

PONTIFÍCIA UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA DO PARANÁ  
ESCOLA DE SAÚDE E BIOCIÊNCIAS  
PROGRAMA DE MESTRADO EM ODONTOLOGIA  
ÁREA DE CONCENTRAÇÃO ENDODONTIA

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**EXPRESSÃO DE MATRIZ DE METALOPROTEINASE-2  
CORRELACIONADA A BACTÉRIAS GRAM-NEGATIVAS  
EM LESÕES PERIAPICais SINTOMÁTICAS E  
ASSINTOMÁTICAS**

**Curitiba**

**2014**

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Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em odontologia da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, como parte dos requisitos para obtenção do título de Mestre em odontologia, Área de Concentração em Endodontia.

Orientador : Everdan Carneiro

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GRUPO MARISTA

## TERMO DE APROVAÇÃO

**ANDREIA BONATO PAROLIN**

### **EXPRESSÃO DE MATRIZ DE METALOPROTEINASE-2 CORRELACIONADA A BACTÉRIAS GRAM-NEGATIVAS EM LESÕES PERIAPICais SINTOMÁTICAS E ASSINTOMÁTICAS**

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Curitiba, 31 de outubro de 2014.

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## 1 ARTIGO EM PORTUGUÊS

2 Expressão de matriz de metaloproteinase-2 correlacionada a bactérias gram-  
3 negativas em lesões periapicais sintomáticas e assintomáticas.

4

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16

1    **Resumo**

2         Introdução: Determinar se a hipótese que a expressão de matriz  
3         metaloproteinase-2 (MMP-2) é significativamente elevada em pacientes com  
4         periodontite apical sintomática e correlacionar com a quantidade detectada de  
5         bactérias gram-negativas. Métodos: Vinte pacientes com lesões periapicais foram  
6         divididos em 2 grupos: o grupo sintomático (ASSIN) incluindo 10 pacientes  
7         expressando lesão periapical e dor, e o grupo assintomático (SIN), incluindo 10  
8         pacientes sem expressar dor. Todos os dentes foram tratados endodonticamente,  
9         pelo menos, dois anos antes da cirurgia periapical. As lesões periapicais foram  
10        coletadas e serialmente seccionadas em cortes de 4 $\mu$ m. Pelo menos duas secções  
11        foram processadas para exame microscópico com hematoxilina-eosina. Outras  
12        secções foram processadas para imunohistoquímica. Para a MMP-2, a área  
13        selecionada com células imunopositivas foi medida, e a percentagem de MMP-2, em  
14        relação a área total do campo microscópico foi calculada. Para as bactérias gram-  
15        negativas, o número de bactéria que apresentavam a cor rosa vermelhada foi  
16        contado por campo microscópico. O teste T-Student foi utilizado para comparar os  
17        grupos SIN e ASSIN. O Coeficiente de correlação de Pearson foi utilizado para  
18        determinar uma correlação significativa entre o número de bactérias gram-negativas  
19        e os níveis de MMP-2. O nível de significância foi estabelecida em  $p <0,05$ .  
20        Resultados: Pelo percentual de área do MMP-2, o grupo ASSIN mostrou uma média  
21        estatisticamente maior do que o grupo SIN ( $p = 0,027$ ). O grupo SIN mostrou um  
22        aumento estatisticamente significativo no número de células gram-negativas ( $p =$   
23        0,003) quando comparado ao ASSIN. Não houve correlação positiva  
24        estatisticamente significativa entre o número de bactéria gram-negativas e a  
25        porcentagem de área de MMP-2 ( $p = 0,187$ ). Conclusão: Existe fraca evidência de  
26        um papel significativo de bactérias gram-negativas e MMP-2 em lesões periapicais  
27        sintomáticas.

28

29         Palavras-chave: bactérias gram-negativas; matriz metaloproteinase-2; lesões  
30         periapicais; sintomático.

31

## 1    Introdução

2       A periodontite apical é uma doença inflamatória dos tecidos peri-radiculares  
3 causadas por infecção microbiana persistente dentro do sistema de canal radicular  
4 do dente afetado.<sup>1</sup> Pode ter uma fase aguda ou crônica. A inflamação aguda  
5 (sintomática) é uma resposta exsudativa, enquanto que a inflamação crônica é mais  
6 proliferativa (assintomática).<sup>2</sup>

7       As metaloproteinases da matriz (MMPs) são uma família de endopeptidases  
8 metais-dependentes que representam a maioria das classes de enzimas  
9 responsáveis pela degradação dos componentes da matriz extracelular (ECM).<sup>3</sup> A  
10 MMP-1 tem sido relacionada como chave na iniciação da fase de reabsorção óssea  
11 na periodontite apical.<sup>4</sup> Além de MMP-2, MMP-3, MMP-8, MMP-9 e MMP-13 que  
12 foram descritas em lesões periapicais<sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup> e desempenham um papel de suma  
13 importância durante o desenvolvimento de patologia periapical.<sup>8,10</sup> Entretanto, foi  
14 sugerido recentemente que há boas evidências para suspeitar de um papel  
15 significativo de bactérias gram-negativas e MMP-9 em lesões periapicais  
16 sintomáticas.<sup>11</sup> A MMP-2 também conhecida como gelatinase A, é uma proteína  
17 ligada à membrana que é de suma importância para o *turnover* da matriz  
18 extracelular, preferencialmente clivar colágeno tipo IV, V, VII e XI e gelatina.<sup>12</sup> A  
19 imunomarcação para a MMP-2 na lesão periapical foi expressa, principalmente pelos  
20 fibroblastos, células endoteliais, monócitos / macrófagos e osteoblastos.<sup>5</sup> Durante a  
21 fase de desenvolvimento da lesão, a MMP-2 e MMP-9 foram descritas, por  
22 desempenhar um papel crítico.<sup>10</sup> Por outro lado, tem sido relatado que os níveis de  
23 MMP-9 aumentaram, enquanto que os níveis de MMP-2 diminuíram em comparação  
24 com polpas inflamadas e polpas saudáveis.<sup>13</sup> Além disso, foram também relatadas  
25 diferentes níveis entre MMP-2 e MMP-9 em abscessos periapicais agudos e  
26 crônicos.<sup>14</sup>

27       O objetivo deste estudo foi testar a hipótese de que a expressão da MMP-2 é  
28 significativamente elevada em pacientes com periodontite apical sintomática e  
29 correlacionar com a quantidade detectada de bactérias gram-negativas.

1    **Materiais e Métodos**

2    **Seleção dos Pacientes**

3               Vinte pacientes com lesões periapicais foram selecionados para este estudo.  
4    O diagnóstico de periodontite apical foi baseado principalmente no exame  
5    radiográfico, o que demonstra a perda óssea clara e desaparecimento do espaço do  
6    ligamento periodontal na região periapical. Todas as amostras de tecido (n = 20)  
7    foram da região anterior superior envolvendo apenas um dente de cada paciente. A  
8    idade dos pacientes variou de 19 a 41 anos. Apenas pacientes livres de medicação  
9    foram incluídos na pesquisa. Todos os procedimentos foram realizados após a  
10   obtenção da aprovação do comitê de Ética da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do  
11   Paraná, Brasil, Número Parecer: 459.509, e os pacientes assinaram um formulário  
12   com o termo de consentimento. Os pacientes foram divididos em dois grupos: o  
13   grupo sintomático (SIN), que incluía 10 pacientes com queixa de dor severa e  
14   constante, antes da cirurgia endodôntica, e o grupo assintomático (ASSIN), que  
15   incluía 10 pacientes sem dor ou sintomas. Todos os dentes foram retratados  
16   endodonticamente em um período de até dois anos antes da cirurgia periapical. No  
17   grupo assintomático, a imagem das lesões periapicais tinha aumentado quando  
18   comparado com a radiografia inicial do tratamento endodontico. No grupo SIN a  
19   periodontite aguda estava presente e poderia sugerir insucesso no tratamento. A  
20   cirurgia periapical foi realizada em todos os dentes e o tecido periapical foi coletado  
21   e imediatamente imersos em formalina neutra 10% tamponada durante 24 horas e,  
22   em seguida, cortados em secções de 4 $\mu$ m. Duas secções foram processadas para  
23   exame imuno-histoquímico. Outras duas secções foram processadas para exame  
24   histológico utilizando coloração de gram-negativo.

