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**INFLUÊNCIA DO MANEJO FARMACOLÓGICO DA ANSIEDADE NA
OCORRÊNCIA DE DOR DURANTE O TRATAMENTO ENDODÔNTICO: UMA
REVISÃO SISTEMÁTICA**

Porto Alegre

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Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso apresentado ao Curso de Graduação em Odontologia da Faculdade de Odontologia da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, como requisito parcial para obtenção do título de Cirurgião-Dentista.

Orientador: Ricardo Abreu da Rosa

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Porto Alegre, 20 de Maio de 2021.

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RESUMO

A conotação negativa dos procedimentos endodônticos pode aumentar a ansiedade do paciente e, conseqüentemente, a ocorrência de dor. O objetivo dessa revisão sistemática foi responder a pergunta: O manejo farmacológico da ansiedade influencia a ocorrência de dor durante o tratamento endodôntico? Bancos de dados eletrônicos (MEDLINE/PubMed, Cochrane Library, Web of Science, Scopus, EMBASE and Open Grey) foram pesquisados até fevereiro de 2021. Apenas ensaios clínicos randomizados (ECR) que avaliaram a influência de intervenções farmacológicas da ansiedade na ocorrência de dor durante o tratamento de canal radicular foram incluídos. Os resultados relevantes foram resumidos e avaliados. A ferramenta Cochrane de risco de viés para estudos randomizados (RoB 2) foi usada para avaliar o risco de viés dos estudos incluídos. A qualidade geral das evidências foi avaliada por meio da ferramenta Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE). A triagem inicial das bases de dados resultou em 510 estudos, dos quais 43 foram excluídos por serem duplicados. Dos 467 artigos elegíveis, dez estudos preencheram o critério de inclusão e foram selecionados para a leitura do texto completo. Seis estudos foram excluídos por não terem intervenções farmacológicas. Quatro estudos foram incluídos e um estudo adicional foi recuperado de suas referências. Um ECR foi classificado como risco incerto de viés, três como baixo risco de viés e um como alto risco de viés. A análise GRADE demonstrou uma evidência de baixa qualidade. Com pouca certeza das evidências, é possível inferir que os benzodiazepínicos não influenciam na ocorrência de dor durante os procedimentos endodônticos. No entanto, o gás de óxido nitroso parece influenciar positivamente o mesmo parâmetro.

Palavras-chave: Ansiedade, endodôntica, dor intraoperatória, revisão sistemática

ABSTRACT

The negative connotation of the endodontic procedures can increase the patient's anxiety and therefore the occurrence of pain. The objective of this systematic review was to answer the question: Does the pharmacological management of anxiety influence pain occurrence during root canal treatment? Electronic databases (MEDLINE/PubMed, Cochrane Library, Web of Science, Scopus, EMBASE, and Open Grey) were searched until February 2021. Only randomized clinical trials (RCTs) that evaluated the influence of pharmacological interventions of anxiety on pain occurrence during root canal treatment were included. Relevant findings were summarized and evaluated. Cochrane risk of bias tool for randomized trials (RoB 2) was used to assess the included studies' risk of bias. Overall quality of evidence was assessed through the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) tool. Initial screening of databases resulted in 510 studies, of which 43 were excluded for being duplicates. Of 467 eligible papers, ten studies met the inclusion criteria and were selected for full-text reading. Six studies were excluded for not having evaluated pharmacological interventions. Four studies were included, and one additional study was retrieved from their references. One RCT was classified as unclear risk of bias, three as low risk of bias, and one as high risk of bias. GRADE analysis demonstrated a low quality of evidence. With a low certainty of the evidence, it is possible to infer that benzodiazepines do not influence the pain occurrence during the endodontic procedures. However, nitrous oxide gas seems to influence the same parameter positively.

Key words: Anxiety, endodontic, intraoperative pain, systematic review

1. INTRODUÇÃO E REVISÃO DE LITERATURA

A ansiedade decorrente de procedimentos odontológicos, especialmente do tratamento endodôntico, já é bem relatada na literatura (ALROOMY, 2020; CHEN et al., 2020; DOU et al., 2018a; PERKOVIĆ et al., 2014a; YILDIRIM et al., 2017a). Uma vez que a sintomatologia dolorosa está relacionada a fatores cognitivos e emocionais, tais como experiências prévias, capacidade de compreensão por parte do paciente sobre os procedimentos que serão realizados e percepção sobre sons e movimentos, a ansiedade gerada pode resultar em maior ocorrência de dor durante o tratamento odontológico (ALROOMY, 2020; MAGGIARIAS; LOCKER, 2002a). Além disso, um paciente com alta ansiedade pode dificultar a definição do diagnóstico endodôntico, exigindo do cirurgião-dentista uma abordagem cautelosa na interpretação da sintomatologia relatada pelo paciente (ELI, 1993). Portanto, o atendimento de pacientes com esse comportamento é um grande desafio na prática clínica.

