

# Effects of Collagen Membrane on Bone Level and Periodontal Status of Adjacent Tooth After Third Molar Surgery

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## Research article

**Keywords:** Bone Level, Periodontal Status, Collagen Membrane, Healing Type, Partially Impacted Third Molar

**Posted Date:** March 30th, 2020

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-19864/v1>

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# Abstract

**Background:** After the surgical extraction of an impacted lower third molar, periodontal status and distal bone level of the adjacent second molar could be affected negatively. Healing type has been effected periodontal status and distal bone level of the adjacent second molar after third molar surgery.

Absorbable materials have some benefits including promoting wound healing through isolation, clot and wound stabilisation, and haemostasis; enhancing primary wound coverage. The aim of this study was to compare primary and secondary healing and collagen-membrane-based primary healing after surgical removal of partially erupted impacted third molars (3Ms), evaluating the distal alveolar bone level (ABL) and periodontal status of the adjacent second molars (2Ms).

**Materials and Methods:** Patients who met the inclusion criteria were randomised into three groups: secondary healing (n=28), primary healing (n=27) and membrane-based primary healing (n=29). Digital panoramic radiographs were obtained preoperatively (T1) and three months postoperatively (T2). The distances between the cemento-enamel junctions and the alveolar bone crests on the distal aspects of the adjacent 2Ms were measured using calibrated radiograph measurement software. The pocket depth and plaque index measurements were performed preoperatively and three months postoperatively. The periodontal plaque index (PPI) scores were registered on the distal aspects of the 2Ms, and the mean values were used.

**Results:** Three of the applied healing types positively affected periodontal pocket depth (PPD) and periodontal index values ( $p < 0.05$ ). In terms of the ABL of the adjacent 2Ms, primary 3-4N/healing ( $p = 0.001$ ) and membrane-based primary healing ( $p = 0.000$ ) had superior results to secondary healing.

**Conclusion:** Membrane usage is promising for the distal bone gain and periodontal status of the adjacent 2M.

## Background

A serious condition that can arise after the surgical extraction of an impacted lower third molar (3M) is the deterioration of the periodontal status of the adjacent second molar (2M). This condition can take a chronic course that affects the long-term stability and survival of this tooth. It is a controversial but predominant opinion that bone loss on the distal aspect of the 2Ms may occur. In such cases, the cementum of the 2M can be exposed, and the condition may even require tooth extraction.<sup>[1, 2]</sup>

Many researchers have focused on factors such as flap design,<sup>[3, 4]</sup> sutures,<sup>[5]</sup> healing type,<sup>[6]</sup> and adjunctive periodontal regenerative therapy<sup>[7, 8]</sup> for minimising this complication. However, it is still not clear whether primary or secondary intention healing can influence the distal bone level and periodontal status of the adjacent 2Ms. In our literature search, the studies concerning healing type and bone level were not radiological but were clinical studies in which measurements were made using periodontal

probes or periodontal index.<sup>[5, 6, 9, 10]</sup> Therefore, there was a need for a study evaluating distal bone level radiologically with clinical measurements.

Healing type has been suggested to periodontal status of the 2Ms. When it concerns partially erupted impacted molars, primary intention healing is only possible with a sliding flap, and this would be difficult compared to fully impacted teeth without tissue loss. In these situations, primary wound healing could be supported with various materials.<sup>[6]</sup>

Absorbable materials have some benefits including promoting wound healing through isolation, clot and wound stabilisation, and haemostasis; enhancing primary wound coverage.<sup>[11]</sup> Absorbable collagen membranes have been used in both the medical and dental fields for decades. To our knowledge, no previous study has been published evaluating the effects of collagen membranes on distal bone regeneration and the periodontal tissues of adjacent 2Ms after the surgical removal of partially erupted impacted 3Ms.

This study intended to answer the following hypothesis: Is the administration of collagen membrane after surgical removal of partially erupted impacted 3Ms effective on periodontal healing? This study compared primary and secondary healing and collagen-membrane-based primary healing after surgical removal of partially erupted impacted 3Ms, evaluating the distal alveolar bone level (ABL) and periodontal status of the adjacent 2Ms. The short-term results of this study were presented in a previous study.

## Methods

This prospective, randomised controlled study included patients with vertical or mesioangular partially impacted 3Ms. Patients were excluded if they have medical illness or medication that could influence the course of postoperative wound healing. This clinical study was registered by Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry with the trial number of ACTRN12618001551280. Patients between the ages of 18 and 30 were included. Patients were excluded from randomisation if they had acute pericoronitis, a pre-existing abscess or cellulitis, any restorations or carious lesions on the distal surfaces of the 2Ms, or pathological conditions associated with the 3Ms. Oral contraceptive users and smokers were also excluded.

