



# Investigating unset endodontic sealers' eugenol and hydrocortisone roles in modulating the initial steps of inflammation

Charlotte Jeanneau, Thomas Giraud, Jean-Louis Milan, Imad About

## ► To cite this version:

Charlotte Jeanneau, Thomas Giraud, Jean-Louis Milan, Imad About. Investigating unset endodontic sealers' eugenol and hydrocortisone roles in modulating the initial steps of inflammation. *Clinical Oral Investigations*, 2020, 24 (2), pp.639-647. 10.1007/s00784-019-02957-2 . hal-03547442

**HAL Id: hal-03547442**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03547442>**

Submitted on 5 Feb 2024

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



# Investigating unset endodontic sealers' eugenol and hydrocortisone roles in modulating the initial steps of inflammation

Charlotte Jeanneau<sup>1</sup> · Thomas Giraud<sup>1,2</sup> · Jean-Louis Milan<sup>1</sup> · Imad About<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

**Introduction** Endodontic treatment success is achieved not only when the cement provides a hermetic seal but also when the injured periapical tissue is regenerated. However, an exaggerated inflammatory reaction hinders tissue regeneration and it has been shown that dental materials affect the inflammatory response through modulation of cytokine secretion. This work was set to investigate the effects of the presence of hydrocortisone in zinc oxide eugenol sealers (Endomethasone N) on modulating the initial steps of inflammation in vitro.

**Material and methods** Hydrocortisone and eugenol leaching from Endomethasone N and Pulp Canal Sealer (PCS) were quantified by ELISA and spectrofluorometry, respectively. The effects of Endomethasone N and Pulp Canal Sealer were studied on lipopolysaccharides (LPS)-stimulated human periodontal ligament (hPDL) cells. Cytokine (IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ ) secretion from cells was quantified by ELISA. Inflammatory cell (THP-1) adhesion to activated endothelial cells, their migration and activation were studied in vitro.

**Results** Endomethasone N decreased secretion of IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  from hPDL cells. THP-1 adhesion to activated endothelial cells (HUVECs) and migration significantly decreased with Endomethasone N while no effect was observed with PCS. Activation of THP-1 decreased with both materials' extracts but was significantly lower with Endomethasone N than with PCS.

**Conclusion** These results performed in vitro show that Endomethasone N anti-inflammatory effects are due to the presence of hydrocortisone.

**Clinical relevance** Endomethasone N has potential local anti-inflammatory effects which appear to be due to its hydrocortisone rather than eugenol content. Decreasing the inflammatory response is a pre-requisite to initiate the periapical healing.

**Keywords** Endodontic sealer · Periodontal ligament inflammation · Zinc oxide eugenol · Hydrocortisone

## Introduction

Localized periapical lesions consecutive to bacterial infection of the root canal system are frequently reported [1]. Initiating the host inflammatory reaction is essential to prevent bacterial proliferation in the periapical tissues [2]. The cellular response of inflammation implies immune cell recruitment. Cells such as neutrophils and monocytes adhere to the activated vascular

endothelium and, following a chemotaxis gradient, migrate to the injury site where it can be activated into macrophage-like cells [3]. After activation, they carry out phagocytosis of dead cell debris and pathogens.

Many cytokines such as interleukins and growth factors are involved in the inflammatory events. Human periodontal ligament (hPDL) cells are known to secrete pro-inflammatory cytokines locally such as interleukin 6 (IL-6) and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) [4–6]. IL-6 trans-signaling leads to the immune response activation by inducing monocytes recruitment to the inflamed area, inhibition of T-cells apoptosis, and differentiation [7]. TNF- $\alpha$  is considered as a major inflammatory mediator. It is synthesized in response to the presence of a variety of bacteria and bacterial products, especially lipopolysaccharides (LPS). LPS is a Gram-negative bacteria component [8]. The involvement of Gram-negative bacteria in root canal infection has been well demonstrated

✉ Imad About  
imad.about@univ-amu.fr

<sup>1</sup> Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, ISM, Inst Movement Sci, Marseille, France

<sup>2</sup> APHM, Hôpital Timone Marseille, Service d'Odontologie, Marseille, France

[9], and LPS presence was correlated to endodontics symptoms in necrotic teeth [10]. In addition, LPS stimulation led to periapical tissue inflammation and destruction [11, 12]. Additionally, previous works shown that hPDL cell stimulation with LPS induced expression and/or secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6, IL-8, or monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) [13, 14]. Furthermore, the local cellular effects of TNF- $\alpha$  include the capacity to induce vasodilatation through the superoxide burst to allow polymorphonuclear leukocytes to bind to vascular endothelium and activate phagocytosis [15]. It should be reminded however that the inflammatory reaction has some tissue deleterious effects as it may induce the destruction of periodontal tissues. Indeed, a large number of molecules, involved in the inflammatory reaction such as prostaglandins, bacterial endotoxins, and complement molecules or pro-inflammatory cytokines, has been reported to activate bone resorption by osteoclasts [16, 17].

The root canal treatment is considered as the most effective and conservative method for treating periapical lesions. Endodontic treatment is achieved not only after canal shaping, disinfection and canal hermetic sealing to prevent the canal re-infection, but also when the periapical tissue is regenerated [18]. Following the root canal filling, an interaction frequently occurs between the root canal sealer and periapical tissues including the periodontal ligament and potentially alveolar bone, leading to an initial inflammation and subsequent regeneration [19]. These processes are highly dependent on the inflammation arrest. Moreover, it has been shown that dental materials can modulate the inflammatory reaction through modulation of cytokine secretion [20]. Thus, the therapeutic success depends not only on the endodontic treatment, but also on the ability of the host to resolve the inflammatory response [21–23].

