






# Storage medium for avulsed teeth: A narrative review

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## Highlights

Immediate replantation is essential for achieving optimal treatment success and a favorable prognosis in avulsed permanent teeth.

The biological properties of storage mediums are critical for preserving the viability, clonogenic capacity, and mitogenic potential of periodontal ligament cells.

Milk is a preferred storage medium due to its satisfactory performance, widespread availability, and cost-effectiveness in emergency situations.

## Abstract

Dental avulsion is the most severe type of traumatic tooth injury, resulting in the complete displacement of the tooth from its socket in the alveolar bone. Immediate replantation of an avulsed permanent tooth is recommended for successful treatment and a good prognosis. However, replantation is not always feasible. The biological properties of the storage medium, which must preserve the viability, clonogenic capacity, and mitogenic potential of the periodontal ligament (PDL) cells, are crucial for successful reimplantation. If the root surface dries out excessively due to prolonged extraoral time before replantation, the damaged PDL cells can trigger an inflammatory response across the root surface, leading to ankylosis. There are various types of storage media, both synthetic and natural. Therefore, selecting the appropriate storage medium in an emergency is critical for improving the outcome of teeth that cannot be immediately replanted. This review examines research on various storage media for avulsed teeth, focusing on their properties and effectiveness, based on articles from electronic databases.

**Keywords:** Dental Trauma; Periodontal Ligament; Storage media; Tooth Avulsion; Traumatic Dental Injuries

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## INTRODUCTION

Trauma to the teeth can result in crown or root fractures, luxation injuries, or avulsions. An avulsion is the complete exarticulation of a tooth from the socket.<sup>1</sup> Immediate replantation is recommended for an avulsed permanent tooth, to minimize the risk of post-replantation resorption of either an inflammatory or a replacement nature.<sup>2</sup> However, immediate repositioning of teeth is not always possible in conditions such as a person's conscious state or lack of knowledge. In these kinds of situations, keeping the tooth in a sufficiently moist media is essential for a better prognosis of replantation because it can prolong the life of the periodontal ligament cells that are still present on the root surface.<sup>3</sup> To maintain periodontal ligament (PDL) cell viability, a variety of storage media can be employed.<sup>4</sup> Determining an appropriate storage medium is crucial to maintaining the highest possible PDL cell survival rate before replantation.<sup>5</sup>

The ideal storage medium should be capable of preserving the feasibility of the cellular periodontal ligament such that the cells can go through mitosis and form clones of the damaged fibroblasts of the periodontal ligament and its generating cells.<sup>6</sup> This is essential so that the root surface with no cells or any damaged fibroblasts of PDL cells attached to it can be repopulated by fibroblasts, avoiding the adherence of osteoclasts in this area. So ideal storage media should have the following properties: it should be easily available and economical<sup>7</sup>; it should have a good shelf life; to produce new cells, the cellularity of the remaining PDL should be maintained<sup>8</sup>; the adherence of osteoclasts to the PDL fibers should be minimized; it should produce an antigen-antibody reaction<sup>8</sup>; it should reduce inflammatory reactions and root resorption<sup>7</sup>; it should preserve the feasibility of the cellular periodontal ligament, enabling cells to undergo mitosis and form clones of the damaged

fibroblasts and their progenitor cells<sup>7</sup>; it should be capable of removing toxic products<sup>9</sup>; it should have antioxidant properties<sup>8</sup>; it should have a compatible pH and physiological osmolarity<sup>8</sup>; and it should wash off extraneous materials and toxic waste products.<sup>10</sup>

There are quite a few review articles already published elsewhere.<sup>7, 8, 11-17</sup> These studies have included limited varieties of storage media, without proper classification methods. Adan et al.,<sup>8</sup> explained more than 20 storage media with their ideal properties, Khinda et al.,<sup>7</sup> and Poi et al.,<sup>11</sup> explained natural as well as synthetic media, Udoeye et al.,<sup>12</sup> explained each storage media based on properties such as maximum storage period, nutrient content, refrigeration requirement, cost-effectiveness, bacterial content, viability of PDL, and clonogenic and mitogenic capacity. Thus, the current review article focuses on a wide variety of storage media with their properties and effectiveness. Also, the different storage media have been explained in a well-classified manner. Thus, the main purpose of this paper is to review available storage media for avulsed teeth and discuss the properties and effectiveness of different storage mediums that have been tried and tested.