Patients were randomised to three groups by the envelope method: the secondary closure (SC) group, includes partial closure of the extraction site to provide secondary healing; the primary closure (PC) group, includes sliding the flap and suturing primarily to total closure of the extraction site; and the membrane-based primary closure (MBPC) group, includes placing a collagen membrane and sliding the flap to total closure of the extraction site.

The clinical examination and surgical procedure were carried out by a single researcher. A third-party, blinded researcher who had no information about the patients or their study groups evaluated postoperative measurements.

Surgical operations were carried out by a single surgeon with each patient under local anesthesia, which was achieved with up to 4 mL of Articaine-HCl and a 1:100,000 ratio of epinephrine (Ultracaine D-S Forte, Aventis). An incision was made from the anterior border of the mandibular ramus, extending to the distal surface and the buccal gingivodental sulcus of the 2M. The incision was continuous, with vertical incision, oblique into the mandibular vestibular fornix, aligned with the mesiobuccal cusp of the 2M. A full-thickness mucoperiosteal triangular flap was elevated. If necessary, osteotomy was performed under constant irrigation.

The wound closure was performed with atraumatic silk sutures depending on the groups. In the SC group, the flap was positioned to its former position by a single suture distal to the 2M, with leaving a gap. If necessary, a wedge of mucosa was removed. In the PC group, the sliding flap was sutured. In the MBPC group, the extraction socket was closed with a resorbable collagen membrane (Evolution®, Osteobiol-TecnoSS, Italy), and the sliding flap was sutured primarily.

The patients were given standard postoperative medication; antibiotics (amoxicillin + clavulanic acid), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (dexketoprofen trometamol) and mouthwash (with 0.12% chlorhexidine). The sutures were removed after 7 days.

Parameters determined in this study included gender, duration of surgery, surgical difficulty, and the position of the 3Ms. Surgical difficulty was recorded immediately after the procedure and evaluated using a four-class difficulty scale, as follows: 1, extraction requiring forceps only; 2, extraction requiring osteotomy; 3, extraction requiring osteotomy and coronal sectioning; and 4, complex extraction (root sectioning)<sup>[12]</sup>. The level of impaction of the 3M was classified as being either on the level of the occlusal plane or between the occlusal plane and the cervical line of the 2M (below the occlusal plane), according to Pell and Gregory's classification. 3M angulation was classified on a two-class scale according to Winter's classification, being either 1, mesioangular or 2, vertical. Digital panoramic radiographs were obtained to ensure the similarity of the impaction types according to angulation and relationship to the occlusal plane<sup>[13]</sup>.

## Radiographic Measurement

Digital panoramic radiographs were obtained preoperatively and three months postoperatively. Cemento-enamel junction (CEJs) was used as reference points, and the distances between the CEJ and the alveolar bone crest on the distal aspect of the adjacent 2M were measured as millimetre using calibrated radiograph measurement software (MedData Medical Software, Ankara, Turkey). All radiological measurements were performed twice and independently, and mean values were recorded preoperatively (T1) and three months postoperatively (T2). The differences (positive or negative) between the pre- and postoperative radiographic measurements constituted one of the primary outcomes of this study.

## Periodontal Examination

Another primary outcome variable was the periodontal status of the 2Ms. Periodontal measurements were performed preoperatively (T1) and three months postoperatively (T2). The pocket depths and plaque index scores of the distobuccal (DB), distolingual (DL), midbuccal (MidB) and midlingual (MidL) surfaces of the 2Ms were recorded. All periodontal pocket depth (PPD) measurements were performed as millimeter using William's periodontal probe (Aesculap AG&Co., Tuttlingen, Germany). To assess the periodontal plaque index (PPI) scores, the Silness&Løe plaque index was registered on the distal aspects of the 2Ms, and the mean values were used.

## Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS statistical software package, version 20.0 (IBM, Chicago, IL, USA). The normalities of the distributions were tested using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The Wilcoxon signed rank test was used for intragroup comparisons. For intergroup comparisons, the Kruskal-Wallis orchi-square tests was used, and for post hoc tests, the Bonferroni correction was used. The study data were subjected to power analysis to check the acceptability of the sample size. The power analysis resulted in a power of more than 0.8; thus, the sample size was found to be appropriate.