Somada a dificuldade de atendimento por parte do profissional, a ansiedade dentária pode impactar de diversas maneiras esses pacientes. Um estudo prévio teve como objetivo avaliar o impacto da ansiedade dentária na vida diária de pessoas ansiosas. A maioria dos participantes relatou ter sintomas fisiológicos de medo, como suor, boca seca e aumento da frequência cardíaca não só no dia da consulta, mas também na noite anterior. Após o tratamento, muitos dos pacientes expressaram um sentimento de exaustão. Os autores concluíram que o impacto da ansiedade é amplo e dinâmico, e pode afetar a alimentação, higiene oral, qualidade de sono, desempenho no trabalho e novos relacionamentos pessoais (COHEN et al., 2000).

Há alguns métodos para avaliar a ansiedade dos pacientes. A escala Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (DAS) foi proposta em 1969. Essa escala contém quatro perguntas de múltipla escolha, abordando algumas reações subjetivas dos pacientes sobre seus sentimentos no momento da ida ao dentista, na sala de espera e na cadeira odontológica. Em aproximadamente três minutos, o paciente consegue responder ao questionário e atribui uma pontuação. Quanto mais alta for a pontuação, maior o grau de ansiedade atribuído (NL; EN; SJ, 1978).

Os testes para avaliar dor normalmente é realizado com o uso da Escala Visual Analógica (VAS, Visual Analogue Scale). Essa escala permite avaliar diversos

sentimentos subjetivos. Consiste em uma linha (normalmente de dez centímetros), onde há extremidades com palavras descritivas de um sentimento mínimo e máximo, onde o paciente fará uma marcação vertical sobre a linha horizontal onde mais se enquadra no momento (MCCORMACK; DE L. HORNE; SHEATHER, 1988). No estudo de Lindemann *et al.*, (2008), por exemplo, essa escala foi dividida em quatro categorias: nenhuma dor (0mm); dor leve (0 a 54mm); dor moderada (54 a 114mm); e dor severa (igual ou maior que 114mm).

Como alternativa, a sedação consciente se apresenta como uma opção de tratamento com o objetivo de controlar o nervosismo e o medo apresentado pelo paciente e, por consequência, a sua experiência de dor (GOULART *et al.*, 2012a; OLIVEIRA; ALEIXO; RODRIGUES, 2010; WEISSHEIMER *et al.*, 2016a). De acordo com a Sociedade Americana de Anestesiologia, a sedação consciente é definida como a redução da consciência, induzida por fármacos, em que o paciente ainda demonstra capacidade de responder a comandos verbais e/ou leves estímulos táteis (AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, 2019).

Um dos métodos para a obtenção de sedação consciente é por meio da utilização de fármacos por via oral, chamados de benzodiazepínicos. Esses fármacos, são amplamente prescritos devido a sua eficácia e segurança de uso e pela facilidade de administração por parte do paciente (COGO *et al.*, 2006). Além disso, os benzodiazepínicos apresentam baixa toxicidade e baixa capacidade de causar dependência (TEIXEIRA; ADOLFO; QUESADA, 2004). Entretanto, a incapacidade de manejo da dose de acordo com a resposta do paciente e seu efeito relativamente imprevisível são algumas limitações desses medicamentos (EHRICH *et al.*, 1997a).

Nessa classe de fármacos utilizados para o controle da ansiedade está o alprazolam. Esse medicamento atinge a concentração plasmática máxima entre 1 e 2 horas. Entretanto, a sua metabolização e excreção são relativamente lentas, levando em média de 12 a 15 horas para ser eliminado. Outra opção é o midazolam, fármaco que atinge seu pico máximo de efeito em apenas 30 minutos. Sua meia-vida é de 2 a 5 horas, sendo muito útil nos procedimentos de curta duração. Já o diazepam possui alta lipossolubilidade, exercendo seu efeito rapidamente. Porém, é lentamente eliminado do organismo. Em um estudo que avaliou o controle da ansiedade em pacientes endodônticos, foi utilizado triazolam, diazepam ou placebo. O grupo

triazolam foi mais eficaz na redução da ansiedade dos pacientes pré-tratamento endodôntico, em relação aos outros grupos (EHRICH et al., 1997a).