## METHODS

Using the keywords 'storage medium', 'transportation medium', 'avulsion', 'tooth avulsion', 'tooth replantation', and 'Natural storage media', PDL cells viability. PubMed/Medline, Lilacs, BBO, and SciELO electronic databases were searched for research articles, reviews of literature, animal laboratory studies, and laboratory studies involving cell counting in human teeth assessing the PDL cell viability after storage of avulsed teeth in different substances, which had been published in English between 2000 and 2024. Regarding the features, effectiveness, and

accessibility of the storage media, 77 publications were chosen and subjected to a critical evaluation process. Each paper was evaluated regarding the effectiveness of maintaining PDL cells, the properties of media, the accessibility and cost of storage media, etc.

### **Classifications of storage media**

The different storage media for an avulsed tooth can be classified into three categories based on their constituents.<sup>18</sup>

#### *Physiologic Storage Media*

These are solutions that closely mimic the composition of the fluids in the human body and are isotonic, meaning they have a similar osmolality to bodily fluids. These solutions help maintain the viability of periodontal ligament cells on the root surface of the avulsed tooth. e.g.: Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS), Save-A-Tooth® system, and Viaspan®.

#### *Hypertonic Storage Media*

These are solutions that have a higher concentration of solutes than the fluids in the human body and can prevent the swelling of the periodontal ligament cells, thereby reducing the risk of damage. Hypertonic solutions like 10% dextrose or 20% sucrose have been suggested for preserving organs for transplantation due to their dehydrating effect, they are not ideal for storing avulsed teeth. Placing an avulsed tooth in a hypertonic solution can lead to dehydration and damage to the periodontal ligament cells, reducing the chances of successful reimplantation.

#### *Non-Physiologic Storage Media*

These are solutions that are not meant for long-term storage but can be used as a temporary measure until a suitable physiologic storage medium is available, e.g., saline solution, and tap

water (as a last resort). It is important to note that the storage medium should be used as soon as possible after the avulsion to improve the chances of successful reimplantation. Tap water can cause damage to periodontal cells due to its hypotonic nature, while milk and saliva lack the necessary components to support cell viability over an extended period. Additionally, the tooth should be handled gently to the crown structure and not on the root surface, and not scrubbed or cleaned before storage, as this can damage the periodontal ligament cells.

Research has shown that storing avulsed teeth in a physiologic solution significantly improves the chances of successful reimplantation by preserving the vitality of PDL cells and promoting periodontal healing.<sup>18, 19</sup> Using hypertonic solutions for prolonged storage of avulsed teeth is not recommended as it can compromise the viability of PDL cells and decrease the chances of successful reimplantation. Storing avulsed teeth in non-physiologic solutions can lead to rapid deterioration of PDL cells, increasing the risk of ankylosis and root resorption upon reimplantation.<sup>18, 20</sup>

Another classification based on origin is shown in Table 1.

### **Natural storage media**

#### *Tap water*

Tap water is a non-physiologic storage medium and has non-physiological pH and osmolality, bacterial contamination, and hypotonicity that promote the lysis of PDL cells, it is not a suitable medium for keeping avulsed teeth.<sup>21, 22</sup> Its hypotonic nature causes the periodontal ligament to rapidly lyse cellularly, similar to how dry storage does, even though it helps to prevent dehydration. For this reason, it is not a suitable method for preserving avulsed teeth.<sup>22, 23</sup>

Table 1. Classification of storage media based on origin

Natural	Synthetic
Tap water <sup>21,22</sup>	Normal saline <sup>90</sup>
Saliva <sup>21,26</sup>	HBSS <sup>91,92</sup>
Milk <sup>27,28</sup>	Eagle’s medium <sup>94,95</sup>
Egg white <sup>25,31</sup>	Dubelco’s storage media <sup>96</sup>
Propolis <sup>40</sup>	Gatorade <sup>97</sup>
Coconut water <sup>44,45</sup>	Tooth rescue box <sup>100</sup>
Camellia sinensis (Green tea extract) <sup>46</sup>	Contact lens solution <sup>101</sup>
Saliva officinalis extract <sup>54</sup>	L-DOPA <sup>102,103</sup>
Morus rubra fruit (red mulberry) <sup>58</sup>	ViaSpan <sup>105</sup>
Emdogain® <sup>60-62</sup>	Ricetral <sup>106</sup>
Soy milk <sup>63</sup>	Minimal essential medium <sup>107</sup>
Honey milk <sup>67,68</sup>	Cling film <sup>108</sup>
Punica granatum (Pomegranate juice) <sup>73</sup>	Euro-COLLINS <sup>111</sup>
Aloe vera <sup>75,76</sup>	Cryoprotective agents <sup>112</sup>
Rice water <sup>77</sup>	Catalase supplementation <sup>113</sup>
Dragon’s blood sap <sup>35</sup>	Custodial <sup>90</sup>
Cranberry <sup>79</sup>	Conditioned medium <sup>114</sup>
Mimusops Elengi (Bakul) <sup>81</sup>	Probiotics <sup>117</sup>
Prunus domestica (Plum) <sup>79</sup>	Casein phospho-peptides <sup>118</sup>
Psidium guajava (Guava) <sup>79</sup>	Oral rehydration solution <sup>119</sup>
Basil (Tulsi) <sup>85</sup>	Growth factors <sup>121</sup>
Ice apple (Borassus flabellifer) <sup>87</sup>	Cornisol <sup>121</sup>
Curcuma longa (turmeric) <sup>88</sup>	Placentrex <sup>122</sup>
Neem (Azadirachta indica) <sup>88</sup>	
Castor oil <sup>89</sup>	

