



Contamination of titanium dental implants: a narrative review



Jagjit Singh Dhaliwal¹ · Sheba Rani Nakka David¹ · Nurul Ramizah Zulhilm¹ · Sachinjeet Kaur Sodhi Dhaliwal¹ · Joe Knights¹ · Rubens Ferreira de Albuquerque Junior²

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Abstract

Contamination of titanium dental implants may lead to implant failure. There are two major types of contaminants: the inorganic and organic contaminants. The inorganic contaminants mostly consist of elements such as calcium, phosphorus, chlorine, sulphur, sodium, silicon, fluorine and some organic carbons. Whereas organic contaminants consist of hydrocarbon, carboxylates, salts of organic acids, nitrogen from ammonium and bacterial cells/byproducts. Contaminants can alter the surface energy, chemical purity, thickness and composition of the oxide layer, however, we lack clinical evidence that contaminations have any effect at all. However, surface cleanliness seems to be essential for implant osseointegration. These contaminants may cause dental implants to fail in its function to restore missing teeth and also cause a financial burden to the patient and the health care services to invest in decontamination methods. Therefore, it is important to discuss the aetiology of dental implant failures. In this narrative review, we discuss two major types of contaminants: the inorganic and organic contaminants including bacterial contaminants. This review also aims to discuss the potential effect of contamination on Ti dental implants.

Keywords Dental implant · Contamination · Prognosis · Titanium

1 Introduction

Dental implants can get contaminated due to the ecological system in the oral cavity with abundant microorganisms [1]. Common elemental contamination from organic carbon and traces of elements including oxygen (O), nitrogen (N), calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P) found on dental implant surfaces are potentially linked to failure in re-osseointegration when parts of an implant had lost its osseointegration [2]. It has been shown re-osseointegration occurs when there is a formation of a direct structural and functional union between an implant and bone, it has been shown that properly cleaned implants indeed may re-osseointegrate [3]. Hence several factors such as surface topography, chemical purity, thickness and composition of the oxide layer, surface cleanliness, and the existence

of metallic and non-metallic compounds on the surface seems to influence the success of implant osseointegration [4].

Currently, a growing amount of evidence [5, 6] suggests that the implant surface topography and chemistry has great influence on the osseointegration process by affecting protein signalling and cell migration or differentiation. Bone-implant contact area, mechanical interlocking and stress distribution are recognisably better in surfaces with a certain degree of roughness in comparison to smooth ones, favouring osteoblast-like cell colonisation [7]. However, it has also been shown that roughened surfaces enhance the accumulation of contaminants [8]. Nevertheless, the mechanisms by which inorganic and organic contaminants interact with the implant surfaces remain undefined. Although many methods of implant

Jagjit Singh Dhaliwal, jagjit.dhaliwal@ubd.edu.bn | ¹Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Jalan Tungku Link, Gadong, Brunei Darussalam. ²Departamento de Materiais Dentários E Prótese, Faculdade de Odontologia de Ribeirão Preto, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.



decontamination have been attempted, none of them have succeeded in producing predictable results. Implant surface decontamination remains challenging and thus the development of new, effective methods is necessary [9, 10].

Topographical modification is frequently adopted in titanium-based implants to produce the desired surface properties by using different surface treatments surface treatments such as sandblasting, chemical etching, anodization, laser treatment, and surface coatings [11]. Although these surface treatments can change the properties of the implant surfaces and on rare occasions, may also lead to undesired properties and hence, contamination of the implant surfaces.

Human body fluids contain trace elements such as chlorine and fluoride ions whereas our bone comprise of collagen, hydroxyapatite ($\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$), and some anionic and cationic substituents such as carbonates (H_2CO_3), sodium (Na), magnesium (Mg), zinc (Zn), fluorine (F), chlorine (Cl), potassium (K) and silicon (Si) [12]. Thus, when the foreign materials are implanted in the human body, they encounter a hostile corrosive environment comprising of various media such as blood, water, Na, Cl, plasma, amino acids, and mucin in saliva [13].