Zinc oxide eugenol sealers (ZOE) have been successfully used since decades for root canal filling in combination with gutta-percha. These sealers are known to have good sealing properties and antimicrobial activity. But they have prolonged setting time, a high solubility [24], and cytotoxic effects to the periodontal cells [25]. ZOE sealers are also widely used for their reported anti-inflammatory effects due to eugenol. Yet, eugenol effects on dental tissues are controversial [26]. Furthermore, a localized inflammation with zinc oxide eugenol sealers has been observed, both in soft tissue and in the bone [27].

Pulp Canal Sealer (PCS) (SybronEndo, Orange, CA, USA) and Endomethasone N (Septodont, Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, France) are zinc oxide eugenol sealers. However, Endomethasone N also contains hydrocortisone (Table 1). This raises questions about the local effects of hydrocortisone in this sealer's composition. This work was designed to determine the influence of these sealers: (1) on human periodontal ligament cell pro-inflammatory cytokine production, (2) on the initial steps of inflammation, and (3) to investigate the effect of the presence of hydrocortisone on these events. Extracts of the

abovementioned sealers were applied on LPS-stimulated hPDL cells. The inflammatory response of hPDL cells was investigated through the secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and by investigating their effects on inflammatory cell adhesion, migration, and pro-inflammatory activation of monocytes/macrophages.

## Materials and methods

### Reagent

Media, reagents, and cell culture supplies were from Dutscher (Brumath, France). LPS (*Escherichia coli*) was from InvivoGen (San Diego, CA, USA).

### Primary periodontal ligament cell cultures

hPDL cells were prepared from immature third molars, freshly extracted for orthodontics reasons in compliance with French legislation (informed patient consent and institutional review board approval of the protocol used), by the explant outgrowth method [28]. The teeth were obtained from three different donors for each experiment (4 M/donor). Cells were cultured in minimum essential medium (MEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, glutamine 2 mM, penicillin 100UI/mL, streptomycin 100  $\mu$ m/mL, and amphotericin B 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL, at 37 °C in a 95% air 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The same culture medium was used for further experimentation but without serum.

### Material extract preparation

Samples of Endomethasone N and Pulp Canal Sealer were prepared according to the manufacturers' instructions. Each sample was incubated in serum-free MEM 24 h at 37 °C to obtain unset material extracts (20 mg/mL). The resulting material extracts were filtered on 0.22  $\mu$ m filters. Hydrocortisone was solubilized in DMSO at 100 mM, diluted to 1 mM in serum-free MEM and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. Eugenol was solubilized in DMSO at 6 M, diluted at 100 mM in serum-free MEM and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. The four conditioned media were diluted in serum-free MEM to obtain the working concentration in the next steps of the experimental protocol. At these final concentrations of hydrocortisone and eugenol used in our experiments, DMSO content was lower than or equal to 0.001%. This has been reported to be a nontoxic concentration [29].

### Quantitative determination of hydrocortisone and eugenol concentrations in the material extracts

Hydrocortisone concentration from samples of Endomethasone N and PCS extracts (20 mg/ml) was determined by enzyme immunoassay according to the

**Table 1** Composition of the sealers used

Endodontic sealer	Powder	Liquid
Endomethasone N	Hydrocortisone 1%	Eugenol 50–100%
	Iodothymol 10–25%	Anethol 2.5–10%
	Barium sulfate 15%	Menthol 2.5%
	Zinc oxide 25–50%	Dipentene 1%
Pulp canal sealer	Zinc oxide 34–41%	Eugenol 78–80%
	Precipitated silver 25–30%	Canada balsam 20–22%
	Oleo resins 30–16%	
	Thymol iodide 11–12%	

manufacturer's instructions (Parameter Hydrocortisone Assay; R&D Systems).

Eugenol concentration from samples of Endomethasone N and PCS extracts (20 mg/ml) was determined by spectrofluorimetry as described [30].

### Material extract toxicity

hPDL cells were cultured at confluency in 96-well plates. The cells were stimulated with LPS (1 µg/mL) for 4 h and incubated either with the material extracts (20/2/0.2 mg/mL), eugenol (10/1/0.1 µM), hydrocortisone (100/10/1 µM), or serum-free MEM control media. After 24 h, the supernatants were removed and MTT test (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO) was performed with the MTT substrate (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) as described [31].

### Cytokine secretion by hPDL cells

hPDL cells were cultured at confluency in 12-well plates. Cells were stimulated for 4 h with LPS (1 µg/ml) and incubated with material extract (0.2 mg/mL), eugenol (0.1 µM), hydrocortisone (1 µM), or serum-free MEM control media. After 24 h, the supernatants were used for pro-inflammatory (IL-6 and TNF-α) cytokines quantification by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using DuoSet kits (R&D Systems) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### THP-1 cell recruitment sequence

#### Human umbilical vein endothelial cells and inflammatory THP-1 cell culture

Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) (PromoCell, Heidelberg, Germany) were cultured in Endothelial Cell Growth Medium 2 (ECGM 2, PromoCell). THP-1 cells, a human monocytic cell line (Sigma, St Quentin Fallavier, France), were cultured in RPMI medium

supplemented (10% FBS, 100UI/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin, 0.25 µg/mL amphotericin B, 2 mM L-glutamine, 1 mM sodium pyruvate), as described [20].