Saliva

Human saliva (buccal vestibule) is used as a storage medium due to its availability, but it has unfavourable characteristics, such as non-physiological pH and osmolality (60-70 mOsm/kg), high microbial contamination, and hypotonicity.<sup>21</sup> It has been suggested that saliva can

be used as an interim storage medium for up to 4 hours.<sup>24</sup> Though it is readily available, avulsed teeth should not be stored for longer than 30 minutes in saliva. It contains potentially harmful substances, such as enzymes, bacteria, and their by-products.<sup>23, 25</sup> On the other hand, in an animal study, Andreassen et al.,<sup>26</sup> reported that saliva and

saline were appropriate storage media to prevent root resorption for brief extra-alveolar intervals.

### *Milk*

Milk is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. It satisfies the requirements for a short-term storage medium such as it is physiologically pH balanced, capable of maintaining PDL cell viability, and bacterial count is low and widely accessible.<sup>27</sup> as well as the advantages of milk as a preservative fluid are that it is nearly isotonic and relatively free of bacterial contamination.<sup>27</sup> It is the most practical transport medium for the short-term storage of avulsed teeth because of its ready availability in almost all situations.<sup>28</sup> It is a compatible short-term storage medium for teeth if placed in it within 15 to 20 minutes of being avulsed. Milk can maintain the viability of PDL fibroblast, and it is superior to saliva, water, or air drying, but not as good as HBSS<sup>27</sup> and coconut water.<sup>29, 30</sup>

### *Egg white*

Egg albumin is composed mainly of 76.15% water, 12.56% proteins, 0.72% carbohydrates, 9.51% total fats, minerals (Ca, Fe, Mg, Ph., Po, Na, and Zn), vitamins (A, C, B complex, and E), and sugars. The pH of egg albumin is about 6.6-7, and its osmolality is about 251-298 mOsmol/kg.<sup>31</sup> So it is considered a good choice as a storage medium for teeth undergoing delayed replantation due to its high content of proteins, vitamins, and water, absence of microbial contamination, and easy access.<sup>21, 23</sup> No significant difference between egg white and HBSS at storage times of 1, 2, 4, 8, and 12 hours has been established, and egg white was more suitable than water and milk as it preserved the PDL cell viability.<sup>25</sup>

### *Propolis*

Propolis is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. It is a natural, non-toxic resinous substance that has been collected from several types of plants by bees for covering and protecting the hive.<sup>32</sup> It has anti-inflammatory,<sup>33</sup> antiseptic,<sup>34</sup> antibiotic, antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, antioxidant, anti-carcinogenic, anti-thrombotic, and immunomodulatory properties.<sup>35</sup> Along with these properties, propolis also inhibits the osteoclastic resorption of teeth, which is a common sequela of replantation of teeth.<sup>36</sup> Propolis is one step ahead of milk,<sup>35, 37</sup> HBSS,<sup>35</sup> Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium<sup>38</sup>, or saline in maintaining PDL cell viability. 10% Propolis is more efficient than 20% in maintaining PDL viability.<sup>38</sup> It may be helpful as an intracanal medication to reduce the resorption of damaged teeth as it can prevent the final stages of osteoclast growth.<sup>39</sup> Propolis's major drawback is its limited availability to the general public, which makes it not useful as a tooth avulsion storage solution.<sup>40</sup>

### *Coconut water*

Coconut water is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. It is biologically pure, sterile, and rich in amino acids, proteins, vitamins, and minerals. It possesses regenerative<sup>41</sup> and antioxidant properties.<sup>42</sup> storage media having antioxidant properties can be more effective in maintaining the viability of PDL. But it has a pH of 4.1 that causes harmful effects on cell metabolism until sufficiently neutralized. Avulsed teeth that are left dry for more than 30 minutes may benefit from soaking in 100% mature coconut water.<sup>43</sup> Gopikrishna et al.,<sup>44</sup> reported that coconut water has a greater capacity to maintain cell viability when compared to propolis, HBSS, and milk. On the other hand, Pearson et al.,<sup>22</sup> and Thomas et al.,<sup>45</sup> observed that inflammatory resorption was



more frequent when the tooth was maintained in coconut water compared with milk.