Inorganic metal oxide such as titanium oxide (TiO_2) and its alloys are commonly used in dental implants due to its favourable biocompatibility and mechanical properties. The ability of the oxide layer of titanium (Ti) to withstand the corrosion in saline and acidic environment make it an excellent implant material increasing the chance of re-osseointegration [14]. However, after long term interaction with living tissue, the TiO_2 will release small amounts of corrosion products and lead to dental implant contamination [14]. Corrosion due to bodily fluids can cause changes in material structure and release of unwanted inflammatory by-products, and compromise implant's mechanical stability [15].

Dental implants may also be contaminated when they are marketed, i.e. prior to any contamination from the oral cavity. Therefore, there is a possibility that contaminations may also depend on other matters than biological in situ effects. Therefore, sterile packaged medical devices must be periodically reviewed and documented by the manufacturers that the implants are free of surface impurities [16].

Another cause of dental implant contamination is galvanic corrosion. This is an electrochemical process that occurs when electrons can flow freely between two different materials with sufficiently different electrical potentials [17].

The key circumstances that could influence the initial healing phase of the implant site and the survival rate of dental implants are the surgical factors, the time

of implant surgery, site of implant placement, type of implant osteotomy, implant design and implant stability [18]. These factors heavily influence the probability of exposure to contaminants. These contaminants may cause dental implants to fail in their function to restore missing teeth. Also, there is and also cause a financial burden to the patient and the health care services to invest in decontamination methods. Therefore, it is important to discuss the aetiology of dental implant failures. In this review, we discuss two major types of contaminants: the inorganic and organic contaminants including bacterial contaminants. This review also aims to discuss the potential effect of these contaminants on Ti dental implants.

2 Inorganic contaminants

2.1 Reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (RONS)

Reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (RONS) are free radicals and reactive molecules derived from molecular oxygen and nitrogen species, both as intercellular as well as intracellular messengers. As can be seen in Table 1, RONS can be found in lasers (i.e. LLLT-low-level laser therapy), photosensitizers, bleaching agents, cold plasma, and resin cement as a by-product from dental applications [19]. At low or moderate concentration of RONS, it has beneficial effects which results in the angiogenesis (formation of new blood vessels), proliferation and re-epithelialisation of cells in the gingival and other tissues of the body, and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) induced cell migration [18]. However, at very high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), adverse effects may rise causing peri-implant inflammation, carcinogenesis & mutagenesis, mitochondrial dysfunction and cell death [19, 20].

2.2 Calcium (Ca)

A large amount of the Ca contamination was found in the sodium hydroxide (NaOH) reagent [21]. Kizuki et al. [21] verified that treatment of Ti with NaOH reagent and heat treatments induced apatite formation with bone-bonding ability with Ti metal. Unfortunately, with increasing volume of NaOH reagent, the apatite formation was decreased due to Ca contamination found in the NaOH reagent. The Ca inhibited apatite formation on the Ti metal in SBF (Synthetic/Simulated Body Fluid) by suppressing Na ion release from the sodium titanate into the surrounding fluid. Even a Ca contamination level of 0.0005% of the NaOH reagent was sufficient to inhibit the apatite formation [21]. Exposure of Ti to simulated physiological solutions (i.e. Ringer's solution and saline, which contains calcium and phosphate ions) leads to adsorption of calcium phosphate

Table 1 List of organic and inorganic contaminants on Ti dental implants and their potential entry and effects on dental implants