25    **Imunohistoquímica**

26               As secções de tecido em lâmina de vidro foram desparafinadas por  
27   aquecimento a 60 ° C, seguido de passagens através de xilol e graduação alcoólica  
28   e finalmente, a água. A recuperação antígenica foi efetuada por fervura das lâminas  
29   em solução tampão de citrato 10MN, pH 6,0 durante 10 minutos, seguido de

1 esfriamento no mesmo tampão durante 30 min. A peroxidase endógena foi  
2 bloqueada por incubação com 0,3% de H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> em metanol durante 15 min. Logo em  
3 seguida, os cortes foram incubados em soro normal 3%, diluído em água destilada à  
4 temperatura ambiente durante 20 min., e foram incubadas sequencialmente com  
5 MMP-2 (37150, ABCAM,EUA). Após o período de incubação, (overnight), as  
6 secções foram lavadas com PBS e incubadas com HRP WITHADVANCETM Enzima  
7 (DAKO®, EUA). As secções foram lavadas com TBS tris pH 7,3. Os cortes foram  
8 tratados com substrato 3, 3 '-diaminobenzidina tetrahidrocloreto (DAB) (SIGMA  
9 ALDRICH, D5637, ST. LOUIS, MO, EUA) para um máximo de 5 minutos à  
10 temperatura ambiente. O DAB foi enxaguado, posteriormente, o contraste com  
11 hematoxilina Mayer e coberturas deslizantes foram realizadas conforme as etapas  
12 finais antes das lâminas serem analisadas em microscópio ótico.

### 13 Coloração Gram

14 Após desparaniferação e reidratação, os cortes foram corados em violeta  
15 cristal 1% por 15 minutos. Os cortes foram então inundados por 30 segundos com  
16 Lugol iodo por acetona por 2 segundos. As secções foram lavadas com água  
17 imediatamente após e contrastadas com carbol-fucsina durante 20 segundos e, em  
18 seguida, lavado com água e secas com papel absorvente. Bactérias gram-negativas  
19 foram coradas com pigmento rosa-vermelho.<sup>11</sup>

### 20 Análise Quantitativa de Imagens

21 Para cada secção positiva, dez campos microscópicos mostrando a maior  
22 imuno-positividade foram selecionados e fotomicrografadas com uma ampliação de  
23 400X (BX50, Olympus, Tóquio, Japão). Todas as etapas de análise  
24 imunohistoquímica e gram foram realizadas utilizando um software de análise de  
25 imagem (Dino-eye, Anmo Eletrocnics Corporation, Taiwan). Para MMP-2, a fração  
26 de área das células positivas foi medida, e a percentagem de MMP-2 imunopositiva  
27 em relação à área total do campo do microscópio foi calculada. Para as células  
28 gram-negativas coradas, o número de células que apresentam a cor rosa-vermelho  
29 foi contado por campo microscópico.<sup>11</sup>

## 1 Análise Estatística

2 Os dados foram analisados por meio de testes de normalidade Kolmogorov-  
3 Smirnov e Shapiro-Wilk. Os testes mostraram que os dados apresentaram  
4 distribuição normal (paramétrico). Foi utilizado o teste T Student para comparar os  
5 grupos SIN e ASSIN. O Coeficiente de correlação de Pearson foi utilizado para  
6 determinar uma correlação significativa entre o número de células e o nível de MMP-  
7 2. O nível de significância foi fixado em  $p \leq .05$ . A análise estatística foi realizada.

## 8 Resultados

9 Para a MMP-2, a percentagem de área imunopositiva, o grupo ASSIN  
10 apresentou uma percentagem significativamente maior do que a área do grupo SIN  
11 ( $p = 0,027$ , Figura 1). Para as bactérias gram-negativas, o grupo SIN mostrou um  
12 número significativamente maior do que a média do grupo assintomático. ( $p = 0,003$ ,  
13 Figura 2).