#### *Camellia sinensis* (Green tea extract)

Epigallocatechin-3-gallate [EGCG] is a major polyphenol in green tea, having antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial properties and good anticarcinogenic effects.<sup>46-48</sup> The commercially available green tea is easily available at the site of the accident. Therefore, it is tested as a storage media. Hwang et al.,<sup>46</sup> and Jung et al.,<sup>49</sup> found positive results with green tea in minimizing the infections following tooth replantation, maintaining PDL cell viability, and reducing root resorption and ankylosis, with the maintenance of 90% of cell viability for up to 24 hours, comparable to the HBSS control.<sup>46, 49</sup> However, on the other side, it has low osmolality which may lead to the death of the PDL cells and therefore, is not suitable for storage of avulsed teeth.<sup>50</sup>

#### *Salvia officinalis*

Salvia, the largest genus of *Lamiaceae*, includes approximately 900 species widespread all over the world.<sup>51</sup> It has antimicrobial,<sup>52</sup> antiviral, antitumoral,<sup>53</sup> and anti-inflammatory properties. Ozan et al.,<sup>54</sup> observed that the viability of PDL cells is similar for 2.5% *S.officinalis* and HBSS at intervals of 1-3 hours, but the effectiveness of 2.5% *S.officinalis* is noticeably higher than that of HBSS at a 24-hour interval. So, it has been confirmed as a storage medium as it has antioxidant effects due to the presence of its phenolic components (rosmarinus acid, camosic acid, and salvianolic acid).

#### *Morus rubra* fruit (red mulberry)

The mulberry belongs to the genus *Morus* of the family *Moraceae*.<sup>55</sup> Mulberry fruits can be used as a worming agent, as a remedy for dysentery, and as a laxative, odontalgic, expectorant, hypoglycemic,

and emetic.<sup>56</sup> The methanolic extract of red mulberry shows antimicrobial properties.<sup>57</sup> Özkan et al.,<sup>58</sup> observed that 4.0% and 2.5% *M. rubra* solutions showed better results than HBSS at all hours, except at 24 hours in maintaining the PDL cells' viability. However, storage media containing *M. rubra* are not yet available.<sup>58</sup>

#### *Emdogain*®

Emdogain® is a commercial name for Enamel matrix derivative (EMD) is prepared from an acidic extract of homogenized extracellular matrix from tooth buds of swine, and contains predominantly the protein amelogenin as well as other enamel matrix proteins and growth factors such as transforming growth factor-beta.<sup>59</sup> EMD acts selectively on periodontal ligament fibroblasts and stimulates attachment, proliferation, extracellular matrix synthesis, autocrine growth factor expression, and cellular differentiation.<sup>60, 61</sup> Fridström et al.,<sup>62</sup> mentioned Emdogain® gives more favourable conditions regarding extra-oral time, storage medium, and systemic antibiotics.

#### *Soy milk*

Soymilk, the water extract of soybeans, is a rich source of high-quality protein and amino acids. It contains no cholesterol or lactose and very small amounts of saturated fatty acids.<sup>63</sup> It has been identified as an excellent culture medium for cell growth and biochemical activities as it has a pH of 7.3 and 267 mOsmol/kg of osmolality.<sup>64</sup> It has been able to maintain cell viability at similar levels as whole milk<sup>65, 66</sup> and, HBSS.<sup>66</sup>

#### *Honey milk*

It is 8% non-fat solid milk, 3 gm protein, 11 gm carbohydrate, 0.1 gm calcium, 0.6 gm minerals & 0.12gm phosphorous and natural honey (5%). It has a pH of 6.07 and 280 mOsmol/kg of osmolality. The storage capacity is at least 6 months without the need for a refrigerator. After 9

hours the long shelf life of honey milk showed better results than fresh milk and comparable results to HBSS.<sup>67, 68</sup> and easily available than expensive commercial solutions.