Uma alternativa para a utilização em ambiente odontológico é o gás de óxido nitroso. Seu uso clínico se mostra extremamente seguro e, além de possuir propriedades sedativas e hipnóticas, também promove leve efeito analgésico (BECKER; ROSENBERG, 2008a; FOLAYAN; FAPONLE; LAMIKANRA, 2002a). A sedação com óxido nitroso proporciona início rápido de ação e sua dosagem é obtida de forma incremental (COGO et al., 2006). Suas limitações incluem o alto custo do material e dos equipamentos necessários, assim como a necessidade de habilitação do profissional para a realização do procedimento (COGO et al., 2006; FOLAYAN; FAPONLE; LAMIKANRA, 2002a). A sedação ideal com o óxido nitroso é alcançada quando o paciente relata algumas ou todas as seguintes sensações: leve tontura, sensação de calor pelo corpo, dormência nas mãos e/ou pés, sensação de euforia e leveza ou peso das extremidades (MALAMED, 2017).

A relação da ansiedade com a percepção de dor em tratamentos endodônticos vem sendo estudada por diversos autores (DOU et al., 2018a; MURILLO-BENÍTEZ et al., 2020). O tratamento endodôntico é um dos procedimentos odontológicos onde a relação dor e ansiedade é comumente encontrada (MAGGIRIAS; LOCKER, 2002a; PRATHIMA et al., 2014a). A necessidade de realizar esse tratamento muitas vezes se torna algo temido previamente pela conotação negativa que possui na consciência social, bem como pela antecipação de uma experiência negativa, podendo aumentar a ansiedade do paciente (GRUPE; NITSCHKE, 2013a; KHAN et al., 2016a).

Entre as razões de fracasso da anestesia pulpar está o estado psicológico do paciente. É relatado que pacientes ansiosos possuem cerca de duas vezes mais chances de manifestar dor intraoperatória (LIN et al., 2013a; MURILLO-BENÍTEZ et al., 2020). O entendimento da ansiedade associada ao tratamento endodôntico é importante, uma vez que existe uma relação com a ocorrência de dor intraoperatória, e o seu controle pode melhorar o manejo do paciente e aumentar a aceitação e conclusão do tratamento (KHAN et al., 2016a). O limiar de excitabilidade representa o nível em que, acima dele, um estímulo causará dor. A ansiedade diminui esse limiar, e pode tornar o anestésico local menos eficaz (LOPES; SIQUEIRA, 2020).

Visto que o controle da ansiedade pode trazer benefícios durante o tratamento endodôntico, se faz necessária a verificação das informações disponíveis quanto a

efetividade da utilização de técnicas de controle farmacológico da ansiedade, por meio da indução da sedação consciente, e a ocorrência de dor intraoperatória. Até o momento, nenhuma revisão sistemática foi realizada avaliando tais informações. Portanto, o objetivo desta revisão sistemática é o de responder a seguinte pergunta: “O manejo farmacológico da ansiedade influencia na ocorrência de dor durante o tratamento endodôntico?”.

2. OBJETIVOS

2.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

Avaliar as evidências científicas disponíveis referentes a ansiedade e sua influência na dor intraoperatória durante o tratamento endodôntico.

2.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

Verificar as evidências científicas que tenham analisado a ansiedade e sua influência na dor intraoperatória durante o tratamento endodôntico quanto ao risco de viés e qualidade de evidência dos estudos disponíveis.

3. ARTIGO CIENTÍFICO

3.1 Artigo científico submetido ao periódico Journal of Endodontics (Fator de Impacto = 3.118)

Influence of the pharmacological management of anxiety on pain occurrence during root canal treatment: a systematic review

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The authors deny any conflicts of interest

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The negative connotation of the endodontic procedures can increase the patient's anxiety and therefore the occurrence of pain. The objective of this systematic review was to answer the question: Does the pharmacological management of anxiety influence pain occurrence during root canal treatment?