14

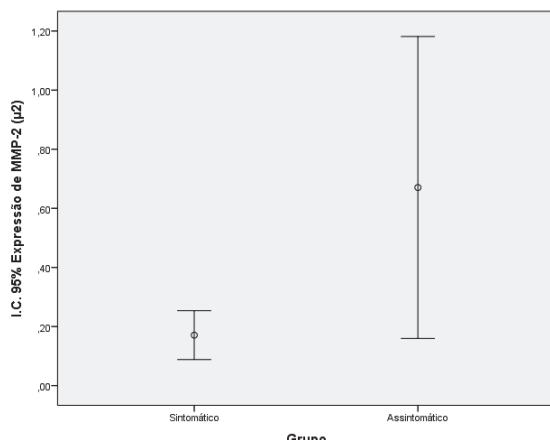


Figura 1 – Quantidade de bactérias Gram-Negativa

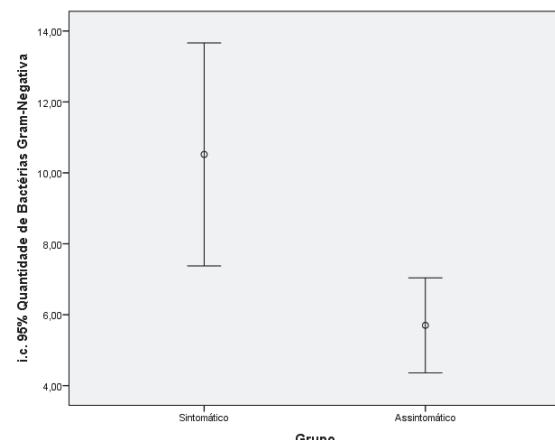


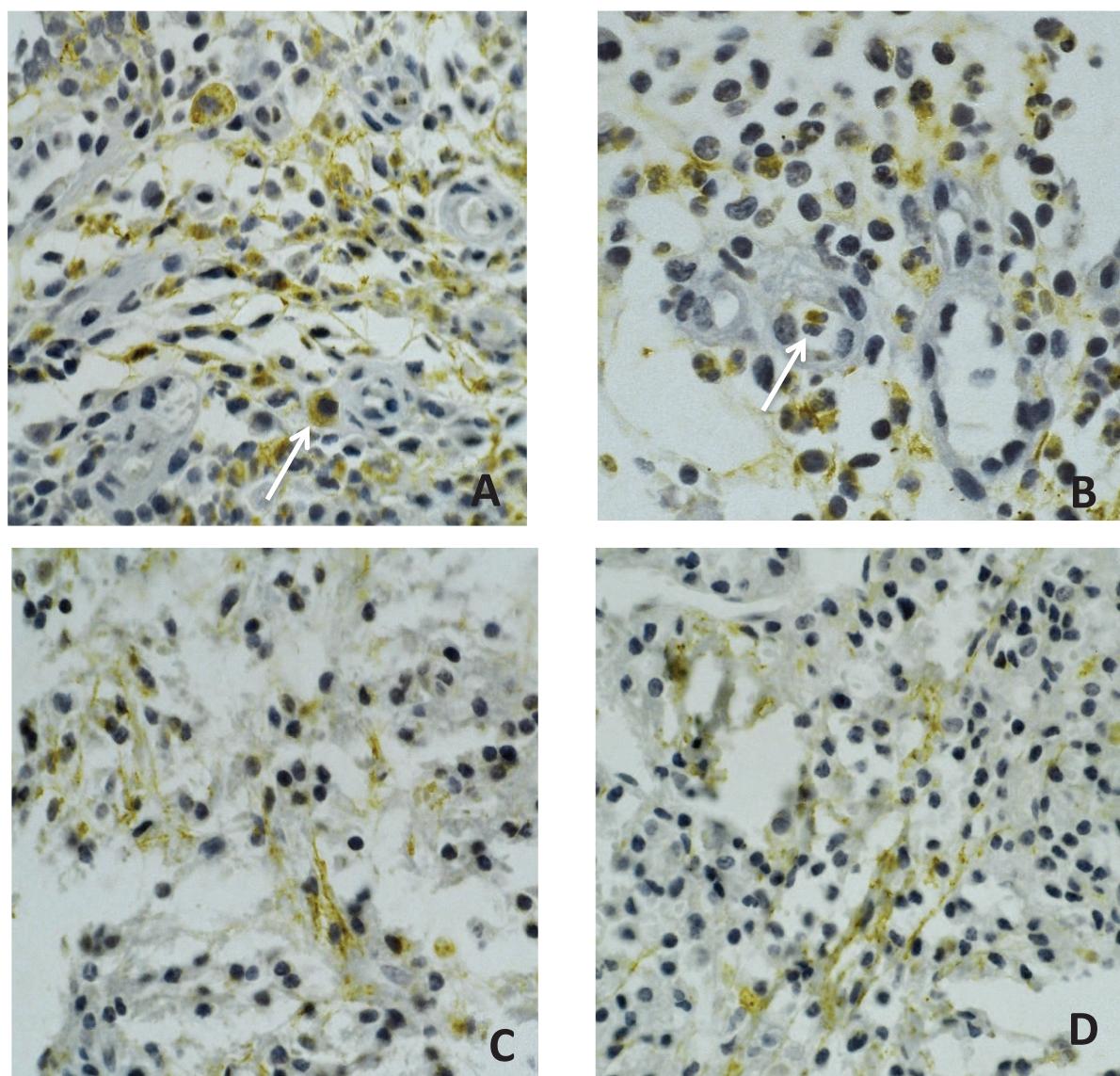
Figura 2 – Expressão de MMP-2

15

16

17 A expressão imunohistoquímica de MMP-2 foi expressa, principalmente por  
18 macrófagos, células do tipo fibroblasto, células epiteliais, células endoteliais (Figura  
19 3). Não houve uma correlação positiva estatisticamente significante entre o número  
20 de bactérias gram-negativas e da porcentagem de área de MMP-2 ( $p = 0,187$ ).  
21

1



2 Figura 3 - A: Grupo Assintomático – Área com células inflamatórias imunopositivas para MMP-2, na  
3 seta sugestivo de macrófago. B: Grupo Sintomático - Área com células inflamatórias imunopositivas  
4 para MMP-2, na seta sugestivo de neutrófilo. C: Grupo Assintomático – Área com células  
5 imunopositivas para MMP-2. D: Grupo Assintomático – Área com células imunopositivas para MMP

## 6 Discussão

7 As MMPs têm sido identificadas tanto em inflamações pulparas quanto  
8 periapicais.<sup>13,6</sup> As MMPs podem também estar envolvidas em processos fisiológicos  
9 quanto patológicos, fenômenos que ocorrem no meio bucal.<sup>15</sup>

1        As MMPs desenvolvem um importante papel na destruição do tecido pulpar e  
2 tem sido proposto que a MMP-1, MMP-8, MMP-9 e MMP-13 juntas estão envolvidas  
3 em casos de expansões de lesões císticas.<sup>7,8,16</sup>

4        Estudos anteriores já mostraram imunomarcação para MMP-2.<sup>5,10</sup> No  
5 presente estudo, marcações positivas para MMP-2 foram detectadas em células  
6 semelhantes a macrófagos, células semelhantes a fibroblastos, células epiteliais e  
7 endoteliais.

8        O aumento no nível de MMP-2 foi observado em cultura de células de polpa e  
9 ligamento periodontal humanos, quando estas foram expostas a *porphyromonas*  
10 *endodontalis* and *gingivalis*, sendo comumente estas bactérias associadas a  
11 abcessos periapicais agudos. Por outro lado, a MMP-2 pode ser detectada em  
12 amostras de abcessos periapicais agudos a níveis menos expressivos quando  
13 comparados com a MMP-9.<sup>14</sup>

14       Diferentes padrões na expressão entre as gelatinases MMP-2 e MMP-9 tem  
15 sido descritos na literatura. Estudos em cultura de células de polpa humana  
16 demonstraram produzir primeiramente MMP-2 e MMP-9, entretanto, quando a IL-1  
17 foi introduzida no meio, as células tiveram os níveis de MMP-2 elevados, contudo IL-  
18 1 não afetou os níveis de MMP-9 no oitavo dia do período de cultura.<sup>17</sup>

19       O achado mais interessante no presente estudo foi o padrão de expressão de  
20 MMP-2, o qual foi o oposto de um estudo usando a mesma metodologia, mas  
21 estudando a MMP-9.<sup>11</sup> MMP-2 e MMP-9 tem sido descrito por representar um  
22 importante papel durante o desenvolvimento da lesão periapical.<sup>10</sup> Por outro lado,  
23 quando a lesão periapical é estabelecida, as gelatinas podem apresentar um  
24 diferente comportamento. Nesse estudo, a marcação de MMP-2 no grupo  
25 assintomático foi mais alta quando comparado com o grupo sintomático, contudo,  
26 isto pode sugerir um diferente papel quando comparado com a MMP-9 em  
27 periodontite aguda.

28       Tem sido sugerido que algumas bactérias gram negativas estão envolvida em  
29 lesões periapicais sintomáticas.<sup>18</sup> Contudo no presente estudo não houve correlação  
30 entre bactérias gram negativas e o aumento da atividade de MMP-2 em lesões  
31 periapicais sintomáticas. Isto pode sugerir um equilíbrio entre as gelatinases,  
32 provavelmente existem diferentes padrões, quando a MMP-9 aumenta sua  
33 expressão, a MMP-2 recebe sinais para diminuir.

1        Para bactérias gram negativas, o grupo SIN apresentou estatisticamente  
2 maior número do que o grupo ASSIM. Baseado nesses resultados pode-se sugerir  
3 que as bactérias gram negativas podem não desempenhar um importante papel na  
4 atividade de MMP-2 quando a lesão está asintomática. Com base nos resultados,  
5 pode-se concluir que as bactérias gram-negativas não podem desempenhar um  
6 papel importante na atividade de MMP-2, quando a lesão periapical é sintomática.

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## 1 ARTIGO EM INGLÊS

2 Expression levels of matrix metalloproteinase-2 and gram-negative bacteria in  
3 symptomatic and asymptomatic periapical lesions

4

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17

1      **Abstract**

2              Introduction: To determine whether the hypothesis that the expression of  
3      matrix metalloproteinase (MMP-2) is significantly elevated in patients with  
4      symptomatic apical periodontitis and to correlate this with the detected amount of  
5      gram-negative bacteria. Methods: Twenty patients with periapical lesions were  
6      divided into 2 groups: ten symptomatic (SYM) group included 10 patients expressing  
7      pain with periapical lesion, and the asymptomatic (ASYM) group included 10 patients  
8      expressing no pain. All teeth had been endodontically retreated at least two year  
9      before the periapical surgery. The periapical lesions were collected. Periapical  
10     lesions were serially cut into 4 $\mu$ m sections. At least 2 sections were processed for  
11     histological examination using hematoxylin-eosin stain. Other sections were  
12     processed for immunohistochemical examination. For MMP-2, the area fraction of the  
13     positive cells was measured, and the percentage of the MMP-2 imunopositive area to  
14     the total area of the microscopic field was calculated. For gram-negative stain cells,  
15     the number of cells showing the pink-red color was counted per microscopic field.  
16     The Student's test was used to compare SYM and ASYM groups. The Pearson  
17     correlation coefficient was used to determine a significant correlation between the  
18     number of cells and MMP-2 levels. The significance was set at p<.05. **Results:** For  
19     MMP-2 area percent the ASYM group showed statistically significant higher mean  
20     than SYM group (p=.027).