#### *Punica granatum (pomegranate juice)*

Pomegranate is the fruit of *Punica granatum* (*Punicaceae*), which has been extensively used in the folk medicine of many cultures.<sup>69</sup> It is a rich source of polyphenolic flavonoids; which possess direct and indirect antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial properties.<sup>70-72</sup> Along with these properties, it also promotes strong cell attachment. While pomegranate polyphenols have antioxidant and antiviral properties, which may result in higher viability of PDL cells.<sup>69</sup> Tavassoli-Hojjati et al.,<sup>73</sup> observed that *Punica granatum* is equally effective as HBSS. They further suggested that a 7.5% concentration of pomegranate juice is more effective, and cell viability increases with increased concentration. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

#### *Aloe vera*

Aloe vera is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. The inner gel of aloe vera contains more than 75 active ingredients. It has anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antioxidant, immune-stimulating, and hypoglycemic effects among its pharmacological actions.<sup>74</sup> At doses of 10%, 30%, and 50%, aloe vera preserved cell viability above 90%. Fulzele et al.,<sup>75</sup> observed that indigenously prepared pure aloe vera gel has exhibited PDL cell viability comparable to HBSS. It was observed that periodontal fibers near the cementum of the tooth stored in Aloe vera were thick and intact, however, the periodontal fibers associated with teeth stored in milk and HBSS were loose.<sup>76</sup> Due to its easy availability and low cost, it can be used as a storage medium for avulsed teeth.

#### *Rice water*

Rice water has low sodium content, and useful quantities of potassium, Vitamin B, thiamine, and niacin. It also has anti-inflammatory properties. The iron and zinc in its composition help in the synthesis of collagen.<sup>77</sup> Sharma et al.,<sup>77</sup> mentioned that rice water may be able to maintain PDL cell viability better than egg white or milk. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

#### *Dragon's blood sap (Croton Lechleri)*

Dragon's blood sap is a medicinal plant with anti-inflammatory, healing, anticancer, antimycotic, antiviral, antifungal, antibacterial, and antioxidant properties. It can induce osteogenesis mineralization, and bone formation, as reported.<sup>35</sup> Martins et al.,<sup>35</sup> evaluated the efficacy of the sap to maintain PDL cell viability.

#### *Cranberry (vaccinium macrocarpon)*

Cranberry is regarded as a superfruit. It is a rich source of phytochemicals, vitamins, and phenolic compounds (e.g, anthocyanins, proanthocyanidins, phenolic acids, and flavonols).<sup>78</sup> It has antibacterial and antiviral properties.<sup>79</sup> Anegundi et al.,<sup>79</sup> observed that the cranberry can preserve viable cells even in prolonged extra-alveolar time.

#### *Mimusops Elengi (bakul)*

Bakul has antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antipyretic properties.<sup>80</sup> Kumar et al.,<sup>81</sup> observed that *Mimusops elengi* (bakul) can maintain 70% PDL cell viability, but the pH and osmolality were not favourable for the growth of the PDL cells. Hence, its use as a storage medium was dismissed.

### *Prunus domestica* (plum)

Plums are phenolic-rich fruits that contain a mixture of polyphenolic compounds that can exert several biological effects, including antibacterial,<sup>82</sup> antioxidant,<sup>83</sup> and anti-inflammatory properties.<sup>84</sup> Anegundi et al.,<sup>79</sup> observed that *prunus domestica* increases cell viability at 15 minutes to 30 minutes and 1-3 hours' time intervals.

### *Psidium guajava* (guava)

Guava or *Psidium guajava*, is a fruit that is also said to have therapeutic qualities. Guava leaves showed cell proliferative capacity and also maintained viable PDL cells.<sup>79</sup> Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *Basil leaves (tulsi) (ocimum sanctum)*

Basil leaves have been used for centuries as a medicinal plant. It contains high phenolic compounds, and phytochemicals such as flavonoids, tannins, terpenoids, and saponins in the leaves and stems. It has antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, and antibacterial properties due to the presence of anion radicals. Because of these properties, basil can be used as a storage medium.<sup>85</sup> Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *Ice apple (Borassus flabellifer)*

Botanically, ice apple (*Borassus flabellifer*), a locally available fleshy, juicy fruit in coastal regions of India, has a similar composition as coconut water.<sup>86</sup> The fresh pulp of ice apple fruit is rich in vitamins A and C, several phytochemicals that possess strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, dietary fiber, and minerals, which are positive factors in the nourishment and viability of the cells and it has a pH of 5.3-5.4.<sup>87</sup> Bijlani et al.,<sup>87</sup> observed that 10% ice apple fruit pulp has the maximum capacity to maintain PDL cell viability.