Nature of contaminants	Contaminant	Potential entry	Potentially beneficial effect	Potentially dangerous effect	References
Inorganic contaminants	Reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (RONS)	Low-level laser therapy [19]	Angiogenesis [19]	Peri-implant inflammation [20]	[19, 20]
	Photosensitizers [19]	Proliferation and re-epithelialization of cells [19]	Cell death [19]	Carcinogenesis & mutagenesis [19]	
	Bleaching agents [19]	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) induced cell migration [19]	Mitochondrial dysfunction [19]		
	Cold plasma [19]	Improved bone contact and results in good osseointegration [22]	Inhibit apatite formation [21]	[15, 21, 22]	
Calcium	Resin cement [19]				
	NaOH reagent [20]				
	Physiological solution (Ringer's solution and saline) [15]				
Phosphorus	Anodization in phosphoric acid solution [11]	Modulate cytokines production [23]	White residue obstructing Ti implant [25]	[2, 11, 23–25]	
	Calcium phosphate coating [24]	Promote stem cell differentiation [24]			
	Biological residue (oral cavity) [25]	Increase osteoblasts production [24]			
Phosphorus	Anodization in phosphoric acid solution [11]	Increase bone formation [24]			
	Calcium phosphate coating [24]	Modulate cytokines production [23]	White residue obstructing Ti implant [25]	[2, 11, 23–25]	
	Biological residue (oral cavity) [25]	Promote stem cell differentiation [24]			
Chlorine	HCl solution [26]	Increase osteoblasts production [24]			
	Low-level Frequency Ultrasound Treatment [27]	Increase bone formation [24]			
	Saliva [17]	Clean Ti surface (HCl) [26]			
Sulphur	Sandblasting [31]				
	Acid etching process [32]	Double acid etching treatment: Produced dual roughness Ti, improved osteoblast adhesion, proliferation and differentiation [32]	Disturb the chemical modification of Ti surface [26]	[26, 31, 32]	
	Sulphuric acid [26]				
Sodium	Saline [28]	Improve osteoconduction and osteointegration [33]	Cause precipitation of many minerals, higher wear resistance of the implant surface	[28, 33–35]	
	Sodium hypochlorite [26]	Enhance early stage of cell adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation [34]			
	Sodium hydroxide [33]	Enhance corrosion resistant [15]			
Aluminium	Sand-blasting [37]	Improved osteoblast viability [22]	Interfere osseointegration process [39]	[15, 22, 37–39]	
	Acid etching [37]				
	Physiological fluids [15]				
Silicon	Ti-Al coating [38]				
	Passivation process	Promote osteoblast differentiation [41, 42]	Enhance inflammatory response [36, 40]	[36, 40–44]	
	Si sol–gel coating Ti [43]	Stimulates collagen type I synthesis [41, 42]	Alteration of the oxide layer surface [36, 40]		
	Fabrication process, cleaning and sterilization process [36]		Allowed human cell adherence [41, 42]	[36, 40]	
	Environment during handling and storage (glass vials) [36]		Mineralization of human tissue [41, 42]		
	Analysis preparation [36]		Increase osteoinductive properties [43]		
			Prevent bacterial infection after implantation [44]		

Table 1 (continued)