21              The SYM group showed a statistically significant higher mean number of  
22      gram-negative cells (p=.003). There was no statistically significant positive correlation  
23      between the number of gram-negative cells and the MMP-2 area percent (p=.187).  
24      Conclusion: There is weak evidence to suspect a significant role of gram-negative  
25      bacteria and MMP-2 in symptomatic periapical lesions.

26

27              Keys words: gram-negative bacteria; matrix metalloproteinase-2; periapical  
28      lesions; symptomatic

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1      **Introduction**

2           Apical periodontitis is an inflammatory disorder of periradicular tissues caused  
3       by persistent microbial infection within the root canal system of the affected tooth.<sup>1</sup>  
4       The apical periodontitis can be an acute or chronic stage. The acute inflammation  
5       (symptomatic) is an exudative response, whereas chronic inflammation is more  
6       proliferative (asymptomatic).<sup>2</sup>

7           Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are an important family of metal-dependent  
8       endopeptidases that represent the major class of enzymes responsible for  
9       degradation of extracellular matrix (ECM) components.<sup>3</sup> MMP-1 has been implicated  
10      as a key in the initiation of the bone resorptive phase of apical periodontitis.<sup>4</sup> In  
11      addition MMP-2, MMP-3, MMP-8, MMP-9 and MMP-13 have been described in  
12      periapical periodontitis<sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup> and plays an important role during periapical pathology  
13      development.<sup>8,10</sup> However, it has been recently suggested that there is good  
14      evidence to suspect a significant role of gram-negative bacteria and MMP-9 in  
15      symptomatic periapical lesions.<sup>11</sup>

16          MMP-2 also known as gelatinase A, is a membrane-bound protein that is  
17      important for extracellular matrix turnover, preferentially cleaving collagen types IV, V,  
18      VII and XI and gelatina.<sup>12</sup> Immunoreactivity to MMP-2 in the periapical lesion was  
19      mainly expressed by fibroblasts, keratinocytes, endothelial cells,  
20      monocytes/macrophages and osteoblasts.<sup>5</sup> During the phase of the lesion  
21      development, MMP-2 and MMP-9 have been described that can play a critical role.<sup>10</sup>  
22          On the other hand, it has been reported that MMP-9 levels increased, whereas MMP-  
23      2 levels decreased in inflamed pulps compared with healthy pulps.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, it also  
24      been reported different levels between MMP-2 and MMP-9 in acute and chronic  
25      periapical abscesses.<sup>14</sup>

26          The aim of this study was to test the hypothesis that the expression of MMP-2  
27      is significantly elevated in patients with symptomatic apical periodontitis and to  
28      correlate this to the detected amount of gram-negative bacteria.

1   **Material and Methods**

2   **Patient Selection**

3       Twenty patients, with noncontributory medical histories and diagnosed with  
4   periapical lesions were selected for this study. The diagnosis of apical periodontitis  
5   was based mainly on radiographic examination, demonstrating clear bone loss and  
6   disappearance of the periodontal ligament space in the periapical region. All tissue  
7   samples ( $n=20$ ) were from upper anterior area involving one tooth only of each  
8   patient. The age of the patients ranged from 19 to 41 years old. Only medically free  
9   patients were included in this research. All procedures were performed after  
10   obtaining proper institutional review board approval based on the regulations of the  
11   Ethical Committee of the Pontifical Catholic University of Parana, Brazil, and patients  
12   signed an informed consent form. The patients were divided into two groups: the  
13   symptomatic (SYM) group, which included 10 patients complaining from severe pain  
14   and fullness before endodontic surgery, and the asymptomatic (ASYM) group, which  
15   included 10 patients with no pain or symptoms.

16       All teeth had been endodontically retreated at least two years before the  
17   periapical surgery. In the ASYM group, the image of the periapical lesions had  
18   increased when it compared with the initial radiographic of endodontics retreatment.  
19   In the SYM group the acute periodontitis was present and it could suggest failure in  
20   the retreatment.

21       The periapical surgery was performed in all teeth and the periapical tissue  
22   were collected and immediately immersed in 10% neutral buffered formalina for 24  
23   hours and then serially cut into 4- $\mu$ m sections. At least two sections were processed  
24   for immunohistochemical examination. Other sections were processed for histologic  
25   examination using gram-negative stain.<sup>11</sup>

26   **Immunohistochemistry**

27       The tissue sections on glass slide were deparaffinized by heating at 60 °C,  
28   followed by passages through xylene and alcohol grades, and ultimately to water.  
29   Antigen retrieval was performed by boiling the slides in 10 MN citrate buffer, pH 6.0

1 for 10 minutes (min), followed by cooling in the same buffer for 30 min. The  
2 endogenous peroxidase was quenched by incubating slides with 0.3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in  
3 methanol for 15 min. Soon afterwards, the sections were incubated in 3% normal  
4 serum diluted in distilled water at room temperature for 20 min, and were sequentially  
5 incubated with MMP-2 (37150, Abcam, USA). Following the incubation period,  
6 (overnight), the sections were washed with PBS and incubated with AdvanceTM  
7 HRP Enzyme (DAKO®, USA). The sections were washed with TBS tris pH 7.3. The  
8 sections were treated with substrate 3, 3'-diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride (DAB)  
9 (Sigma Aldrich, D5637, St. Louis, MO, USA) for up to 5 min at room temperature.  
10 DAB was rinsed. Afterward, counterstaining with Mayer hematoxylin and cover  
11 slipping were performed as the final steps before slides were examined under a light  
12 microscope.

13 Gram Stain

14 After deparaffinization and rehydratation, sections were stained in 1% Crystal  
15 violet for 15 minutes. Sections were then flooded for 30 seconds with lugol iodine by  
16 acetone for 2 seconds. The sections were washed immediately after with water and  
17 counterstained with carbolfuchsin for 20 seconds and then washed with water and  
18 blotted dry. Gram-negative bactéria were stained pink-red.<sup>11</sup>

19 Quantitative Image Analysis

20 For each positive section, 10 microscopic fields showing the highest  
21 immunopositivity were selected and photomicrographed at a magnification of 400X  
22 (BX50; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). All steps for immunohistochemical and gram stain  
23 analysis were performed using image analysis software (Dino-eye, Anmo electronics  
24 corporation, Taiwan). For MMP-2, the área fraction of the positive cells was  
25 measured, and the percentage of the MMP-2- immunopositive area to the total área  
26 of the microscope field was calculated. For gram-negative-stained cells, the number  
27 of cells showing the pnk-red color was counted per microscopic field.<sup>11</sup>

1     Statistical Analysis

2           Data were explored for normality using Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk  
3       tests. The tests showed that data are normally distributed (parametric). The Student's  
4       test was used to compare the SYM and ASYM groups. The Pearson correlation  
5       coefficient was used to determine a significant correlation between the number of  
6       cells and the MMP-2 level.<sup>11</sup> The significance level was set at  $p \leq .05$ . Statistical  
7       analysis was performed.

8     Results

9           For the MMP-2 immunopositive area percent, the ASYM group showed a  
10      statistically significant higher mean area percent than the SYM group ( $p = .027$ , Figure  
11      1). For gram-negative cells, the SYM group showed a statistically significantly higher  
12      mean number than the ASYM group ( $p = .003$ , Figure 2).