### THP-1 cell adhesion on endothelial cells

hPDL cells were cultured at confluency in 12-well plates. Cells were stimulated for 4 h with LPS (1 µg/ml) and incubated with material extract (0.2 mg/mL), eugenol (0.1 µM), hydrocortisone (1 µM), or serum-free MEM control media. After 24 h, the supernatant was recovered and called conditioned medium.

Confluent HUVECs (80,000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup>), in 12-well plates, were cultured with conditioned medium for 4 h at 37 °C. THP-1 cells were first incubated with 0.1 µM of BCECF acid (2',7'-Bis-(2-carboxyethyl)-5-(and-6)-carboxyfluorescein) for 1 h. BCECF-labeled THP-1 cells (25,000 cells/mL) were then added to the HUVECs monolayers for 30 min at 4 °C under gentle orbital rotation as described [32]. HUVECs were then washed four times with phosphate-buffered saline with calcium and magnesium (PBS), and THP-1 adherent cells were counted in five random fields using a fluorescent microscope (× 100). Results are expressed as percentage of the control.

### THP-1 cell migration

Cell migration was assayed with Boyden chambers (8 µm pore size) in 12-well plates. Confluent hPDL cells, cultured in the lower chambers, were stimulated with LPS (1 µg/ml) for 4 h and then incubated with material extract (0.2 mg/mL), eugenol (0.1 µM), hydrocortisone (1 µM), or serum-free MEM control media for 24 h. THP-1 cells were activated with phorbol myristate acetate (PMA 400 ng/mL, 24 h) and seeded (15,000 cells/100 µl) in the upper chambers. After migration for 24 h, THP-1 cells on the top side of the filter were wiped off using a cotton bud, and cells that migrated to the lower surface of the filter were fixed (15 min, cold ethanol 70%) and stained with eosin (20 min). The number of migrating cells to the lower surface of the filter membrane was counted in five

random fields using light microscopy ( $\times 100$ ). Results are expressed as percentage of control.

### THP-1 cell activation

hPDL cells were cultured as under “[THP-1 cell adhesion on endothelial cells](#)” to obtain the conditioned medium.

THP-1 suspension (25,000 cells/mL) was cultured with hPDL cells conditioned medium in 12-well plates for 24 h. Then, the wells were washed four times with PBS to remove not activated and dead cells. Adherent cells were fixed (15 min, cold ethanol 70%) and nuclei stained with DAPI (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole) (1  $\mu$ g/ml). The number of activated (adherent) cells was counted in five random fields using a fluorescent microscope ( $\times 100$ ). Results are expressed as percentage of the control.

### Statistical analysis

All experiments were done in triplicate and repeated three times. Data are expressed as means  $\pm$  standard error of mean. Student *t* test was used to determine statistical significance (*p* value  $< 0.05$ ).

## Results

### Quantitative determination of hydrocortisone and eugenol concentration in the sealer extracts

After 24 h of incubation of sealer samples at 37 °C,  $85 \pm 9.9$   $\mu$ M of hydrocortisone was released from Endomethasone N (20 mg/ml) in serum-free MEM medium (Fig. 1a). No hydrocortisone was detected with PCS.

After 24 h of incubation of sealer samples at 37 °C,  $10 \pm 1.6$   $\mu$ M of eugenol was released from Endomethasone N (20 mg/ml) and  $10 \pm 2.0$   $\mu$ M from PCS (20 mg/ml) in serum-free MEM medium (Fig. 1a).

### Endodontics sealer extracts toxicity

LPS-stimulated hPDL cell viability decreased significantly after 24 h of contact with the medium containing Endomethasone N and PCS extracts at 20 mg/ml, 100  $\mu$ M of hydrocortisone, and 10  $\mu$ M of eugenol as compared to the control medium (Fig. 1b). PCS also induce a significant decrease in cell viability at 2 mg/ml.

No statistically significant effect was observed on hPDL cell viability with 0.2 mg/ml sealer extract, 1  $\mu$ M hydrocortisone, and 0.1  $\mu$ M eugenol (Fig. 1b) compared to the control. These nontoxic working concentrations were chosen for the next step.

## Endodontics sealers modified cytokine secretion

Applying hydrocortisone, eugenol, and Endomethasone N for 24 h led to a significant decrease of the pro-inflammatory IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  secretion. PCS induced a significantly higher secretion of IL-6 but had no effect on TNF- $\alpha$  compared to the control condition (Fig. 2).

### Inflammatory cell recruitment modulation

Inflammatory THP-1 cell adhesion on HUVECs monolayer assay is illustrated with representative pictures used for cell counts (Fig. 3Aa-e). THP-1 adhesion significantly decreased with hydrocortisone and Endomethasone N while no effect was observed with PCS and eugenol compared to the control condition (Fig. 3B). THP-1 cell migration significantly decreased only with hydrocortisone and Endomethasone N extracts (Fig. 4). Inflammatory THP-1 cell activation assay is illustrated with representative pictures used for cell counts (Fig. 5Aa-e). This activation decreased with all material extracts but was significantly lower with hydrocortisone and Endomethasone N as compared to PCS and eugenol (Fig. 5B).