Methods: Electronic databases (MEDLINE/PubMed, Cochrane Library, Web of Science, Scopus, EMBASE, and Open Grey) were searched until February 2021. Only randomized clinical trials (RCTs) that evaluated the influence of pharmacological interventions of anxiety on pain occurrence during root canal treatment were included. Relevant findings were summarized and evaluated. Cochrane risk of bias tool for randomized trials (RoB 2) was used to assess the included studies' risk of bias. Overall quality of evidence was assessed through the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) tool. **Results:** Initial screening of databases resulted in 510 studies, of which 43 were excluded for being duplicates. Of 457 eligible papers, ten studies met the inclusion criteria and were selected for full-text reading. Six studies were excluded for not having evaluated pharmacological interventions. Four studies were included and one additional study was retrieved from their references. One RCT was classified as unclear risk of bias, three as low risk of bias, and one as high risk of bias. GRADE analysis demonstrated a low quality of evidence. **Conclusions:** With a low certainty of the evidence, it is possible to infer that benzodiazepines do not influence the pain occurrence during the endodontic procedures. However, nitrous oxide gas seems to influence the same parameter positively.

Key words: Anxiety, endodontic, intraoperative pain, systematic review

Introduction

Endodontic treatment is one of the procedures where the relationship between anxiety and pain is commonly found (1–3). The patient often fears the need to perform these procedures because of the negative connotation it has in social awareness and the anticipation of a possible painful experience (4,5).

It is reported that pain perception is related to cognitive and emotional factors, such as previous experiences, patient's understanding of the procedures to be performed, and perception of sounds and movements during the procedures, and that the anxiety generated can result in a higher occurrence of pain during the endodontic treatments (6–8).

Conscious sedation is presented as an option to manage the patient's anxiety and pain experience (9,10). According to the American Association of Anesthesiologists, conscious sedation is defined as a reduction of consciousness through pharmacological interventions, in which the patient still demonstrates the ability to respond to verbal commands or mild tactile stimuli (11).

One of the methods to obtain conscious sedation is through benzodiazepines (10,12). These drugs are often administered orally, presenting low toxicity and low capacity to cause dependence (12). However, the inability to manage the dose according to the patient's response and its relatively unpredictable effects are some limitations of these drugs (13).

Another option for achieving conscious sedation in the dental office is through the use of nitrous oxide gas. Its clinical use is considered relatively safe and, in addition to the sedative and hypnotic properties, it also promotes a mild analgesic effect (14,15). Nitrous oxide gas provides a rapid onset of action, and its dosage is obtained with the gradual increase of the drug concentration (14). Its adverse effects generally include gastrointestinal, nervous, and psychiatric disorders (16) and the main limitation is the need for professional qualification to perform the procedures (14,16).

Anxious patients are reported to be twice as likely to experience intraoperative pain (2,17). For this reason, it is essential to understand how to manage anxiety. Besides, the control of anxiety can improve the management of the patient, the

conduction and acceptance of the procedures, and facilitate the completion of the treatment (5).

Once the control of anxiety can present benefits during the endodontic procedures, it is necessary to verify the available information regarding the effectiveness of the pharmacological interventions of anxiety, through the induction of conscious sedation, and the occurrence of intraoperative pain. So far, no systematic review has been performed to evaluate such information. Therefore, the purpose of this systematic review is to answer the following question: "Does the pharmacological management of anxiety influence on pain occurrence during root canal treatment?".

Material and Methods

This systematic review followed Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) recommendations ([http://www prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org)) and was registered on the PROSPERO database under number CRD42021226740.

Search strategy

The search was performed independently by two examiners (I.A.S. e C.J.D.A.) in the following electronic databases: MEDLINE/PubMed, Cochrane Library, Web of Science, Scopus, EMBASE, and Open Grey. The search was conducted for articles published until December 2020, without language or year restriction. The electronic search strategy was developed using the most cited descriptors in previous publications on this theme combining Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) terms and text words (tw.). For each database, the following terms were combined: 'Root canal', 'Root canal therapy', 'Root canal treatment', 'Endodont*', 'Dental anxiety', 'Anxiety', 'Pain', 'Intraoperative pain', 'Pain control', 'Analgesia', 'Anesthetic', 'Anesthesia'. The Boolean operators 'AND' and 'OR' were applied to combine the terms and create a search strategy.

The search strategies for each database and the following findings are summarized in **Supplementary File 1**.

Additional screening on the selected studies' references was performed, and the related articles were searched in the PubMed database. All articles selected were imported into the Mendeley© (Mendeley Ltd, London, United Kingdom) reference manager to catalogue the references and facilitate the exclusion of duplicates.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria were based on the PICOS strategy (PRISMA-P 2015) (18,19), as follows:

- Population (P): adult patients undergoing root canal treatment;
- Intervention (I): pharmacological control of anxiety;
- Comparison (C): a control group and/or placebo;
- Outcome (O): Primary: intraoperative pain and/or anesthetic efficacy;
Secondary: anxiety levels;
- Study design (S): only randomized clinical trials (RCTs)

Selection of the studies

The first stage consisted of excluding the duplicated studies, considering only once, and examining the selected studies' retrieved titles and abstracts by two independent authors (I.A.S. e C.J.D.A.). When it was not possible to judge the studies by title and abstract, the full text was accessed and read for the final decision. The second stage consisted of reading the potentially eligible studies' full texts based on the PICOS strategy's eligibility criteria. Disagreements on study inclusion were solved by a consensus with a third author (T.W.).