Nature of contaminants	Contaminant	Potential entry	Potentially beneficial effect	Potentially dangerous effect	References
Zinc	Toothpaste [40] Mouthwash [40]	Increasing the cell proliferation in osteoblasts, bone formation and biominerilization [46]	Allergic reaction to metal [45]	[1, 40, 45, 46]	
Fluorine	Toothpaste [14, 47] Mouthwash [14, 47] Prophylactic gels [14, 47] Acid-etching process [47] Acid-etching [13] Biological environment of oral cavity [50]	Antibacterial property Pro-angiogenic [1] Good osteoinductivity [1] Prevent dental caries development [14, 47] Relieve dental sensitivity [14, 47] Delayed fractured on Ti implant [50] Improve Osteoblasts (Si-H coating) [51] Keratinocytes adhesion and viability [51]	Degraded the protective oxide layer of Ti and its alloys [14, 47] Discolouration of Ti implants [17] Embrittlement of the Ti surface layer	[14, 17, 40, 47] [13, 50, 51]	
Hydrogen	Hydrocarbon	Air [53] Water [53] Cleaning fluid [53] Coating of Ti surface [54]	NA	Lessen osteoblast attachment [52] Reduced hydrophilicity of Ti [52]	[52, 53]
Organic contaminants	Caboxylates		Osteoblast proliferation, differentiation, and matrix mineralization [54]	Increase the (super-) hydrophilicity of Ti and decreased the bonding with the oxide, N, and S atoms on protein [31]	[31, 54]
	Salts of organic acids	Glycolysis of bacteria [55]	NA	Reduced the attachment of cells [31] Reduced pH –favourable for aerobic bacteria [55] Corrosion [55]	[55]
Nitrogen from ammonium residues	Bacterial plaque [2] Bolus [2] Saliva [2]		Inhibit growth of <i>E. coli</i> and act as an oxidant for the combustion reaction [56]	White residue obstructs the Ti surface [2]	[2, 56]
Bacteria	Microbes in oral cavity [57] Bacterial contamination during surgery [58]		NA	Damaged the TiO ₂ layer [57] Microbial corrosion [14, 17] Inflammation [14] Peri-implantitis [17]	[14, 17, 57, 58]

NA not available

on the surface of the oxide layer, spontaneously [15]. Positively charged Ca ions attached to negatively charged $(PO_4)^{3-}$ and $(CO_3)^{2-}$ acting as nucleation sites for apatite and improving bone to implant contact, thus resulting in good osseointegration [22].

2.3 Phosphorus (P)

Chemical composition of the surface of the Ti dental implants plays an important role creating a surface where the bone cells can attach well thus allowing osseointegration to occur. A study had been conducted to examine the surface phosphorus contents of anodized medical-grade Ti samples [11]. The Ti samples were anodised in phosphoric acid solution at different voltages (10 V, 20 V, 30 V or 40 V) and created TiO_2 layers on the surfaces. Anodisation in phosphoric acid solution increases the phosphorus content of the surface may promote osseointegration and lead to secondary stability for the dental implants [11].

Furthermore, dental implant surfaces treated with 37% phosphoric acid modulates cytokine production by blood mononuclear cells, establishing a balance between proteins with anti and pro-inflammatory activity, thus promoting the success of dental implants [23]. A Ti surface coating based on calcium phosphate showed high hydrophilicity and high osseointegration, promoting stem cell differentiation, increasing osteoblast production and bone formation, thus resulting in increasing bone formation in a shorter time [24].

One study characterized the surface of Ti healing abutments before and after clinical placement to investigate the effects of the oral environment on device surfaces [25]. The researchers found a thick white residue containing C, N, O, Ca and P completely obstructing the Ti surface. They suggested that the presence of P contaminant came from biological residue of the oral cavity.

2.4 Chlorine (Cl)

Hydrochloric acid (HCl) was used to clean the Ti surface. However, a minimal amount of Cl was detected on the implant surfaces. Fortunately, small amount of Cl did not weaken the Ti surfaces as the Cl formed Ti-Cl complex and soluble in water [26]. Another potential contamination by Cl was from sonicated solution of low-frequency ultrasound (used to treat chronically infected wounds). The sonication solution from the ultrasound treatment was able to alter the Ti surface chemistry, depositing Cl as well as Ca, aluminium (Al), Si, Na and K on the implant surface [27].

Saliva contains K, Na, N, chloride, bio-actonate products and proteins. However, during crevice corrosion, the concentration of chloride ions increases and reduces the pH

value of saliva creating an acidic environment. The chloride ions attack the oxidation layer of dental implants leading to a corroded implant-abutment connection [17]. Hence, sterile saline can be used to reduce the minimal traces of chloride on implant surface [28]. However, Cl can be completely removed from the Ti implant surfaces either by rinsing or ultra-sonication, both in ultra-pure water [29].