13

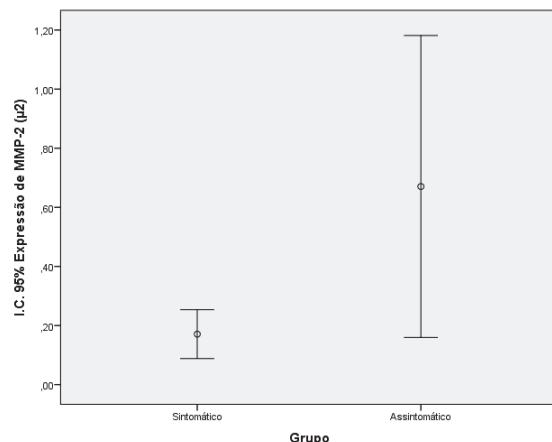


Figura 1 – Quantidade de bactérias Gram-Negativa

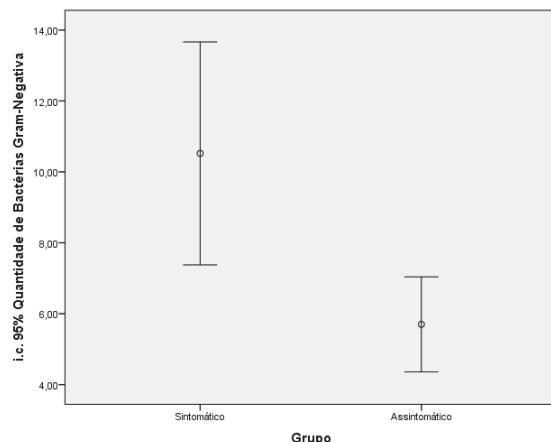
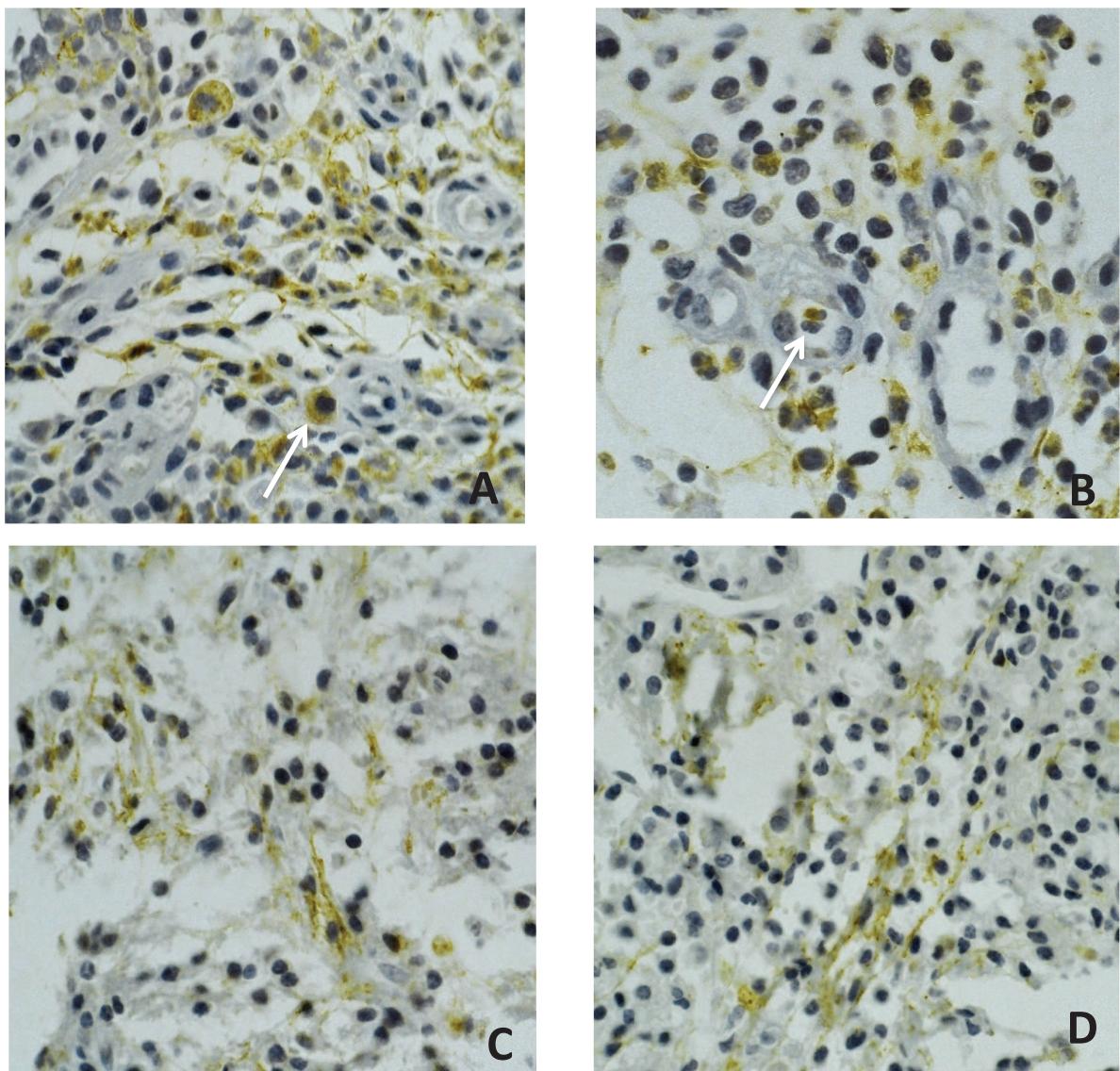


Figura 2 – Expressão de MMP-2

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15           Immunohistochemically, MMP-2 was expressed mainly by macrophage-like  
16       cells, fibroblast-like cells, epithelial cells, and endothelial cells (Figure 3). There was  
17       not a statistically significant positive correlation between number of gram-negative  
18       cells and the MMP-2 area percent ( $p = .187$ ).  
19  
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1 Figura 3 - A: Grupo Assintomático – Área com células inflamatórias imunopositivas para MMP-2, na  
 2 seta sugestivo de macrófago. B: Grupo Sintomático - Área com células inflamatórias imunopositivas  
 3 para MMP-2, na seta sugestivo de neutrófilo. C: Grupo Assintomático – Área com células  
 4 imunopositivas para MMP-2. D: Grupo Assintomático – Área com células imunopositivas para MMP

## 5 Discussion

6       MMPs have been identified in both pulpal and periapical inflammation.<sup>13,6</sup>  
 7 However, MMP family members are involved in normal physiology and in  
 8 pathological events that occur in the oral environment.<sup>15</sup>

9       MMPs play an important role in dental pulp tissue destruction and it has been  
 10 proposed that MMP-1, MMP-8, MMP-9 and MMP-13 together are involved in jaw cyst  
 11 expansion.<sup>7,8,16</sup>

1 Previous studies have shown immunostaining for MMP-2<sup>5,10</sup> In the present  
2 study, positive MMP-2 staining was detected in the macrophage-like cells, fibroblast-  
3 like cells, , epithelial cells, and endotelial cells.

4 Increased levels of MMP-2 in human pulp and periodontal ligament all cultures  
5 has been associated with porphyromonas endodontalis and gingivalis (black-  
6 pigmented bacteroides), which may cause severe periapical abscesses.<sup>17</sup> On the  
7 other hand, MMP-2 could be detected in acute apical abscess samples at lower  
8 levels than MMP-9.<sup>14</sup> Differents patterns of expression between gelatinases MMP-2  
9 and MMP-9 have been described. Human pulp cells culture have been  
10 demonstraded to produce primarily MMP-2 and MMP-9. When IL-1 was introduced,  
11 the cells have elevated levels of MMP-2, however IL-1 did not affect MMP-9 level  
12 during the 8-day culture period.<sup>17</sup>

13 The most original findings of this investigation is the pattern of expression of  
14 MMP-2 which was the opposite of a recent study using the same methodology, but  
15 with MMP-9.<sup>10</sup> MMP-2 and MMP-9 have been described how an importante role  
16 during the phase of the periapical lesion development. On the other hand, when the  
17 periapical lesion is established, the gelatinases may have a different behavior. In this  
18 study, MMP-2 immunostaining in ASYM was higher when compared to the SYM  
19 group, however, it may suggest a different role when compared to the MMP-9 in  
20 acute periodontitis.