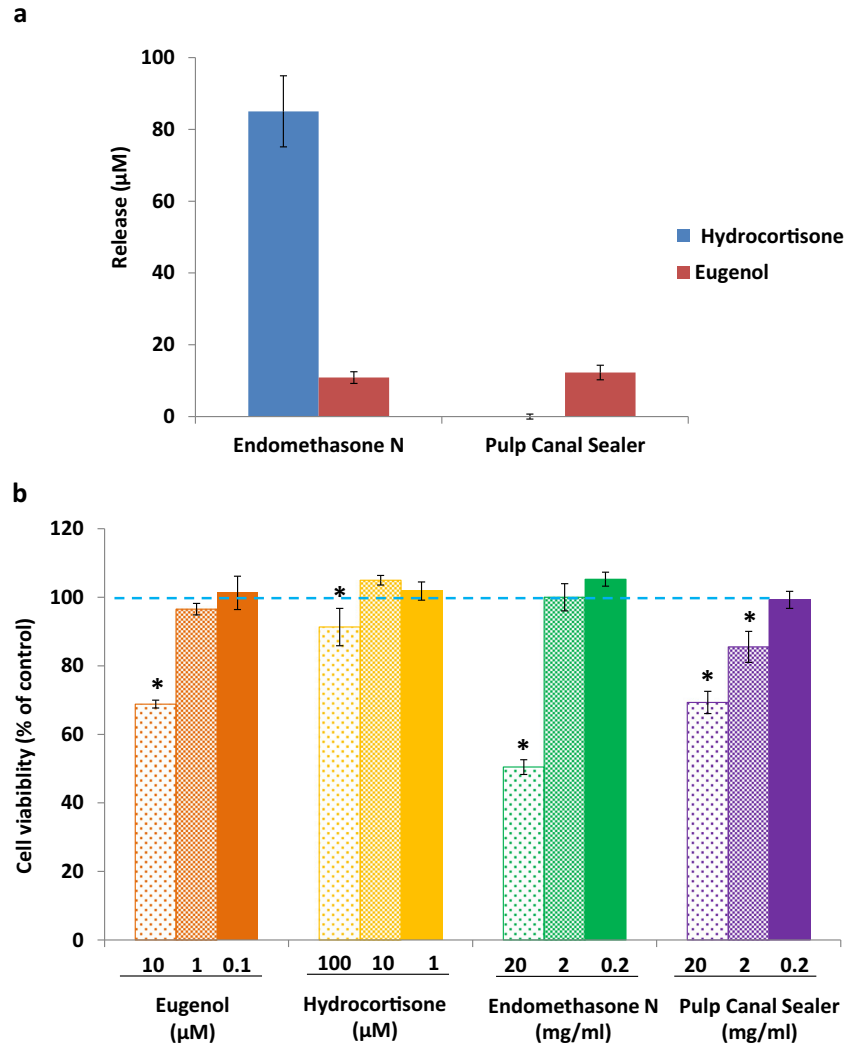
## Discussion

This work shows that, after simulating hPDL cell bacterial infection, applying endodontics sealers on these cells affects the local inflammatory response. It demonstrates the efficiency of hydrocortisone-containing root canal sealer (Endomethasone N) in modulating the initial steps of inflammation.

ZOE sealers have been widely used in root canal treatment because of their handling properties, reasonable cost, excellent sealing ability, and therapeutic effects including sedative, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory effects [33]. However, ZOE have some drawbacks such as cytotoxicity and harm to surrounding periodontal tissues [34].

During endodontic obturation with gutta-percha, the unset endodontic sealer may exceed the root apex and release substances that could reach and interact with inflamed periodontal tissues. To simulate, in vitro, this clinical situation, hPDL cells were stimulated with LPS and then cultured in contact with endodontics sealer extracts (Endomethasone N and PCS). Our results confirmed a high toxicity of zinc oxide eugenol sealers at 20 mg/ml. This is consistent with previous works showing the toxicity of PCS [35, 36]. However, none of the two root canal sealers or eugenol used alone had cytotoxic effects at the lowest concentration on stimulated hPDL cells. After hydrolysis in water, these sealers release zinc hydroxide and eugenol. Eugenol is derived from essential oil which is known for its antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and anti-oxidant properties which have been evaluated in a variety of models [37, 38].