### *Curcuma longa* (turmeric)

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is a popular antiseptic in the *Zingiberaceae* family. The anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antibacterial, antiseptic, and antimutagenic qualities of curcumin have been demonstrated. Curcumin can preserve the viability of PDL cells and can be used as a suitable natural storage medium.<sup>88</sup> Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very less, further research is needed.

### *Azadirachta indica* (neem)

It has been established that neem leaf and its components have antiviral, antifungal, antihyperglycemic, antimutagenic, anticarcinogenic, and immunomodulatory qualities. With a pH balance of 7-7.5 and an osmolality of 270 mOsmol/kg. Dhimole et al.,<sup>88</sup> observed that neem maintains the PDL cell viability as comparable to milk.

### *Castor oil*

Castor oil as a vegetable oil has several advantages, such as antimicrobial and antioxidant properties, low toxicity, glutathione preservation capability, low cost, and high availability. It has a pH of 6.0-8.1 and 260 to 320 mOsmol/kg. But Nabavizadeh et al.,<sup>89</sup> observed that castor oil was not able to preserve the viability of PDL cells efficiently, comparable to HBSS and milk.

## Synthetic storage media

### *Normal saline*

Saline has an osmolality of 280 mOsmol/kg and a pH of 7, which is favourable for PDL cells. While readily accessible, it is deficient in important nutrients that the cells require, such as glucose and ions. It can be stored for up to 30 minutes, and if left out longer, it begins to degrade PDL cells. Although saline is an insufficient medium, it can be utilized momentarily due to its ease of availability.<sup>90</sup>



### *Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS)*

HBSS is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. Because of its osmolality of 320 mOsmol/kg and pH of 7.2, HBSS is regarded as the gold standard media for avulsion. Ingredients present in it, including glucose, calcium, and magnesium ions, can replenish and maintain the depleted biological components of the PDL cells.<sup>91</sup> It was the most successful medium for maintaining the survival, mitogenicity, and clonogenic potential of periodontal ligament cells for up to 24 hours at 4°C, according to Ashkenazi et al.,<sup>91</sup> and Pillegi et al.,<sup>92</sup> It is commercially available as Save-A Tooth™. It has been recommended as the storage medium of choice for avulsed teeth by the American Association of Endodontics.<sup>93</sup> Unfortunately, HBSS is not commonly used in India since it is not readily available.

### *Eagle's medium*

Eagle's Minimal Essential Medium is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. It contains L-glutamine, penicillin, streptomycin, nystatin, calf serum, amino acids, vitamins, and bicarbonates. It has a pH of 6.8-7.2 and 310-360 mOsmol/kg osmolality. As reported by Ashkenazi et al.,<sup>94</sup> Eagle's medium exhibited a comparatively high level of viability, mitogenicity, and clonogenic capability for up to eight hours at 4° C in storage. The Eagle's medium at 37° C is a recommended storage medium as it can preserve the PDL for extended periods before reimplantation.<sup>95</sup>

### *Dubelco's storage medium*

Dubelco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. It is a variation of Eagle's Modified Essential Medium (EMEM) that contains approximately four times more vitamins and amino acids than the

regular EMEM formula, as well as 2-4 times more glucose, iron, and phenol red. DMEM is suitable for use with most types of cells. However, it is not accessible to the general public, making it useless as a storage medium for avulsed teeth.<sup>96</sup>

### *Gatorade®*

Gatorade® is a physiologic storage medium that closely mimics the composition of the fluids in the human body. It is a non-carbonated sports drink, consumed by non-athletes for rehydration. Sigalas et al.,<sup>97</sup> evaluated Gatorade as toxic to the cells at 37° C, but this may be an alternate medium to HBSS and milk when used ice cold and for a short time. Since the low pH (3) and high osmolality (280-360 mOsmol/kg) are unfavourable to cell development or survival.<sup>98</sup> Chamorro et al.,<sup>99</sup> found that it mildly damages cell membranes, which triggers apoptosis in human PDL cells. Whereas Gatorade preserves more viable cells than tap water. It only serves as a storage medium if other media are not available as it is easily available at sporting events.<sup>95</sup>

### *Tooth Rescue Box (Dentosafe)*

It has a growth medium with salts, amino acids, glucose, and vitamins in it, just like the one used for islet cell transplantation. The unopened box is good for three years at room temperature. It has been demonstrated to sustain PDL cell viability *in vitro* for up to 48 hours at room temperature.<sup>100</sup> The unopened box is good for three years at room temperature. Pohl et al.,<sup>100</sup> recommended that Dentosafe be a common item in first aid kits after showing in human studies that all teeth placed in the Dentosafe solution shortly after avulsion healed with physiologic function. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *Contact lens solution*