## Results

Ninety patients were included in this study, but six of them quitted the study, and Eighty-four patients completed the study. The sample included 23 men (27.4%) and 61 women (72.6%), resulting in a male-to-female ratio of 1:2.65. Table 1 compares the three groups based on factors that could have affected the outcome variables. These results show no statistically significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) except in operation time ( $p = 0.002$ ) (Table 1).

Table 1  
Study Variables and Descriptive Statistics

	SC	PC	MBPC	(p)
	Mean or n	Mean or n	Mean or n	
Age (Std)	22.18 (4.29)	24.03 (4.49)	23.79 (5.48)	0.196
Gender				
Female	21	20	20	0.859
Male	7	7	9	
Total	28	27	29	
Angulation				
Vertical	20	16	22	0.384
Mesioangular	8	11	7	
Depth				
Occlusal plane	18	15	17	0.799
Below occlusal plane	10	12	12	
Surgical Difficulty				
1	15	13	14	0.614
2	5	5	7	
3	6	5	2	
4	2	4	6	
Operation Time	10.89	15.15	15.86	0.002*
Std: Standard Deviation; *p < 0.05				

The intragroup statistics, as well as the plaque index scores and probing depths taken preoperatively and three months postoperatively, are listed in Table 2. These results show that DB and DL pocket depths were reduced statistically significantly for all three groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). MidB and MidL pocket depths were statistically significantly reduced in the MBPC group ( $p = 0.000$ ,  $p = 0.012$ , respectively), but not in the SC or PC group ( $p > 0.05$ ). Plaque index and oral health positively differed for all three groups ( $p = 0.000$ ). There were no statistically significant differences among the groups according to intergroup comparisons of PPD and PPI ( $p > 0.05$ ).

Table 2  
Means, standard deviations and comparisons of periodontal measurements

	SC			PC			MBPC			p
	T1	T2	p	T1	T2	p	T1	T2	p	
	Mean (Std)	Mean (Std)		Mean (Std)	Mean (Std)		Mean (Std)	Mean (Std)		
DB	3.57 (1.79)	2.29 (0.67)	0.001*	4.11 (1.78)	2.54 (0.75)	0.000*	3.86 (1.46)	2.26 (0.81)	0.000*	0.531
DL	3.50 (1.75)	2.16 (0.64)	0.000*	4.19 (1.86)	2.41 (1.01)	0.000*	3.31 (1.51)	1.90 (0.47)	0.000*	0.429
MidB	1.79 (0.63)	1.48 (0.50)	0.056	1.89 (0.64)	1.61 (0.74)	0.070	1.93 (0.65)	1.40 (0.49)	0.000*	0.500
MidL	1.86 (0.52)	1.66 (0.55)	0.065	2.04 (0.94)	1.57 (0.74)	0.081	1.76 (0.69)	1.40 (0.49)	0.012*	0.295
PPI	1.39 (0.88)	0.61 (0.69)	0.000*	1.52 (0.85)	0.56 (0.64)	0.000*	1.34 (0.77)	0.55 (0.69)	0.000*	0.608
Std: Standard Deviation; *p < 0.05; T1: Preoperatively; T2: Three Months Postoperatively; DB: Distobuccal Pocket Depth; DL: Distolingual Pocket Depth; MidB: Midbuccal Pocket Depth; MidL: Midlingual Pocket Depth; PPI: Periodontal Plaque Index										

Table 3 shows the height differences in the ABL for all groups as measured preoperatively and three months postoperatively in the radiographs at the 2Ms'distal surfaces. These results show that there was no statistically significant difference in distal bone level in the SC group(p = 0.08).Controversially, there were statistically significant differences in the PC group(p = 0.01) and MBPC group(p = 0.000).In the intergroup comparison, there was a statistically significant difference among the three groups (p = 0.000).In binary comparisons, although the change in distal bone level scores was statistically significantly superior in the MBPC and PC groups to that in the SC group, there was no statistically significant difference between the PC and MBPC groups (p = 0.053).