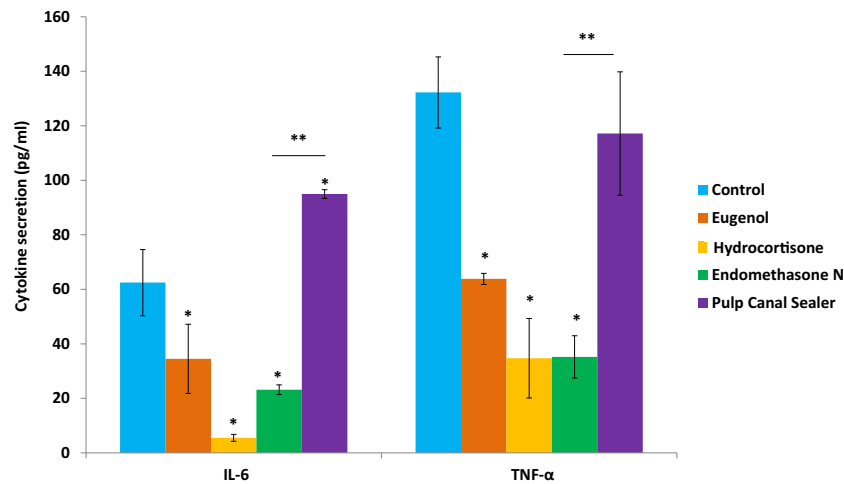


**Fig. 1** **a** Quantification of hydrocortisone and eugenol concentrations in the materials extracts. The quantification of hydrocortisone was performed using the ELISA assay and eugenol by spectrophotometry. After 24 h of incubation at 37 °C,  $85 \pm 9.9$  μmol/L of hydrocortisone was released from Endomethasone N (20 mg/ml) in serum-free MEM media. No hydrocortisone was detected in PCS extracts or in the control condition. Eugenol was detected in Endomethasone N ( $10 \pm 1.6$  μmol/L) and PCS ( $10 \pm 2.0$  μmol/L) extracts. **b** Cell viability after contact with the materials extracts. A significant decrease in hPDL cell viability was

observed after 24 h of contact with the media containing Endomethasone N and PCS extracts (20 mg/ml), hydrocortisone (100 μM), and eugenol (10 μM) as compared to the control medium. A significant decrease in cell viability was observed with PCS extracts at 2 mg/ml. No statistically significant effect was observed in hPDL cell viability with both sealer extracts at 0.2 mg/ml, 1 μM hydrocortisone nor 0.1 μM of eugenol as compared to the control. Results are expressed in percentage of the control. (\*) corresponds to significant differences as compared to the control ( $p$  value < 0.05)

To investigate the effect of Endomethasone N and PCS on modulating the inflammatory response of hPDL cells, we first quantified eugenol and hydrocortisone release from the sealers. Our results show that PCS and Endomethasone N released the same concentration of eugenol. But hydrocortisone was released only from Endomethasone N. Then, we used equivalent concentrations of eugenol and hydrocortisone to link our findings to those obtained after leaching from the sealers. Our work show that Endomethasone N, hydrocortisone, and eugenol inhibited the secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-6 and TNF-α) but not PCS. Thus, our data confirm eugenol anti-inflammatory potential when used alone

while these effects are not observed in PCS extracts. This result is in agreement with a previous investigation on ZOE sealers where Intermediate Restorative Material and Tubli-Seal sealer extracts were compared to eugenol anti-inflammatory effects [39]. When eugenol was used alone, it was found to inhibit inflammatory mRNA gene expression in LPS-pre-treated mouse bone marrow monocytes while these effects were not observed in the sealer extracts. This was also demonstrated with the use of the C3 cross immunoelectrophoretic technique where complement system activation was stimulated with N2/RC2B root canal sealer and eugenol [40]. This suggests that the anti-inflammatory effect of



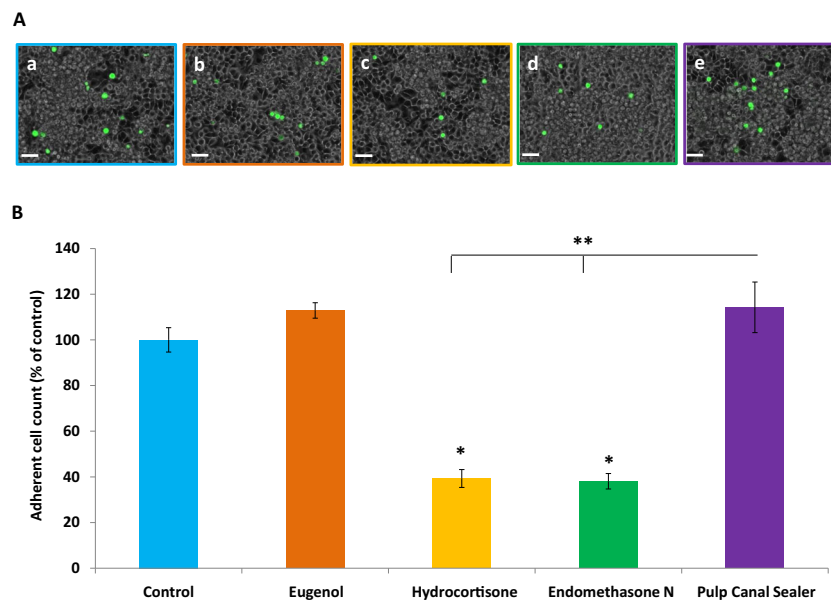
**Fig. 2** Effects of sealers on cytokine secretion. A significant increase of IL-6 secretion by LPS-stimulated hPDL cells was observed after 24 h of incubation with PCS. This secretion significantly decreased with hydrocortisone, eugenol, and Endomethasone N. A significant decrease in TNF-α secretion was also observed with hydrocortisone and

Endomethasone N as compared to the control and PCS. Results are expressed in picograms per milliliter. (\*) corresponds to significant difference as compared to the control, (\*\*) represents significant differences between two conditions ( $p$  value < 0.05).

Endomethasone N observed in our work can be attributed to hydrocortisone but not to eugenol.