21 It has been suggested that some gram-negative bacteria are involved with  
22 symptomatic lesions.<sup>18</sup> However the presente study did not show a correlation  
23 between the gram-negative bacteria and an increase in MMP-2 activity in  
24 symptomatic periapical lesions. It can be suggested the balance between  
25 gelatinases, probably there are different patterns, when the MMP-9 increases the  
26 MMP-2 receives signals to decrease.

27 For gram-negative bacterias, the SYM group showed a statistically  
28 significantly higher mean number than the ASYM group. Based on the results, it can  
29 be concluded that gram-negative bacteria may not play an important role in MMP-2  
30 activity when the periapical lesion is symptomatic.

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## **ANEXOS**

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## **Parecer do Comitê de Ética**

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### 3 ASSOCIAÇÃO PARANAENSE DE CULTURA - PUCPR

#### 4 PARECER CONSUBSTANCIADO DO CEP

5 **DADOS DO PROJETO DE PESQUISA** Título da Pesquisa: EXPRESSÃO  
6 DE MA TRIZ MET ALOPROTEASE EM LESÕES PERIAPICAIOS

7 SINTOMÁTICAS E ASSINTOMÁTICAS Pesquisador: Everdan Carneiro

8 Área Temática: Versão: 1 CAAE: 24267613.5.0000.0020 Instituição  
9 Proponente: Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná - PUCPR

10 Patrocinador Principal: Financiamento Próprio

11 **DADOS DO PARECER** Número do Parecer: 459.509

12 Data da Relatoria: 13/11/2013

13 Apresentação do Projeto:

14 A infecção bacteriana na polpa dentária induz uma resposta inflamatória, que,  
15 não sendo tratada, determina a sua destruição e consequente contaminação  
16 do sistema de canais radiculares e túbulos dentinários, desencadeando, por  
17 sua vez, infecção no periodonto apical. A persistência desse evento provoca a  
18 migração, ativação e a interação coordenada de células imuno-competentes,  
19 caracterizando a periodontite apical. A degradação de proteínas da matriz  
20 extracelular pelas metaloproteases da matriz (MMPs) ocorre nos processos  
21 fisiológicos (turnover) bem como

22 nos processos patológicos (inflamação, neoplasias, etc).

23 **Objetivo da Pesquisa:**

24 Objetivo Primário: Avaliar a expressão de MMP-2 em lesões periapicais,  
25 granulomas e cistos periapicais, verificando as células envolvidas para MMP-2  
26 por meio de marcações de imuno-histoquímica.

27 Objetivo Secundário: Verificar os níveis de expressão de MMP-2 em lesões

1 periapicais sintomáticas e assintomáticas.

2 **Avaliação dos Riscos e Benefícios:**

3 Riscos: Não existem riscos envolvidos. O material encontra-se emblocado no  
4 Serviço de Patologia e faz parte da rotina desse Serviço a análise  
5 microscópica desse tecido coletado na clínica para fins diagnósticos.

6 Benefícios: Os benefícios para o participante da pesquisa é que existirá além  
7 do exame anatomapatológico de rotina, um exame imunohistoquímico, sem  
8 riscos e necessidade de outras coletas.

9 **Comentários e Considerações sobre a Pesquisa:**

10 Um total de 20 amostras de tecidos retirados de cirurgias paraendodonticas,  
11 realizadas pelo Serviço de Endodontia da PUCPR, serão coletadas  
12 encaminhadas ao Serviço de Patologia para análise e laudo de  
13 anatomapatológico. Os resultados serão comparados conforme protocolo  
14 estabelecido no projeto de pesquisa e analisados estatisticamente.

15 **Considerações sobre os Termos de apresentação obrigatória:**

16 O TCLE está presente e escrito de maneira adequada. Sugere-se que o  
17 pesquisador acrescente a seguinte frase no termo: "Em caso de reclamação  
18 ou qualquer tipo de denuncia sobre este estudo devo ligar para o CEP  
19 PUCPR (41) 3271-2292 ou mandar um email para nep@pucpr.br."

20 **Recomendações:**

21 Seguir recomendação de adequação do TCLE.

22 **Conclusões ou Pendências e Lista de Inadequações:**

23 O presente projeto de pesquisa está aprovado no quesito ético.

24 **Situação do Parecer:**

25 Aprovado

26 **Necessita Apreciação da CONEP:**

27 Não

28 **Considerações Finais a critério do CEP:**

29 Lembramos aos senhores pesquisadores que, no cumprimento da Resolução  
30 466/2012, o Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa (CEP) deverá receber relatórios  
31 anuais sobre o andamento do estudo, bem como a qualquer tempo e a critério  
32 do pesquisador nos casos de relevância, além do envio dos relatos de

1 eventos adversos, para conhecimento deste Comitê. Salientamos ainda, a  
2 necessidade de relatório completo ao final do estudo.

3 Eventuais modificações ou emendas ao protocolo devem ser apresentadas ao  
4 CEP-PUCPR de forma clara e sucinta, identificando a parte do protocolo a ser  
5 modificado e as suas justificativas.

6 Se a pesquisa, ou parte dela for realizada em outras instituições, cabe ao  
7 pesquisador não iniciá-la antes de receber a autorização formal para a sua  
8 realização. O documento que autoriza o início da pesquisa deve ser  
9 carimbado e assinado pelo responsável da instituição e deve ser mantido em  
10 poder do pesquisador responsável, podendo ser requerido por este CEP em  
11 qualquer tempo.

12 CURITIBA, 18 de Novembro de 2013

### **13 Assinador por:**

## 14 NAIM AKEL FILHO (Coordenador)

**Endereço:** Rua Imaculada Conceição 1155 **Bairro:** Prado Velho **CEP:** 80.215-901  
**UF:** PR **Município:** CURITIBA **Telefone:** (41)3271-2292 **Fax:** (41)3271-2292 **E-mail:** nep@pucpr.br

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## Análise Estatística

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## 1 Resultados

Testes de Normalidade							
Grupo	Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup>			Shapiro-Wilk			
	Estatística	df	Valor p	Estatística	df	Valor p	
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu_2$ )	Sintomático	,159	10	,200*	,965	10	,844
	Assintomático	,256	10	,062	,850	10	,059
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	Sintomático	,152	10	,200*	,914	10	,306
	Assintomático	,180	10	,200*	,904	10	,242

\*. Este é um limite inferior da significância verdadeira.

2

a. Correlação de Significância de Lilliefors

3

Descriptivos									
		N	Média	Desvio Padrão	Erro Padrão	média		Mínimo	Máximo
						Limite inferior	Limite superior		
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu_2$ )	Sintomático	10	0,17	0,12	0,04	0,09	0,25	0,01	0,37
	Assintomático	10	0,67	0,71	0,23	0,16	1,18	0,02	2,21
	Total	20	0,42	0,56	0,13	0,16	0,68	0,01	2,21
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	Sintomático	10	10,52	4,40	1,39	7,38	13,66	6,00	19,20
	Assintomático	10	5,70	1,87	0,59	4,36	7,04	3,00	8,00
	Total	20	8,11	4,11	0,92	6,18	10,04	3,00	19,20

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### Teste de Homogeneidade de Variâncias

	Estatística de Levene	df1	df2	Valor p
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu_2$ )	13,884	1	18	0,0015
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	6,034	1	18	0,0244

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### Teste de amostras independentes