2.5 Sulphur (S)

Sulphur (S) compounds as well as Na, K, Ca, PO_4 , CO_2 and mucin can be found in the mouth [30]. Traces of sulphates along with fluorides, magnesium oxides, silicates, and calcium oxides are found as a result of the sandblasting and etching process of the implant surfaces [31]. Hydrochloric acid (HCl) and sulphuric acids (H_2SO_4) are frequently used to pre-treated Ti surfaces. S from the residual $S_2O_8^{2-}$ or SO_4^{2-} was detected from the samples treated with either Sodium persulfate ($Na_2S_2O_8$) or H_2SO_4 . However, the Ti-acid complexes (titanium sulfate) was less dissolved in water, thus not suitable for decontamination of Ti surfaces as it can disturb the chemical modification of Ti surface [26]. Giner et al. demonstrated that a double acid etching treatment using hydrofluoric acid followed by sulfuric acid produced a dual roughness Ti surface which improved osteoblast adhesion, proliferation and differentiation thus enhancing osseointegration. S can be completely removed from the Ti samples by the non-thermal plasma treatment but not by UV treatment [32].

2.6 Sodium (Na)

Traces of Na have also been reported on implant surfaces which have been treated with sodium-containing solutions such as saline and sodium hypochlorite, with sodium hypochlorite causing a tenfold higher amount of trace Na than saline [28]. NaOH has been used in alkaline treatment to create a sodium titanate layer by incorporating Na ions onto the Ti surface. The nanoporous hydroxyapatite/sodium titanate bilayer has been reported to improve in-vivo osteoconduction and osteointegration [33]. Moreover, the treatment of hydrophilicity of Ti discs using NaOH tend to enhance the early stages of cell adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation [34]. In one study, SBF solution has been used during a coating procedure for Ti implants, causing precipitation of many minerals (e.g. Na, Ca, Mg, P) presented in the solution, which leads to a higher wear resistance of the implant surface [35]. A study done by Shibli et al. revealed traces of Na contaminant along with carbon, O, N, Ca, Al, and O on the Ti surface of the failed implants. The influence of the contaminants block the sites for the oxygen cathodic reaction thus preventing foreign ions such as iron or chromium to catalyse the oxygen

reaction. Hence, causing an increase in the dissolution rate of Ti implants and preventing re-osseointegration [36].

2.7 Aluminium (Al)

Surface analysis of Ti implants using X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) measurements revealed the presence of Al and fluoride which were deposited during the sand-blasting and acid etching process [37]. The oxidized state of Al, (alumina) is considered to be stable in physiological fluids with very minor tissue reaction. Therefore, it has been used as a coating material to enhance the corrosion resistance characteristics of dental implants [15]. In addition, favourable cell reactions were observed for a rough Ti surface enriched with Al, Ca and P ions, when incorporated into the Ti surface appears to improve viability of osteoblasts [22].

Some Ti dental implants may contain surface contaminants that may cause a problem during the osseointegration process. A study done by Semez et al. [38] showed that the amount of Al in a dental implant called MYIM-PLANT (Nobel Biocare, India) was 12-fold higher than that found in Ti alloys typically used for dental implants (between 0 and about 0.06) [38]. Furthermore, another study suggested that a high concentration of residual aluminium oxide (AlO_2) may interfere negatively with the osseointegration process [39].

2.8 Silicon (Si)

Si was detected on the failed implants along with P, Ca, Na, S, Cl, Zn and copper (Cu) on the Ti surface. It has been suggested that the surface contaminants may enhance the inflammatory response, altering the healing process which leads to alteration of the oxide layer surface and failure in reosseointegration. The presence of Si is possibly due to the passivation process where the Si was used as a coating or in treating Ti surfaces [36, 40]. Other than the passivation process, Si may come from ion dissolution from the glass storage vials or probably (less likely) from rubber gloves. It may also originate from the fabrication process, cleaning and sterilization process, the handling environment and storage (glass vials) and analysis preparation procedures [36].