Data extraction

Two authors (I.A.S. e C.J.D.A.) independently collected the data from the included studies. Disagreements were solved by a third author (T.W.). The following data were extracted from the included studies: name of the author(s), year of publication, number of participants per group, participants age, anxiety scale, preoperative anxiety scores, pain scale, preoperative pain scores, anesthetic technique, endodontic intervention, pharmacological intervention, control group, drug administration protocol, moments of evaluation, outcomes and main findings. In cases of missing data, the authors were contacted three times by e-mail.

Quality assessment and strength of evidence

The methodological risk assessment of bias for each study was performed by two independent authors (I.A.S. e C.J.D.A.), and, in case of disagreement, it was resolved by a third author (T.W.).

The studies' qualitative analysis was performed from the risk of bias assessment using the Cochrane risk of bias tool for randomized clinical trials (RoB 2): 'Bias Risk Assessment of Randomized Controlled Studies' – Cochrane Handbook 6.0 (20).

Each included study was judged as 'high' risk of bias for negative domain response (red), 'low' risk of bias for positive domain response (green), and 'unclear' risk of bias (yellow) when the response was not clear. When the study was judged as 'unclear', the authors were contacted by e-mail at least three times for more information and allowed to be classified as 'low' (green) or 'high' (red) risk of bias. Once this information was not possible to be acquired, the articles remained with some 'unclear' bias risks. Overall quality was based on the scores in individual domains. When it was verified a low risk of bias for all domains, the overall quality was of low risk of bias. When at least one domain was of unclear risk, the overall quality was of unclear risk of bias. The high risk of bias was also scored when at least one domain was assessed as being high or three or more domains were classified as unclear. Each domain was recorded as low, moderate, serious, critical, or no information available for risk of bias. The overall risk of bias judgment was determined by combining the levels of bias in each domain.

The strength of the evidence of the included studies was assessed using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) tool (GRADEpro GDT: GRADEpro Guideline Development Tool [Software]. McMaster University, 2015 - developed by Evidence Prime, Inc.), available from [gradeapro.org: https://gdt.gradeapro.org/app/handbook/handbook.html#h.rkkjpmwb6m6z](https://gdt.gradeapro.org/app/handbook/handbook.html#h.rkkjpmwb6m6z) (21).

Results

Study Selection

Figure 1 presents the flow diagram of the search strategy.