We further confirmed these results on cytokine secretion by investigation of the anti-inflammatory effect of hydrocortisone-containing material through adhesion of inflammatory cells on the activated endothelium, their migration towards the stimulated cells, and their activation. Even if neutrophils are strongly recruited in vivo, monocytes, such THP-1, have been used to study the inflammation in vitro [41]. Co-

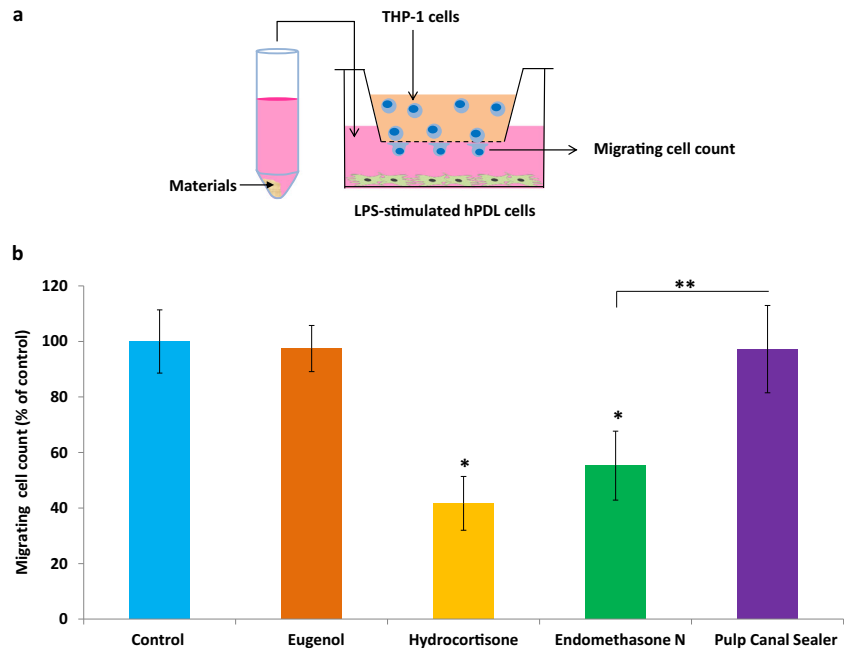
culture of THP-1 cells with the HUVEC model has been also used to study inflammatory cell adhesion [42, 43]. Incubating LPS-stimulated hPDL cells with PCS extract and eugenol did not affect THP-1 adhesion on the HUVEC monolayer or their migration but significantly decreased their activation. However, when hPDL cells were stimulated with LPS and incubated with hydrocortisone or Endomethasone N, the number of migrated/activated THP-1 cells as well as THP-1 cell adhesion on HUVEC monolayer drastically decreased. In our



**Fig. 3** Inflammatory THP-1 adhesion on endothelial cells (HUVECs). **A** Representative pictures on fluorescent microscopy of the adhesion assay of BCECF labeled THP-1 cells on endothelial cells for *a* control, *b* eugenol, *c* hydrocortisone, *d* Endomethasone N, and *e* PCS. Scale bars 50 μm. **B** Quantification of THP-1 adhesion on endothelial cells. Hydrocortisone

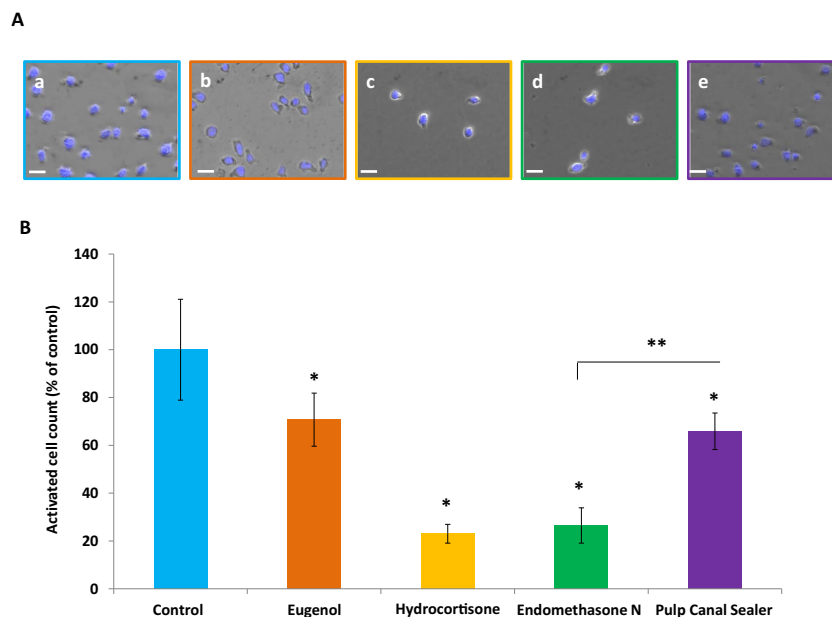
and Endomethasone N extract significantly decreased THP-1 cell adhesion on HUVECs compared to eugenol, PCS, and to the control. Results are expressed in percentage of the control. (\*) corresponds to significant differences as compared to the control; (\*\*) represents significant differences between two conditions ( $p$  value < 0.05)

**Fig. 4** THP-1 cell migration in Boyden chambers. **a** Schematic representation of Boyden chamber migration assay. **b** Migration assay in Boyden chambers after 24 h showed that hydrocortisone and Endomethasone N significantly reduced inflammatory THP-1 cell migration towards LPS-stimulated hPDL cells. This migration was not affected by PCS or eugenol. Results are expressed in percentage of control. (\*) corresponds to significant difference as compared to the control; (\*\*) represents significant differences between two conditions ( $p$  value < 0.05)



study, the anti-inflammatory effect of eugenol on cytokine secretion was not observed while that of hydrocortisone was confirmed at the cellular level. In line with these finding, the inflammatory effects of eugenol have been well demonstrated in vivo by investigating two ZOE sealers (Sargenti N2 and Grossman sealer) that do not contain hydrocortisone. After intentional overfilling in monkeys over a 6-month period [44], both ZOE sealers led to a severe irritation over the full