Nevertheless, Si plays an essential element in bone metabolism including promoting osteoblast differentiation, stimulation of collagen type I synthesis, allowing human cell adherence and mineralization of human tissue [41, 42]. As such, Si has been used as a coating on Ti dental implants forming a Si sol-gel coating Ti. A study done by Martínez-Ibáñez et al. [43] showed that the incorporation of tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) to the sol-gel Si caused hydrolytic degradation that leads to releasing

of Si compound to the media. This resulted in an increase in the effect of osteoinductive properties allowing for direct contact between new bone and the Ti implant [43]. Silicon-based coatings have properties in preventing bacterial infection post-implantation and therefore improved patient outcomes [44].

2.9 Zinc (Zn)

Dental implants made of Zn were reported to cause dental metal allergy in Japan [45]. Some of the traces of Zn ion can be found as this metal is added to toothpaste and mouthwash solutions as anti-plaque agents. This activity is believed to be due to retention in 'oral micro reservoirs' such as soft oral tissues, tooth surfaces and bacterial plaque [40]. Nevertheless, Zn has been recognized as an important trace element in increasing the cell proliferation in osteoblasts, bone formation and biomimetic mineralization. In addition, Zn has antibacterial properties therefore, attracting researchers to incorporate the Zn into Ti surfaces in dental implants to enhance bioactivity. Co-implanted Zn and Mg ions into Ti implants showed good osteoinductivity, pro-angiogenic and bacterial effects which can enhance rapid osseointegration [1, 46].

2.10 Fluorine (F)

Traces of F and S can be found during the acid-etching process [40]. Fluoride ions (up to 0.1 wt%) can also be found in commercial toothpaste, mouthwash solutions and prophylactic gels. Its functions are to prevent development of dental caries and to alleviate dental sensitivity. However, high concentrations of fluoride ions exhibit negative effects on the protective oxide layer of Ti and its alloys, triggering localized corrosive degradation. The degree of corrosion of Ti and its alloys depends on the concentration of fluoride ions and the pH of the fluoride-containing environments [14, 17, 47]. Besides, at a concentrations of 3 ppm of fluoride ions, Ti alloy becomes discoloured and at a concentration above 20 ppm, the protective oxide layer becomes degraded [47]. Discoloration of Ti implants can be observed after undergoing autoclaving due to F contamination [48].

2.11 Hydrogen (H)

An acid etching technique is popularly used by manufacturers to texture the surface of dental implants. Combination of acids such as hydrofluoric acid-nitric acid are often used to remove the oxide layer of Ti surfaces. In the hydrofluoric acid pretreatment of Ti surfaces, the former attacks the oxide layer and reacts with Ti to form soluble Ti fluorides and H. When the free H is saturated, titanium

hydride is formed. The titanium hydride can dramatically affect the mechanical properties of Ti which cause embrittlement of the surface layer. However, by adding nitric acid, it can reduce free H formation [13, 49].

A study on the fracture surface of retrieved Ti screw threads revealed a high amount of H absorption from biological environment of oral cavity to cause delayed fracture of a Ti implant [50]. A synergistic role of Si and H coating improves their interaction with osteoblasts. A study done by Mussano et al. [51] revealed that hydrogen-rich films increased keratinocytes adhesion and viability thus enhancing osseointegration.

3 Organic contaminants

3.1 Hydrocarbons

The contamination of Ti implant surfaces takes only 4 weeks for the freshly cut or previously photo-functionalized implants to be covered with hydrocarbons no matter the type of surface treatment they have undergone [37]. The presence of hydrocarbon on the Ti surface may lessen osteoblast attachment as the cell adhesion protein cannot attach to such sites [52]. Moreover, hydrocarbon found in the air, water, or cleaning fluid can be continuously adsorbed onto the Ti surface and significantly reduce the hydrophilicity of Ti during storage [53]. Photo-functionalization has proven to be a valid method to reduce the amount of hydrocarbon contamination on Ti dental implants and improve osseointegration [37].