Table 3  
Means, standard deviations and comparisons of alveolar bone level

	SC	PC	MBPC
	Mean (Std)	Mean (Std)	Mean (Std)
T1	2.36 (1.31)	3.13 (1.95)	2.86 (1.41)
T2	2.73 (1.55)	2.41 (1.03)	1.50 (0.44)
p	0.088	0.01*	0.000*
T2-T1	-0.38 (1.11)	0.72 (1.30)	1.36 (1.24)
Intergroup comparison	Binary Comparisons		
	SC/PC	SC/MBPC	PC/MBPC
p	p	p	p
0.000	0.001*	0.000*	0.053
Std: Standard Deviation; *p < 0.05; T1: Preoperatively; T2: Three Months Postoperatively			

## Discussion

The healing result of a single site is dependent on a number of factors at baseline that may vary from site to site or person to person<sup>[14]</sup>. For this reason, taking into account the randomised nature of this study, the inclusion criteria were rigorously planned and applied to make the groups comparable. There was no statistically significant difference among the groups in terms of age, gender, angulation, depth, and surgical difficulty ( $p > 0.05$ ). These results show that all three groups were comparable in terms of periodontal healing and bone level.

In studies comparing primary and secondary wound healing and investigating the effect of extracting partially impacted 3Ms on the periodontal health of 2Ms, deep periodontal pockets have been reported.<sup>[2]</sup> In contrast, other studies have reported a decrease in the PPD at the distal aspect of the 2Ms.<sup>[4]</sup> Referring to these results, the investigators reported that the periodontal problems in the soft tissues around the 2Ms after 3M surgery were not related to the flap technique and that this technique did not affect the periodontal health of the 2Ms.<sup>[15]</sup> Also, PPD value has a linear relationship with the number of anaerobic organisms in the mouth and is associated with some factors including oral hygiene.<sup>[16, 17]</sup> For this reason, PPD values may not always correspond well with ABL values.<sup>[17]</sup>

Hashemi et al.<sup>[5]</sup> and Korkmaz et al.<sup>[6]</sup> showed that at their three-month follow-up, neither the primary nor secondary closure group showed a statistically significant difference between the preoperative and postoperative measurements of PPD around the 2Ms. In addition, they reported that PPD values were less

than 3 mm in both groups. Cortell-Ballester et al.<sup>[7]</sup> used resorbable collagen membranes during fully impacted mandibular 3M surgery and reported that it reduced the distal PPD of the adjacent 2Ms. In the present study, statistically significant decreases in the DB and DLPPD and PPI were observed at the three-month follow-up with all three healing approaches. However, there were no statistically significant differences among the groups in PPD and PLI ( $p < 0.05$ ).

On the other hand, the scientific data about dimensional bone changes occurring after 3M surgery distal to the adjacent 2Ms was limited in the studies investigating primary and secondary wound healing.

In line with our findings, Aimetti et al.<sup>[18]</sup> evaluated the effects of the placement of a membrane distal to the adjacent 2Ms after 3M surgery and reported statistically significant bone gain. Sammartino et al.<sup>[10]</sup> showed successful results on bone level with the usage of a collagen membrane with platelet-rich plasma. Cortell-Ballester et al.<sup>[7]</sup> conducted a study using absorbable collagen membrane and showed that its use had supported healing and increased bone formation at a three-month follow-up. In the present study, there was a statistically significant difference between the PC and SC groups and between the SC and MBPC groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). These results suggest that primary healing methods may be advantageous in terms of ABL. On the other hand there was a statistically non-significant positive result on bone level between the primary healing and membrane-based primary healing groups ( $p = 0.053$ ), and these three-month follow-up results are seen as promising for bone gain on the distal aspects of adjacent 2Ms.

## Conclusion

According to this study, all three healing types applied in this study positively affected PPD and PPI values. This result may be related to the easier removal of plaque at the distal aspects of the 2Ms after extraction. On the other hand, in terms of the ABL of the 2Ms, primary healing and membrane-based primary healing had superior results to secondary healing. In our opinion, especially when the patient's bone level is insufficient, primary healing is advantageous and preferable. Additionally, the use of resorbable collagen membranes is a promising approach after the surgical extraction of impacted lower 3Ms, as it positively affects bone regeneration and improves the periodontal status of the adjacent 2Ms.

## Abbreviations

3M, third molar; 2M, second molar; ABL, alveolar bone level; , CEJ, cemento-enamel junction; DB, distobuccal; DL, distolingual; MBPC, membrane-based primary closure; MidB, midbuccal; MidL, midlingual; PC, primary closure; PPD, periodontal pocket depth; PPI, periodontal plaque index; SC, secondary closure; T1, preoperative time; T2, postoperative time.

## Declarations

### Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate

This study followed the Declaration of Helsinki on medical protocol and ethics, the regional Ethical Review Board of the Ataturk University Faculty of Dentistry approved the study. A written informed consent was obtained from all individual participants or their parents or legal guardians.