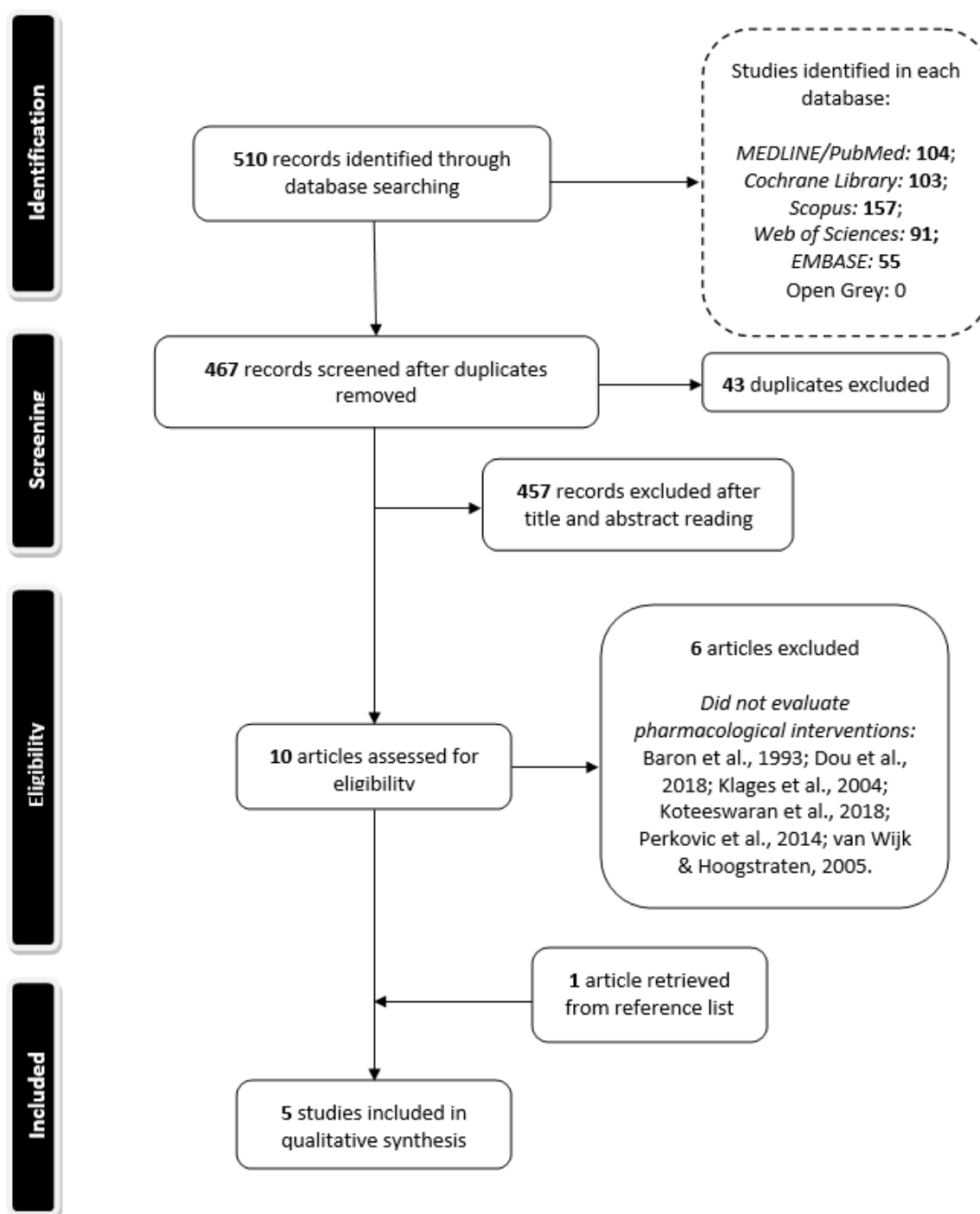


Figure 1. PRISMA flow diagram representing the systematic review process.

Initial screening of databases resulted in 510 studies. Of these articles, 43 were excluded as they were duplicates. From the analysis of the titles and abstracts, 457 studies were excluded and ten studies (22–31) met the inclusion criteria and were selected for full-text reading.

Of these, six studies were excluded for not having evaluated pharmacological interventions (22,23,26,27,29,31). One additional study (32) was identified after checking the references of the selected articles. Therefore, five studies met the inclusion criteria and were selected for analysis (24,25,28,30,32).

Data Extraction

Table 1 presents the characteristics and main findings of the included studies.

Authors of studies with insufficient data were contacted at least three times by e-mail, but no additional information was received.

Regarding the assessment of anxiety level, three studies used Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (CDAS) (28,30,32), one study used the Modified Dental Anxiety Scale (MDAS) (25) and one used Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (CDAS) as an inclusion criterion to assess preoperative anxiety values, and Vertical and Horizontal Visual Analogue Scales (VVAS and HVAS) were used to assess anxiety levels before and after procedures (24).

In relation to the preoperative anxiety levels, two studies found CDAS scores of 11 ± 4 (mean \pm SD) to both groups (28,30), one study found CDAS values of 11.1 ± 4.6 to the intervention group and 9.4 ± 4.4 to the placebo group (32), and one study found MDAS scores of 20.27 to the control group and 20.67 to the intervention group (25). One study only included participants with CDAS scores ≥ 10 , and the included participants presented preoperative anxiety scores between 20-40mm according to the VVAS. Although reporting the use of HVAS for anxiety level measuring, the values were not reported (24).

Regarding the assessment of pain levels, the majority of studies used Heft-Parker Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) (25,28,30,32), and only one study used Horizontal Visual Analogue Scale (HVAS) (24).

As for the preoperative pain scores, one study found VAS scores of 125 ± 21.1 (mean \pm SD) to the intervention group and 124 ± 23.3 to the placebo group (32), one study found VAS values of 109 ± 50 to the intervention group and 106 ± 4 to the placebo group (28), and one study found VAS values of 128 ± 25 to the intervention

group and 130 ± 23 to the placebo group (30). Two studies did not report preoperative pain values (24,25).