3.2 Carboxylates

Carboxylates can be found from the coating of Ti surfaces. Carboxylated multi-walled carbon nanotube coated Ti has been shown to have increased osteoblast proliferation, differentiation, and matrix mineralization [54]. However, carboxylates contaminants can cause adverse effects on Ti surface. High amounts of carboxyl groups from carboxylates and hydrocarbon can increase the (super) hydrophilicity of Ti. This subsequently decrease the bonding with the oxide, N, and S atoms on protein and reduce the attachment of cells. In order to remove the carboxylate contaminant, high-energy photons such as non-thermal plasma and UV light are required to break the weak bonds between carboxyl groups and Ti [31].

3.3 Salts of organic acids

The production of organic acids come from the process of glycolysis by bacteria and may reduce pH to create a favourable environment for aerobic bacteria.

Accumulation of organic acids leads to an acidic environment and induces corrosion and discolouration of Ti implants [55].

3.4 Nitrogen from ammonium residues

Presence of substances, like N, C, O, Ca, and P, found on the surface of the Ti healing abutments form a white residue. These white residues cause obstruction on the Ti surface. The existence of N and other elements residue may come from bacterial plaque, bolus, soft-tissue or protein compounds in saliva that have adhered to the Ti surface [2]. In addition, bacterial biofilm increased the percentage of both carbon and nitrogen on the Ti surface. By using H_2O_2 photolysis, the degraded biocompatibility of biofilm-contaminated Ti surfaces can be recovered and may have the potential for improving peri-implantitis [52].

A study reported that the microwave-assisted drying of HA (hydroxyapatite) samples were found to be effective in inhibiting the growth of *Escherichia coli*. The formation of ammonium nitrate during the drying process when calcium nitrate and ammonia were added into the solution for TiO_2 synthesis. The resultant, ammonium nitrate, acts as an oxidant for the combustion reaction [56].

3.5 Bacteria

Bacterial colonization can damage the surface TiO_2 layer. A study reported that the colonization of bacteria demonstrates more prominent damage on the surface morphology and chemistry of implant surfaces [57]. Bacteria can cause microbial corrosion where the acidic waste products created by microbes generate an acidic environment. The corrosion may lead to inflammation and occurrence of peri-implantitis. The severity of microbial corrosion can be reduced by using antibiotic sprays and dips to minimize microbe populations [14, 17]. Bacterial contamination can occur on dental implants during surgery and affect the osseointegration and the prognosis in a clinically significant way; however scientific evidence in a systematic review concerning this is insufficient [58].

Combined usage of antiseptics such as chlorhexidine digluconate (CHX) or hydrogen peroxide H_2O_2 and photodynamic therapy (PDT) was more effective in eliminating bacteria biofilm. This was supported by a study where the combination of antiseptics and PDT showed effective decontamination ability in eradicating *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm from Ti surfaces [59].

Despite a wide range of organic and inorganic impurities that may contaminate dental implant surfaces, the 10 year clinical survival rate of the most commonly used oral implants is in the range of 90–95% and the results of

"modern, moderately rough oral implants are between 95 and 99% at 10 years.[60].

4 Conclusion

This review is targeted at both manufacturers and clinicians. Contaminations of dental implants are intimately associated with implant failures. From the summarization of the review (see Table 1), the contaminants may become beneficial and/or produce disastrous effects on dental implants. These may alter the surface energy, chemical purity, thickness and composition of the oxide layer. It is also known that the most common elemental contamination of Ti surfaces, potentially linked to implant failures are trace elements such as N, Ca, P, Cl, S, Na, Si and F, some organic carbons and bacterial cells / by-products. However, some of the contaminants such as Si and P are beneficial to the dental implants that promote osseointegration. The traces of organic and inorganic contaminants can be found from the implant cleaning process, Ti surface treatment such as acid-etching and sand-blasting, biological environment and also the surrounding environment. Various methods of removing contaminants are also introduced with the hope of promoting osseointegration.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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