Contact lens solutions are fatty acid monoester composites with an antimicrobial cationic component. Preservative-containing buffered, isotonic saline solutions are found in contact lens solutions, which may help maintain PDL cell viability. It has antimicrobial activity. It preserves significantly more viable cells than tap water and Gatorade but is not as effective as HBSS and milk.<sup>101</sup> The advantage of contact lens solutions as storage mediums is it readily available at homes, schools, and centers of physical activities. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *L-DOPA*

L-DOPA (levodopa; Sigma Chemicals, Perth, WA, Australia) is a drug with possible mitogenic effects. In the human body, L-dopa changes to dopamine, which stimulates the anterior part of hypophysis to secrete growth hormone which is a promoter of the healing process.<sup>102</sup> Partovi et al.,<sup>103</sup> studied levodopa's impact on human PDL fibroblasts. They found that the drug may have a local impact on cell proliferation, including PDL cells, and may be utilized as a preservation agent for avulsed teeth. Due to the presence of all nutrients, pH, and osmolality for cellular growth L-Dopa contributes to the mitogenic activity of these viable PDL cells.<sup>104</sup>

### *ViaSpan*

ViaSpan is a medium used for the transportation of organs. It is clear to a light yellow sterile, non-pyrogenic solution with an osmolality of 320 mOsmol/kg and a pH of 7.4 at room temperature. After eighteen hours of storage, it yielded results better than milk and comparable to HBSS, making it the finest storage medium ever seen.<sup>105</sup> Its high cost and unavailability make it difficult to find and use this storage medium.<sup>101</sup>

### *Ricetral*

Ricetral is an oral rehydration solution that contains essential cells and nutrients like glucose and vital salts in concentrations considered adequate for cell metabolism and can be used as storage media for avulsed teeth. Ricetral was shown to be superior to milk and comparable to the HBSS control in a study conducted by Rajendran et al.<sup>106</sup> Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *Minimum Essential Medium (MEM)*

MEM cell culture medium contains L-glutamine, penicillin, streptomycin, Nystatin, bovine serum, and nutrients for cell growth and proliferation.<sup>107</sup> Souza et al.,<sup>107</sup> have reported its efficacy in preserving the viability of PDL cells and have indicated it as a storage medium before tooth replantation. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *Cling Film*

It is a recent alternative transport medium with a storage period of up to 6 hours. According to Zeissler et al.,<sup>108</sup> cling film storage medium shows a probability of cell growth at the withdrawal time of 2 hours and 86% cell growth, so it can be used as a storage medium for avulsed teeth. It retains the thin fluid film on the root surface can create the physiologic environment necessary for cell survival.<sup>109</sup>

### *Euro-Collins*

It is used for preserving organs to be transplanted. It has a physiologic pH of 7.4 and an osmolality of 420 mOsmol/kg to maintain PDL cell viability. It contains potassium, sodium, and chlorine.<sup>110</sup> Electrolytes and phosphate present in Euro-collins have a buffering capacity that prevents PDL cell acidosis. Whereas a high concentration of

potassium decreases the intracellular cation loss and the presence of essential nutrients for the growth and proliferation of PDL cells.<sup>105</sup> When Sottovia et al.,<sup>111</sup> evaluated the avulsed dog teeth kept in the Euro-Collins solution histologically and historically, they found outcomes that were identical to those seen following immediate replantation, including good supporting tissue repair, vessel and PDL collagen fiber repair, and cementum formation. But their lack of availability and high cost make their routine use unviable.

### *Cryoprotective Agents*

Cryoprotective agents are generally used to protect biological tissue from freezing damage. Cryoprotective compounds, such as 10% glycerol and 5% and 10% dimethyl sulfide (DSMO), were examined by Schwartz et al.,<sup>112</sup> for their impact on PDL. Their findings indicate that using cryoprotectants in conjunction with carefully regulated freezing temperatures down to -196°C can help maintain the pulp of restored teeth to varying degrees.

### *Catalase Supplementation*

Catalase is an antioxidant enzyme that converts H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to water and oxygen. Surface resorption was shown to be significantly reduced upon catalase supplementation, according to Buttke et al.,<sup>113</sup> It is hypothesized that roots preserved with antioxidants have reduced surface resorption levels. PDL cells may benefit from including an antioxidant such as catalase because some storage media contain hydrogen peroxide, which may harm PDL cells.

### *Custodial*

Custodiol is a potassium-free histidine-tryptophan ketoglutarate solution, it has excellent flow characteristics and is utilized as an organ transplant preservation solution. Its composition, with an osmolality of 310 mOsmol/kg, is comparable to

that of extracellular fluid.<sup>85</sup> According to Alaçam et al.,<sup>90</sup> it is comparable to HBSS for cell preservation. Since it is not accessible to the general public, its usefulness as a storage medium has been limited.