Regarding the pharmacological interventions investigated, in one study, patients received 0,25mg triazolam or 5mg diazepam or placebo after completion of the baseline data (24). One study managed 0,5mg alprazolam or placebo, 45 min before inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) block (32), and another study 0,25mg triazolam or placebo 30 min before local anesthesia (28). In one study that used nitrous oxide, 5 min before the administration of local anesthesia, the intervention group received 6L/min of 100% oxygen for 5 min; and 5 min of nitrous oxide (30-50%)/oxygen until sedation; and the control group received only local anesthesia (25). Another study that used nitrous oxide, 10 min before the administration of local anesthesia the intervention group received, during 5 min, 6L/min of 100% oxygen and 5 min of nitrous oxide (30-50%)/oxygen until sedation; and the placebo group received 6L/min of 100% room air/oxygen. Both groups were maintained on their protocols during the entire treatment (30).

About the moments of evaluation of anxiety and pain, three studies evaluated the anxiety and pain levels in baseline and if the patient felt pain during the endodontic procedure (28,30,32). One study evaluated preoperative and postoperative anxiety levels and pain occurrence during local anesthesia administration and access opening (25). One study evaluated the anxiety levels preoperatively as an inclusion criterion, and in several moments during the appointment (45, 30 and 15 min preoperatively; at start of procedure; and 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, and 180 min after the start of the procedures) and pain levels 60 min after the procedures (24).

As for the main findings of the analyzed studies, from those that evaluated the effects of nitrous oxide, one study reported a reduction in the postoperative anxiety scores and the pain perception of patients during anesthesia and access opening (25), and the other study reported an increased in the success rate of the IAN block (30). From those that evaluated the effects of oral medicaments, one study demonstrated a significant decrease in anxiety when a single dose of 0,25mg triazolam was administered before treatment and compared to the placebo group, but without differences regarding pain levels (24). One study that evaluated the administration of 0,5mg alprazolam reported that this medication did not improve the success rate of IAN block (32). Other study, that evaluated the administration of 0,25mg triazolam

sublingual previously to local anesthesia, also reported that this medication did not improve the success rate of the IAN block (28).

Quality Assessment

Figure 2 summarizes the risk of bias of the randomized clinical trials.

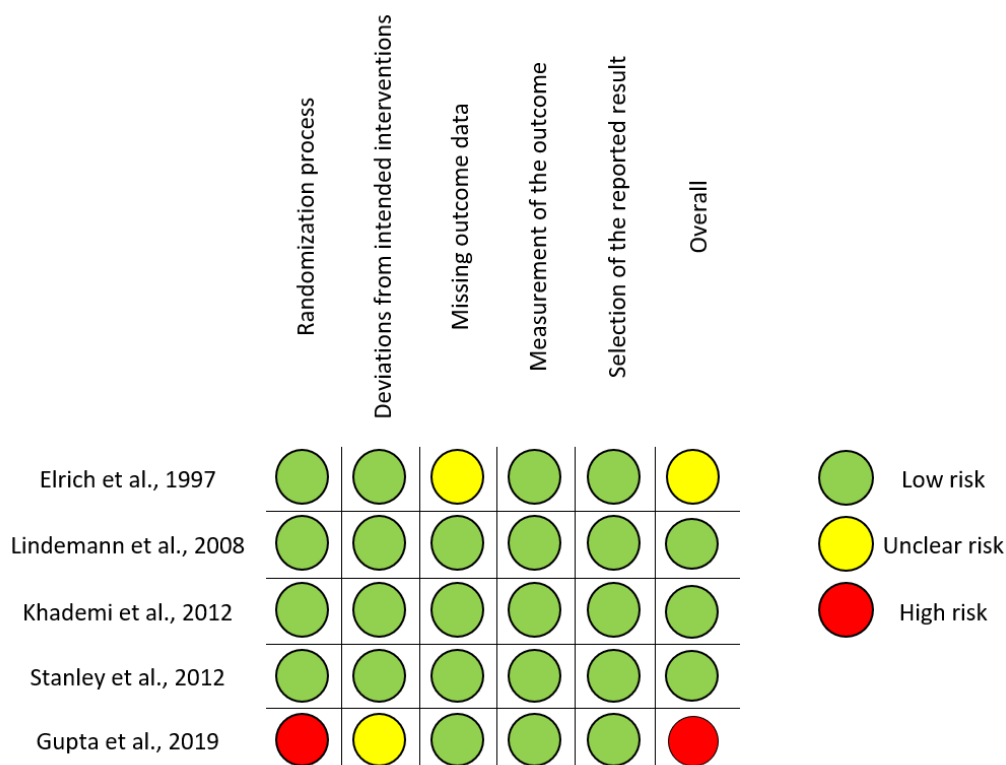


Figure 2. Quality assessment of the randomized clinical trials according to Cochrane Collaboration common scheme for bias and RoB 2 tool

From the five studies included for the analyses, three studies were classified as low risk of bias (28,30,32), one study was classified as unclear risk of bias, with one domain (missing outcome data) presenting some concerns (24), and one study was classified as high risk of bias, with one domain (randomization) presenting a high risk of bias and other domain (deviations from intended interventions) presenting some concerns (25).