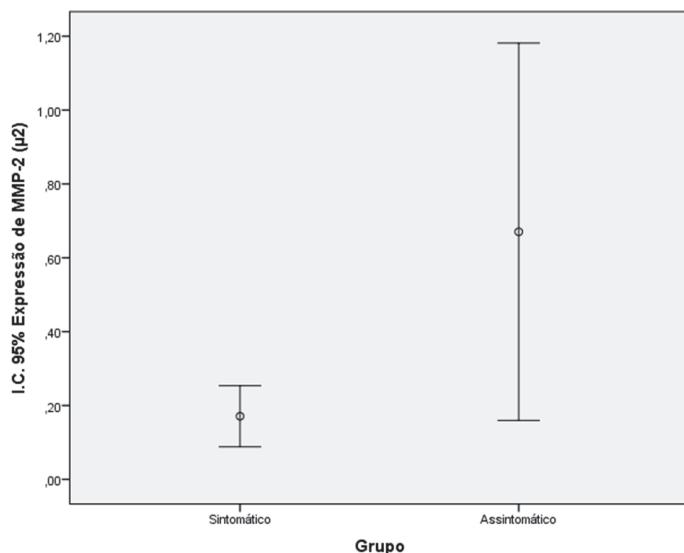
	teste-t para Igualdade de Médias							Potência observada <sup>(1)</sup>
	t	df	Valor p (bilateral)	Valor p (unilateral)	Diferença média	Erro padrão de diferença	95% Intervalo de Confiança da Diferença	
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu_2$ )	Variâncias iguais não assumidas	-2,1832	9,4715	0,0554	0,0277	-0,4995	0,2288	-1,0132 0,0142 0,5423
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	Variâncias iguais não assumidas	3,1895	12,1657	0,0077	0,0038	4,8200	1,5112	1,5323 8,1077 0,8544

(1). Calculado usando alfa = ,05

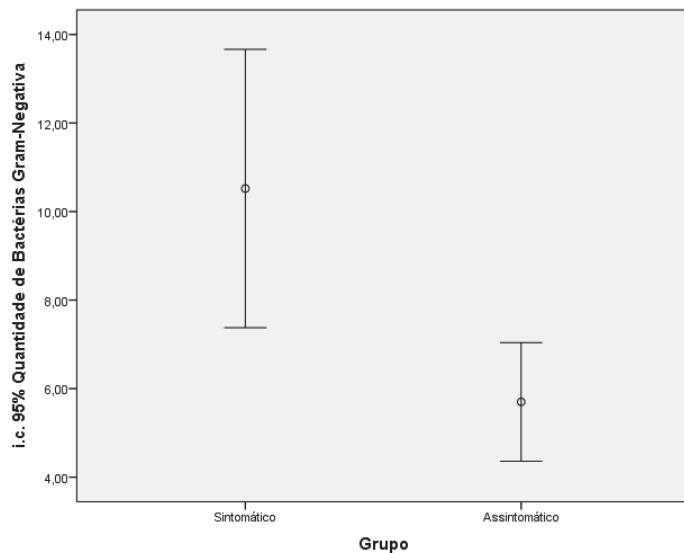
9

Valor p < 0,05 (teste unilateral) indica diferença estatisticamente significante entre os dois grupos

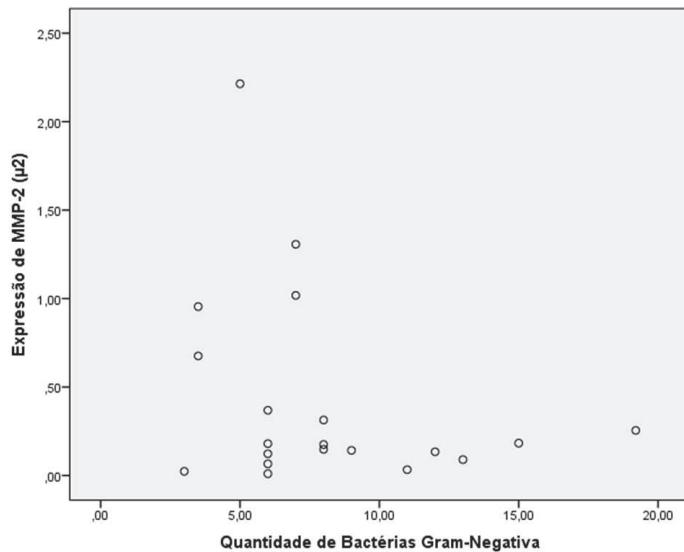
10



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## CORRELAÇÃO GERAL

**Correlações**

		Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu$ g)	Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu$ g)	Correlação de Pearson Valor p N	1 ,187 20	-,308 20
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	Correlação de Pearson Valor p N	-,308 ,187 20	1 20

## CORRELAÇÃO DENTRO DO GRUPO SINTOMÁTICO

**Correlações**

		Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu$ g)	Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu$ g)	Correlação de Pearson Valor p N	1 ,969 10	-,014 10
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	Correlação de Pearson Valor p N	-,014 ,969 10	1 10

## CORRELAÇÃO DENTRO DO GRUPO 2

**Correlações**

		Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu$ g)	Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa
Expressão de MMP-2 ( $\mu$ g)	Correlação de Pearson Valor p N	1 ,753 10	-,115 10
Quantidade de Bactérias Gram-Negativa	Correlação de Pearson Valor p N	-,115 ,753 10	1 10

## 1 GRAM

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2011012-1	3	2
2011012-2	8	2
2011012-3	9	2
2011012-4	7	2
2011012-5	3	2
2011012-6	7	2
2011012-7	3	2
2011012-8	9	2
2011012-9	6	2
2011012-10	5	2
2011012-média	6	2

2

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013038-1	7	2
2013038-2	4	2
2013038-3	6	2
2013038-4	10	2
2013038-5	9	2
2013038-6	9	2
2013038-7	6	2
2013038-8	5	2
2013038-9	3	2
2013038-10	7	2
2013038-média	6,6	2

3

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2012025-1	8	2
2012025-2	6	2
2012025-3	5	2
2012025-4	8	2
2012025-5	7	2
2012025-6	10	2
2012025-7	8	2
2012025-8	11	2
2012025-9	7	2
2012025-10	11	2
2012025-média	8,1	2

4

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013013-1	5	2
2013013-2	2	2
2013013-3	1	2
2013013-4	2	2
2013013-5	4	2
2013013-6	2	2
2013013-7	2	2
2013013-8	3	2
2013013-9	1	2
2013013-10	3	2
2013013-média	2,5	2

1

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013047-1	9	2
2013047-2	8	2
2013047-3	13	2
2013047-4	4	2
2013047-5	11	2
2013047-6	7	2
2013047-7	8	2
2013047-8	4	2
2013047-9	7	2
2013047-10	5	2
2013047-média	7,6	2

2

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013050-1	2	2
2013050-2	6	2
2013050-3	9	2
2013050-4	2	2
2013050-5	4	2
2013050-6	8	2
2013050-7	6	2
2013050-8	2	2
2013050-9	4	2
2013050-10	5	2
2013050-média	4,8	2

3

4

5

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013069-1	3	2
2013069-2	5	2
2013069-3	3	2
2013069-4	6	2
2013069-5	3	2
2013069-6	2	2
2013069-7	4	2
2013069-8	4	2
2013069-9	2	2
2013069-10	3	2
2013069-média	4	2

1

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013072-1	3	2
2013072-2	3	2
2013072-3	7	2
2013072-4	5	2
2013072-5	3	2
2013072-6	5	2
2013072-7	4	2
2013072-8	2	2
2013072-9	1	2
2013072-10	2	2
2013072-média	4	2

2

Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013073-1	10	2
2013073-2	12	2
2013073-3	7	2
2013073-4	6	2
2013073-5	8	2
2013073-6	5	2
2013073-7	7	2
2013073-8	3	2
2013073-9	4	2
2013073-10	11	2
2013073-média	7,3	2

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4

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Número da lâmina	Área de GRAM	Grupo
2013048-1	8	2
2013048-2	8	2
2013048-3	10	2
2013048-4	7	2
2013048-5	6	2
2013048-6	2	2
2013048-7	7	2
2013048-8	4	2
2013048-9	4	2
2013048-10	3	2
2013048-média	5,9	2