6-month duration. Other in vivo studies have reported a prolonged irritation effect of EndoFill, another hydrocortisone-containing ZOE sealer [45]. On the other hand, it has been shown that the subcutaneous tissue inflammation reactions to Endomethasone N decreased rapidly with time [46, 47]. While this protocol clearly demonstrates an anti-inflammatory effect of Endomethasone N, it does not



**Fig. 5** THP-1 cell activation. **A** Representative pictures on fluorescent microscopy of THP-1 activation assay showing THP-1 activated cells after their incubation with material extracts for 24 h. *a* control, *b* eugenol, *c* hydrocortisone, *d* Endomethasone N, and *e* PCS. Scale bars 200  $\mu$ m. **B** Quantification of THP-1 activation. THP-1 cell activation was

significantly reduced by hydrocortisone and Endomethasone N and to a lesser extent by PCS and eugenol. Results are expressed in percentage of control. (\*) corresponds to significant difference as compared to the control; (\*\*) represents significant differences between two conditions ( $p$  value < 0.05)



demonstrate whether this effect is due to its eugenol or hydrocortisone local release.

Our investigation performed *in vitro* show that Endomethasone N has an anti-inflammatory potential. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that these effects were not observed with eugenol alone neither with PCS which does not contain hydrocortisone. This anti-inflammatory effect may dampen the inflammatory reaction, enhance the subsequent periapical healing, and improve the clinical outcome. Whether such local anti-inflammatory effects can be observed using other sealers such as epoxy-resin-based or silicate-based sealers still remain to be investigated.

**Acknowledgments** The authors thank Dr. Jean-Charles GARDON for providing the teeth.

**Funding** This work was supported by Aix-Marseille University and CNRS.

## Compliance with ethical standards

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

**Ethical approval** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

## References

- Nair PNR (2006) On the causes of persistent apical periodontitis: a review. *Int Endod J* 39:249–281
- Childs DR, Murthy AS (2017) Overview of Wound Healing and Management. *Surg Clin North Am* 97:189–207
- Ley K, Laudanna C, Cybulsky MI, Nourshargh S (2007) Getting to the site of inflammation: the leukocyte adhesion cascade updated. *Nat Rev Immunol* 7:678–689
- Ogura N, Shibata Y, Kamino Y et al (1994) Stimulation of interleukin-6 production of periodontal ligament cells by *Porphyromonas endodontalis* lipopolysaccharide. *Biochem Med Metab Biol* 53:130–136
- Andrukhov O, Andrukhova O, Hulan U et al (2014) Both 25-hydroxyvitamin-D3 and 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin-D3 reduces inflammatory response in human periodontal ligament cells. *PLoS One* 9:e90301
- Cai Z, Falkensammer F, Andrukhov O et al (2016) Effects of shock waves on Expression of IL-6, IL-8, MCP-1, and TNF- $\alpha$  expression by human periodontal ligament fibroblasts: an *in vitro* study. *Med Sci Monit* 22:914–921
- Romano M, Sironi M, Toniatti C et al (1997) Role of IL-6 and its soluble receptor in induction of chemokines and leukocyte recruitment. *Immunity* 6:315–325
- Lüderitz O, Tanamoto K, Galanos C et al (1984) Lipopolysaccharides: structural principles and biologic activities. *Rev Infect Dis* 6:428–431
- Narayanan LL, Vaishnavi C (2010) Endodontic microbiology. *J Conserv Dent* 13:233–239
- Jacinto RC, Gomes BPFA, Shah HN et al (2005) Quantification of endotoxins in necrotic root canals from symptomatic and asymptomatic teeth. *J Med Microbiol* 54:777–783
- Hong C-Y, Lin S-K, Kok S-H et al (2004) The role of lipopolysaccharide in infectious bone resorption of periapical lesion. *J Oral Pathol Med* 33:162–169
- Nair SP, Meghji S, Wilson M et al (1996) Bacterially induced bone destruction: mechanisms and misconceptions. *Infect Immun* 64:2371–2380
- Yun I-G, Ahn S-H, Yoon W-J et al (2018) *Litsea japonica* leaf extract suppresses proinflammatory cytokine production in periodontal ligament fibroblasts Stimulated with oral pathogenic bacteria or interleukin-1 $\beta$ . *Int J Mol Sci* 19:E2494
- Svensson D, Aidoukovitch A, Anders E et al (2017) Secretory leukocyte protease inhibitor regulates human periodontal ligament cell production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. *Inflamm Res* 66:823–831
- Ebersole JL, Cappelli D (2000) Acute-phase reactants in infections and inflammatory diseases. *Periodontol* 23:19–49
- Stashenko P, Teles R, D'Souza R (1998) Periapical inflammatory responses and their modulation. *Crit Rev Oral Biol Med* 9:498–521
- Kawashima N, Stashenko P (1999) Expression of bone-resorptive and regulatory cytokines in murine periapical inflammation. *Arch Oral Biol* 44:55–66
- Grossman LJ, Oliet S, Del Rio CE (1989) Endodontic practice, 11th ed. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 47:104
- Saxena P, Gupta SK, Newaskar V (2013) Biocompatibility of root-end filling materials: recent update. *Restor Dent Endod* 38:119–127
- Giraud T, Jeanneau C, Bergmann M et al (2018) Tricalcium silicate capping materials modulate pulp healing and inflammatory activity *in vitro*. *J Endod* 44:1686–1691
- Alexander MB, Damoulis PD (1994) The role of cytokines in the pathogenesis of periodontal disease. *Curr Opin Periodontol*:39–53
- Page RC, Kornman KS (1997) The pathogenesis of human periodontitis: an introduction. *Periodontol* 14:9–11
- Di Benedetto A, Gigante I, Colucci S, Grano M (2013) Periodontal disease: linking the primary inflammation to bone loss. *Clin Dev Immunol* 2013:503754
- Gutmann JL, Rakusin H (1987) Perspectives on root canal obturation with thermoplasticized injectable gutta-percha. *Int Endod J* 20:261–270
- Jagtap P, Shetty R, Agarwalla A et al (2018) Comparative evaluation of cytotoxicity of root canal sealers on cultured human periodontal fibroblasts: *in vitro* study. *J Contemp Dent Pract* 19:847–852
- Hauman CHJ, Love RM (2003) Biocompatibility of dental materials used in contemporary endodontic therapy: a review. Part 2. Root-canal-filling materials. *Int Endod J* 36:147–160
- Yesilsoy C, Koren LZ, Morse DR, Kobayashi C (1988) A comparative tissue toxicity evaluation of established and newer root canal sealers. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol* 65:459–467
- About I, Bottero MJ, de Denato P et al (2000) Human dentin production *in vitro*. *Exp Cell Res* 258:33–41
- Galvao J, Davis B, Tilley M et al (2014) Unexpected low-dose toxicity of the universal solvent DMSO. *FASEB J* 28:1317–1330
- Abou Hashieh I, Camps J, Dejou J, Franquin JC (1998) Eugenol diffusion through dentin related to dentin hydraulic conductance. *Dent Mater* 14:229–236
- Camps J, Jeanneau C, El Ayachi I et al (2015) Bioactivity of a calcium silicate-based endodontic cement (BioRoot RCS): interactions with human periodontal ligament cells *in vitro*. *J Endod* 41:1469–1473
- Mannori G, Crottet P, Cecconi O et al (1995) Differential colon cancer cell adhesion to E-, P-, and L-selectin: role of mucin-type glycoproteins. *Cancer Res* 55:4425–4431
- Kwon J-S, Illeperuma RP, Kim J et al (2014) Cytotoxicity evaluation of zinc oxide-eugenol and non-eugenol cements using different fibroblast cell lines. *Acta Odontol Scand* 72:64–70

