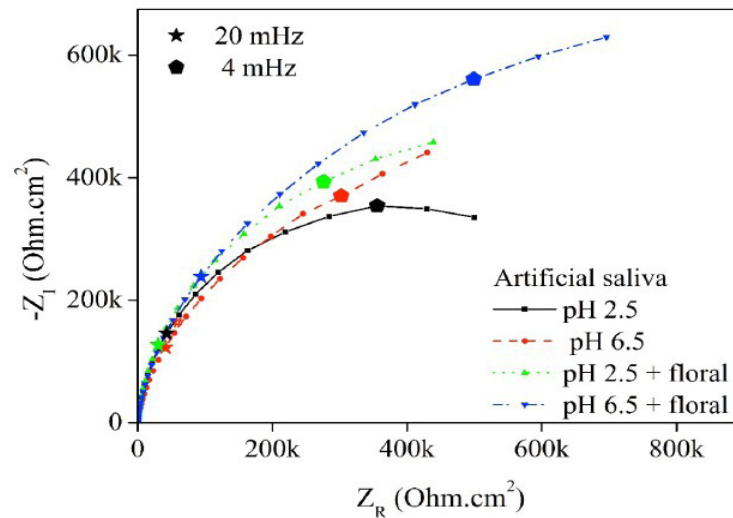


Figure 5: Nyquist plot for Ti-CP in the artificial saliva at 37°C in different pH and in the presence and absence of the rock rose floral.

An equivalent circuit model (Figure 6), which can be used to model passive layers [30], was applied in adjusting the experimental data. The model  $R_s$  represents the ohmic resistance of the solution and  $R_p$  stands for the polarization resistance whose value is a measurement of electron transfer across the passive surface. Although the accurate relationship between  $R_p$  and the corrosion intensity is complex in passive systems, an increase of  $R_p$  values to more corrosion resistant material is observed.

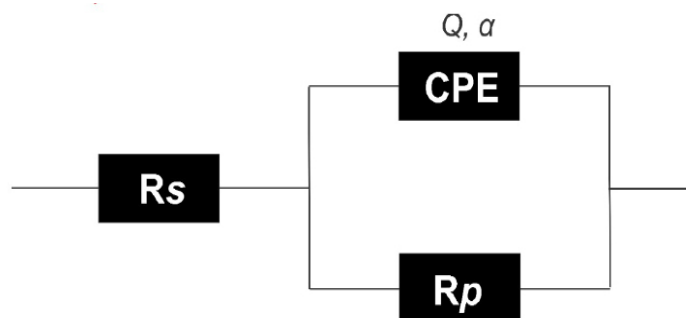
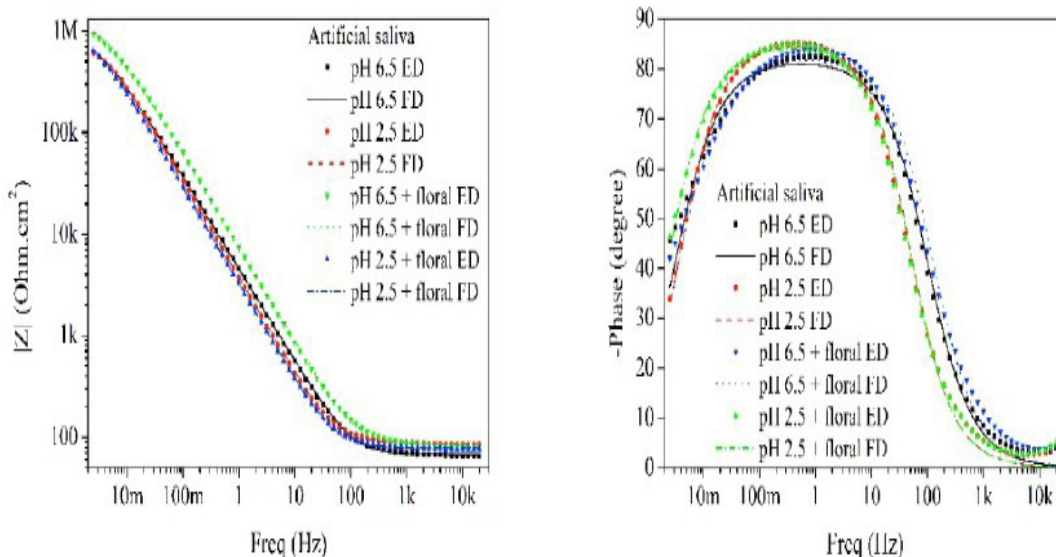


Figure 6: Equivalent circuit employed to fit the EIS data.