1

## 2 MMP

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2011012-1	0,44292092	2
2011012-2	0,10522959	2
2011012-3	0,61766583	2
2011012-4	0,2002551	2
2011012-5	0,33003825	2
2011012-6	0,12308674	2
2011012-7	0,12308675	2
2011012-8	0,12308676	2
2011012-9	0,12308677	2
2011012-10	0,12308678	2
2011012-média	0,231154349	2

3

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013038-1	2,2228954	2
2013038-2	7,561862	2
2013038-3	2,7101402	2
2013038-4	5,5318875	2
2013038-5	6,5443239	2
2013038-6	6,6036353	2
2013038-7	3,2410715	2
2013038-8	5,3017978	2
2013038-9	2,9639668	2
2013038-10	3,6801658	2
2013038-média	4,63617462	2

4

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2012025-1	0,20567602	2
2012025-2	0,14604591	2
2012025-3	0,04432397	2
2012025-4	0,1916454	2
2012025-5	0,19515306	2
2012025-6	0,14987245	2
2012025-7	0,07397959	2
2012025-8	0,24585459	2
2012025-9	0,07684949	2
2012025-10	0,0851403	2
2012025-média	0,141454078	2

1

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013013-1	0,09534438	2
2013013-2	0,00892857	2
2013013-3	0,02710459	2
2013013-4	0,00510204	2
2013013-5	0,02008928	2
2013013-6	0,03794642	2
2013013-7	0,03858418	2
2013013-8	0,01116071	2
2013013-9	0,00892857	2
2013013-10	0,03156887	2
2013013-média	0,028475761	2

2

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013047-1	0,10299744	2
2013047-2	0,23309949	2
2013047-3	0,27232143	2
2013047-4	0,04368622	2
2013047-5	0,10044643	2
2013047-6	0,38169643	2
2013047-7	0,47672191	2
2013047-8	0,21301021	2
2013047-9	0,13679847	2
2013047-10	0,10267857	2
2013047-média	0,20634566	2

3

4

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013050-1	18,083227	2
2013050-2	0,5194515	2
2013050-3	1,9620535	2
2013050-4	23,899553	2
2013050-5	21,390944	2
2013050-6	0,92793363	2
2013050-7	2,7209821	2
2013050-8	2,4661989	2
2013050-9	0,96715558	2
2013050-10	1,6167091	2
2013050-média	7,455420831	2

1

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013069-1	1,5373087	2
2013069-2	0,39540815	2
2013069-3	1,4681122	2
2013069-4	1,3711735	2
2013069-5	1,5232780	2
2013069-6	0,7225765	2
2013069-7	1,1868622	2
2013069-8	0,45503825	2
2013069-9	0,35140306	2
2013069-10	0,21492347	2
2013069-média	0,922608403	2

2

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013072-1	0,15146683	2
2013072-2	0,88903058	2
2013072-3	1,7155612	2
2013072-4	0,52168369	2
2013072-5	0,34056121	2
2013072-6	0,19770408	2
2013072-7	0,57621175	2
2013072-8	0,77582908	2
2013072-9	2,3281250	2
2013072-10	0,88488519	2
2013072-média	0,838105861	2

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4

Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013073-1	0,44897959	2
2013073-2	1,2975128	2
2013073-3	1,3013393	2
2013073-4	2,327806	2
2013073-5	0,79464287	2
2013073-6	1,5121173	2
2013073-7	1,5440050	2
2013073-8	1,3121811	2
2013073-9	1,7975128	2
2013073-10	0,36096939	2
2013073-média	1,269706615	2

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Número da lâmina	Área da MMP-2 (micrômetros quadrados)	Grupo
2013048-1	0,05293367	2
2013048-2	0,0041454	2
2013048-3	0,01307397	2
2013048-4	0,01690051	2
2013048-5	0,11575255	2
2013048-6	0,07908163	2
2013048-7	0,08067601	2
2013048-8	0,14285713	2
2013048-9	0,01849489	2
2013048-10	0,12978315	2
2013048-média	0,065369891	2

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3 Legenda:

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5 Grupo 1- sintomático

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7 Grupo 2- assintomático

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## 1 Resultados Finais

Expressão de MMP2μ2	Quantidade de Bactérias Gram Negativa	Grupo
0,26	19,20	1
0,09	13,00	1
0,18	15,00	1
0,37	6,00	1
0,01	6,00	1
0,18	6,00	1
0,31	8,00	1
0,13	12,00	1
0,03	11,00	1
0,14	9,00	1
0,12	6,00	2
1,02	7,00	2
0,15	8,00	2
0,02	3,00	2
0,17	8,00	2
2,21	5,00	2
0,95	3,50	2
0,68	3,50	2
1,31	7,00	2
0,07	6,00	2

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22   the subject and lengthens the text. In a paragraph on sodium hypochlorite, the  
23   sentence, "In 1983, Langeland et al, reported that sodium hypochlorite acts as a  
24   lubricating factor during instrumentation and helps to flush debris from the root  
25   canals" can be edited to: "Sodium hypochlorite acts as a lubricant during  
26   instrumentation and as a vehicle for flushing the generated debris (Langeland et al,  
27   1983)." In this example, the paragraph's subject is sodium hypochlorite and  
28   sentences should focus on this subject.

29   c. Sentences are stronger when written in the active voice, that is, the subject  
30   performs the action. Passive sentences are identified by the use of passive verbs  
31   such as "was," "were," "could," etc. For example: "Dexamethasone was found in this  
32   study to be a factor that was associated with reduced inflammation," can be edited to:  
33   "Our results demonstrated that dexamethasone reduced inflammation." Sentences  
34   written in a direct and active voice are generally more powerful and shorter than  
35   sentences written in the passive voice.

36   d. Reduce verbiage. Short sentences are easier to understand. The inclusion of  
37   unnecessary words is often associated with the use of a passive voice, a lack of  
38   focus, or run-on sentences. This is not to imply that all sentences need be short or  
39   even the same length. Indeed, variation in sentence structure and length often helps  
40   to maintain reader interest. However, make all words count. A more formal way of  
41   stating this point is that the use of subordinate clauses adds variety and information  
42   when constructing a paragraph. (This section was written deliberately with sentences  
43   of varying length to illustrate this point.)

44   e. Use parallel construction to express related ideas. For example, the sentence,  
45   "Formerly, endodontics was taught by hand instrumentation, while now rotary

1 instrumentation is the common method," can be edited to "Formerly, endodontics  
2 was taught using hand instrumentation; now it is commonly taught using rotary  
3 instrumentation." The use of parallel construction in sentences simply means that  
4 similar ideas are expressed in similar ways, and this helps the reader recognize that  
5 the ideas are related.

6 f. Keep modifying phrases close to the word that they modify. This is a common  
7 problem in complex sentences that may confuse the reader. For example, the  
8 statement, "Accordingly, when conclusions are drawn from the results of this study,  
9 caution must be used," can be edited to "Caution must be used when conclusions are  
10 drawn from the results of this study."

11 g. To summarize these points, effective sentences are clear and precise, and often  
12 are short, simple and focused on one key point that supports the paragraph's theme.

13 h. Authors should be aware that the JOE uses iThenticate, plagiarism detection  
14 software, to ensure originality and integrity of material published in the journal. The  
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32 and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text.  
33 See also the section on Electronic artwork.

34 To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and  
35 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

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14   (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical  
15   methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance,  
16   if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important  
17   aspects of the study or observations.

18   **Abstract Headings**

19   Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusions

20   **Keywords**

21   Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American  
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23   example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly  
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26   **Acknowledgements**

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28   Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the  
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31   (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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9 distribution (eg, PubMed) make it challenging to write clearly. This section is written  
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11 completed. Provide 3-5 keywords.

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14 reported was the same for both groups over the next 96 hours. In this case, the trend  
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16 relative differences between the NSAID and placebo groups.

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24 **Acknowledgments**

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