### **Consent to Publish**

The authors understand and agree that the material could be published in a journal, Web site or other form of publication.

### **Availability of Data and Materials**

This clinical study was registered by and the data of this study could be reached at Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry with the trial number of ACTRN12618001551280

### **Competing Interest**

Dr. Kiliñç declares that he has no conflicts of interest. Dr. Ataol declares that he has no conflicts of interest.

### **Funding**

This study was supported in part by grants from the Scientific Research Project Fund of Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey. (BAP 2016/091). Additional support was provided by the Ataturk University Faculty of Dentistry. The funding bodies had no role in study design, collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; or in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

### **Authors' Contributions**

All authors contributed extensively to the work presented in this paper. AK designed the study and performed surgeries. MA performed the postoperative measurements. AK and MA searched the articles for the review. AK drafted and wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

### **Acknowledgements**

Not Applicable

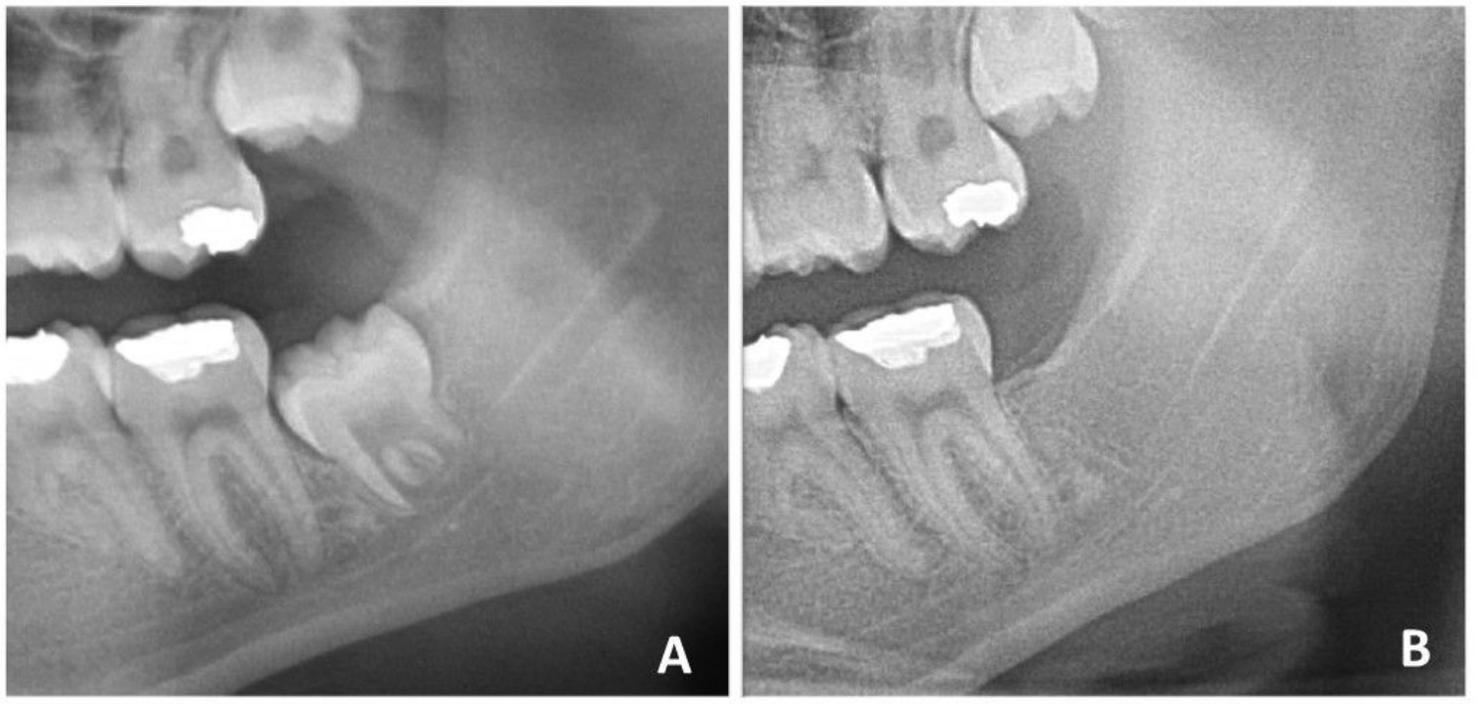
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## Figures



**Figure 1**

Radiographic images of a MBPC group patient. A: Preoperative; B: Three Months Postoperative

## Supplementary Files

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