### *Conditioned Medium*

The culture-grown supernatant of human gingival fibroblasts is the source of conditioned media. These growth factors may have a stimulatory effect on the remaining cells on the root surface because they may contain stimulatory factors released by the gingival fibroblast cells. An animal study<sup>114</sup> observed that roots immersed in a conditioned medium had reduced healing rates compared to roots soaked in HBSS and ViaSpan. On the other hand, placenta-derived mesenchymal stem cells showed better inhibition of apoptosis of PDL cells and promoted the proliferation of PDL cells.<sup>115</sup>

### *Probiotic Solution*

Probiotics are living microorganisms that are administered or taken to improve health. probiotic milk to maintain PDL cell viability comparable to that of HBSS.<sup>116</sup> considered almost comparable to that of HBSS. Cagler et al.,<sup>117</sup> reported that because *Bifidobacterium animalis* DN 173010 has a high percentage of viable PDL cells, it appears to be a promising option for the temporary storage of avulsed teeth. To assess its efficacy in clinical practice, further research is needed.

### *Casein Phosphopeptides*

Casein phosphopeptide is a non-fluoridating remineralizing agent. It contains 80% of milk proteins and growth factors. The osmolality and pH are physiologic; they also have a low bacterial content due to pasteurization and, hence, can be efficient as a storage medium.<sup>118</sup> Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

### *Oral rehydration solution (ORS)*

ORS is a simple, inexpensive glucose and electrolyte solution that has been widely used in the treatment of dehydration. It is a glucose-electrolyte solution whose compositions maintain the optimal osmolality as well as pH and can even provide nutrients. Mousavi et al.,<sup>119</sup> observed that by using ORS, the viability of the PDL cells was maintained for at least 12 hours and was similar to HBSS. Whereas, the 100% concentration of ORS was considered the worst concentration, which might be because of the hyperosmotic situation.

### *Cornisol*

Cornisol is a corneal storage solution for human corneas and can be preserved for up to 14 days. Supplements include trace elements, vitamins, ATP precursors, chondroitin sulphate, recombinant human insulin, dextran, stabilized L-glutamine, gentamycin, and streptomycin. According to a study conducted by Singh et al.,<sup>120</sup> Cornisol showed promising results in preserving the periodontal ligament cell viability for an extended period of up to 96 hours and was considered superior to HBSS. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very less, further research is needed.

### *Growth factors*

It has been demonstrated that polypeptide growth factors encourage PDL regeneration. Short-term administration of a combination of insulin-like growth factor (IGF) and platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) has been shown by Lynch et al.,<sup>121</sup> to promote the healing of the periodontal attachment apparatus. It has been noted that fibroblasts exposed to growth factors enhanced the cells' ability to proliferate.

### *Placentrex*

Each ml of Placentrex is resultant from 0.1 gm. of fresh, sterilized, infection-free human placenta. It

has wound-healing, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, and analgesic properties. Thoyalil et al.,<sup>122</sup> mentioned that Placentrex is a better alternative storage medium for avulsed teeth. Since research conducted to assess its efficacy is very limited, further research is needed.

In this review article, the evidence-based articles have been given more focus rather than opinion-based articles. The cost of each material is not mentioned accurately. The cost of individual storage media, which can be used for carrying avulsed tooth, can vary depending on region, availability type of media, etc. However, low cost is one of the main interests of dental trauma research. Certain natural media like egg whites, saliva, normal saline, milk, coconut water, etc., can be economical. However, most of the research points towards the HBSS solution being the best of all the available media. However, in developing countries, this type of media and its storage in schools or any community area can be a challenging factor.

In future, animal studies or *in vivo* studies of efficacy of newer materials such as certain cell growth media or organ transplanting solutions, etc. should be carried out to evaluate better efficacy in dental clinical practice.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The selection of an appropriate storage medium for avulsed teeth is critical in preserving their viability and enhancing the chances of successful re-implantation. By understanding the characteristics and benefits of different types of storage media, dental professionals can make informed decisions to optimize treatment outcomes and improve patient care. Based on the detailed analysis of the literature it's important to recognize that no storage media is perfect while physiologic solutions like Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) offer advantages in mimicking the body's natural environment and supporting cell



viability, they still have limitations as they may not always be readily available in emergencies, and their effectiveness can diminish over time. However, more research is needed to find the storage media that matches all ideal properties along with readily available storage media at accident sites.

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