For passive alloys, the phase presents a large frequency span with high angle. To model this behavior, a simple combination of resistance and ideal capacitance is not adequate. To fit this type of EIS diagram, a Constant Phase Element (CPE) is ordinarily used to model the electrochemical impedance systems. This CPE impedance is defined as  $Z_{CPE} = 1 / [Q(i\omega)]^\alpha$ , with  $-1 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ . The constant  $i$  is the complex number ( $i^2 = -1$ ), and  $\omega$  is the angular frequency. The parameters  $\alpha$  and  $Q$  are associated with time constant distribution of electrochemical processes. The constant phase element is introduced in the circuit instead of a pure double layer capacitor to improve the fitting

accuracy by



**Figure 7:** EIS spectra (bode representation) for Ti-CP in artificial saliva at 37°C - experimental data (ED) and model fitted data (FD).

the incorporation of surface heterogeneity to the model [31,32]. The  $\alpha$  value is associated with the non-uniform distribution of current and potential related to surface defects. The fitted results are depicted in the curves of figure 7 as well as in the parameters of table 2.

	pH	CPE		$R_p$ (M $\Omega$ ·cm <sup>2</sup> )
		Q ( $\mu$ Mho·cm <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup><math>\alpha</math>-1</sup> )		
without floral	6.50	32.4 $\pm$ 1.2	0.906 $\pm$ 0.008	2.07 $\pm$ 0.57
	2.50	43.9 $\pm$ 2.3	0.936 $\pm$ 0.029	0.89 $\pm$ 0.16
with floral	6.50	45.0 $\pm$ 5.7	0.936 $\pm$ 0.004	2.87 $\pm$ 0.39
	2.50	44.6 $\pm$ 1.4	0.952 $\pm$ 0.010	1.34 $\pm$ 0.35

Table 2: Electrochemical parameters from EIS plots for Ti-CP in the artificial saliva. Electrochemical parameters obtained from EIS plots for Ti-CP in the artificial saliva at 37°C in different pH and without or with rock rose floral. Results are presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation).

## DISCUSSION

Peri-implantitis, as osteomyelitis and others orthopedic implant infections, are considered a Staphylococcus spp. biofilm-associated infection. Although the complex mechanism required of the bacteria to form a functional biofilm is still under investigation, it is well known that the process is derived from the initial adhesion between bacteria and host tissue or even a biomaterial surface. Due to the capacity of Staphylococcus aureus to efficiently attach onto biomaterial surfaces, it can be detected on dental implant surfaces within an hour following surgical insertion [33].

In the present study, we observed that USA300, a community-associated

methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA), formed a strong biofilm on pure titanium disks pre-coated with human plasma and that this biofilm formation was inhibited when rock rose floral remedy was added to the culture medium. Regarding *Staphylococcus aureus*, the adhesion step is an active process mediated by the microbial surface components recognizing adhesive matrix molecules (MSCRAMMs). Examples include the clumping factor A and B (clfA, clfB), fibronectin binding protein A and B and serine-aspartate repeat protein-encoding C, D and E (sdrCDE) proteins which are covalently catalyzed anchoring to the cell wall by a sortase (A) enzyme [25,34].

The mechanism by which rock rose floral remedy reduced USA300 biofilm formation on titanium could be either related to inhibition of sortase A proteinaceous biofilm or just because of its antibacterial effect. To this end, our preliminary results have shown no differences between the growing curve of USA300 in presence or in absence of rock rose floral remedy (data not shown).

Titanium-based implants are widely used in modern clinical practice but their “optimal” properties in terms of porosity and topology as well as their roughness and hydrophilic parameters, are a subject of intense debate. Recent in vitro results have shown a possibility to optimize the surface of an implant with maximal repelling of bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*) and improvement in human osteogenic and endothelial cell adhesion, proliferation and differentiation [35-37].

Healthy peri-implant tissue plays an important role as a biological barrier to the agents that cause peri-implant disease [38]. Low pH produced by inflammation response and the bacteria biofilm formation expose the titanium to corrosion-avoiding osteointegration. We confirmed that the acid pH reduces the Rp value, indicating that in these conditions the corrosion is more intense. The presence of the rock rose floral remedy enhances this parameter showing that the corrosion resistance of the pure titanium increased in this medium. The ANOVA 2 shows that the two-factor analysis presents a synergic effect on corrosion current density, passivation current density and polarization resistance (Table 3).

P-values	J <sub>corr</sub>	J <sub>pass</sub>	R <sub>p</sub>
pH	+++	-	++
Floral	+++	-	+++
Interaction	+++	-	-

Table 3: Statistical analysis results for J<sub>corr</sub>, J<sub>pass</sub> and R<sub>p</sub>.

+++ strong (P-value < 0.01); ++ medium (P-value < 0.05); - weak (P-value > 0.1).

These facts reinforce the hypothesis that the floral act strongly on corrosion current density and polarization resistance. Additionally, the pH and the floral exhibit

interaction. This interaction can be understood as a synergy, in the sense that the increase of pH, from 2.50 to 6.50, and adding the floral, reduces the corrosion current density in artificial saliva. In other words, under physiological conditions, the corrosion intensity of pure titanium is inferior than under pathogenic status. The passivation current density, on the other hand, does not change regardless the pH and floral.

## CONCLUSION

Within the limitations of the present study, it can be shown that rock rose remedy prevented bacteria adhesion over the pure titanium. Moreover, in artificial saliva similar to a healthy oral environment (pH 6.50), it did not seem to interfere with the titanium corrosion response. The electrochemical parameters related to corrosion behavior worsen at pH 2.50 in comparison to pH 6.50, but interestingly the presence of rock floral (*Helianthemum nummularium*) reduces the loss of corrosion resistance, acting as a natural corrosion inhibitor in low pH. In summary, rock rose floral reduces the bacterial attachment in a normal saliva environment and increases the corrosion resistance of commercially pure titanium in acidified buccal environments.

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