- 
34. Mutoh N, Tani-Ishii N (2011) A biocompatible model for evaluation of the responses of rat periapical tissue to a new zinc oxide-eugenol sealer. *Dent Mater J* 30:176–182
  35. Guigand M, Pellen-Mussi P, Le Goff A et al (1999) Evaluation of the cytocompatibility of three endodontic materials. *J Endod* 25: 419–423
  36. Lee J-H, Lee H-H, Kim K-N, Kim K-M (2016) Cytotoxicity and anti-inflammatory effects of zinc ions and eugenol during setting of ZOE in immortalized human oral keratinocytes grown as three-dimensional spheroids. *Dent Mater* 32:e93–e104
  37. Magalhães CB, Riva DR, DePaula LJ et al (2010) In vivo anti-inflammatory action of eugenol on lipopolysaccharide-induced lung injury. *J Appl Physiol* 108:845–851
  38. Bachiega TF, de Sousa JPB, Bastos JK, Sforcin JM (2012) Clove and eugenol in noncytotoxic concentrations exert immunomodulatory/anti-inflammatory action on cytokine production by murine macrophages. *J Pharm Pharmacol* 64:610–616
  39. Lee J-H, Lee H-H, Kim H-W et al (2017) Immunomodulatory/anti-inflammatory effect of ZOE-based dental materials. *Dent Mater* 33: e1–e12
  40. Serene TP, Vesely J, Boackle RJ (1988) Complement activation as a possible in vitro indication of the inflammatory potential of endodontic materials. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol* 65:354–357
  41. Chanput W, Mes JJ, Wichers HJ (2014) THP-1 cell line: an in vitro cell model for immune modulation approach. *Int Immunopharmacol* 23:37–45
  42. Sneddon AA, McLeod E, Wahle KWJ, Arthur JR (2006) Cytokine-induced monocyte adhesion to endothelial cells involves platelet-activating factor: suppression by conjugated linoleic acid. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1761:793–801
  43. Su PM, Jain shil K (2014) Effect of PIP3 on adhesion molecules and adhesion of THP-1 monocytes to HUVEC treated with high glucose. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 33:1197–1204
  44. Hong YC, Wang JT, Hong CY et al (1991) The periapical tissue reactions to a calcium phosphate cement in the teeth of monkeys. *J Biomed Mater Res* 25:485–498
  45. Christian Gomes Moura C, Cristina Cunha T, Oliveira Crema V et al (2014) A study on biocompatibility of three endodontic sealers: intensity and duration of tissue irritation. *Iran Endod J* 9:137–143
  46. Kaplan AE, Ormaechea MF, Picca M et al (2003) Rheological properties and biocompatibility of endodontic sealers. *Int Endod J* 36:527–532
  47. Zafalon EJ, Versiani MA, de Souza CJA et al (2007) In vivo comparison of the biocompatibility of two root canal sealers implanted into the subcutaneous connective tissue of rats. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod* 103:e88–e94