Strength of Evidence

GRADE results are presented in **Table 2**.

The GRADE tool demonstrated a low quality of evidence for the included studies. These studies received the “serious” classification for risk of bias and imprecision, and “not serious” classification for inconsistency, indirectness, and no other considerations (24,25,28,30,32).

Discussion

Since it has been reported that the control of anxiety can bring some benefits during the endodontic treatment (2,29), this systematic review aimed to verify if the pharmacological management of anxiety influences the occurrence of intraoperative pain. For this purpose, this systematic review included studies that performed the control of anxiety through benzodiazepines and nitrous oxide gas. These sedation methods were selected because both promote a minimum sedation level, maintaining the patient consciousness without impairing respiratory and cardiovascular functions (13,33).

This systematic review was conducted with a robust methodology, registered in the PROSPERO database, performing the searches in six electronic databases by two independent authors involved in the study's selection and data extraction. To provide a reliable source of knowledge around the question raised in this study, only randomized clinical trials that evaluated pharmacological interventions to control anxiety were included. Besides, all selected studies had compared the intervention to a control or placebo group.

Regarding the studies' risk of bias assessment, significant concerns were observed in three domains (randomization process, deviations from intended interventions, and missing outcome data). One study (25) did not inform for randomization method and neither for allocation concealment. The same study (25) did not perform blinding for the caregivers and participants, allowing them to know their assigned intervention. Furthermore, one study (24) did not report for all the outcomes evaluated.

Due to these limitations presented by the included studies, the overall quality of evidence presented by the GRADE tool was classified as low. The domain' risk of bias'

includes eligibility criteria, measurement of exposure and outcome, and confounding control (34). In the 'risk of bias' domain, the studies received the "serious" classification because one study did not perform allocation concealment and did not perform blinding for participants and caregivers (25), and one study did not present all the measured outcomes (24). The domain 'inconsistency' refers to an unexplained heterogeneity of results (35). This domain was considered 'not serious' since all included studies did not seem to present unexplained heterogeneity. The domain 'indirectness' is composed by differences in population, interventions, outcomes measures, and indirect comparisons (36), and it was also considered 'not serious', since all included studies presented more than 3 'no' for the assessed parameters. The domain 'imprecision' was assessed following Murad *et al.* (37). In the present systematic review, a meta-analysis was not possible to be performed, and, for this reason, it could not be assessed the single pooled estimate of the effect. It is recommended, in these situations, to consider the total number of participants of the included studies and the confidence intervals (CIs) of the most extensive studies. A threshold of fewer than 400 concerns imprecision and results may be imprecise when the CIs of the most extensive studies include no effect and meaningful benefits or harms (37). Due to these reasons, the domain 'imprecision' was considered "serious", since the 95% CI of the studies with the widest samples did not include meaningful benefit or harm and their pooled sample size was less than 400. The domain 'other consideration' included the assessment of publication bias, large effect, plausible confounding and dose-response gradient (38,39), and none of them were likely to interfere in the results or downgrade the certainty of the evidence of the included studies.

When evaluating the main findings, conscious sedation through benzodiazepines did not presented better results regarding pain perception (24) and anesthetic efficacy (28,32) compared to the control or placebo groups. However, studies that performed conscious sedation through nitrous oxide gas reported a significant reduction in pain perception during procedures performance (25,30). These results can probably be explained due to the differences in both pharmacological interventions' mechanism of action.

Nitrous oxide gas presents different mechanisms of action for its sedative and analgesic properties. Although the theory around the mechanism of action of its sedative effects is not well established, the most accepted is that the nitrous oxide gas

is a non-competitive inhibitor of the subtype N-Methyl-D-Aspartate (NMDA) glutamate receptor, the primary excitatory neurotransmitter of the central nervous system (40,41). Another potential theory is that the nitrous oxide gas promotes a hyperpolarization of neurons by increasing the potassium conductance on potassium canal such as TREK-1 (42). Regarding the analgesic properties of the nitrous oxide gas, it appears that nitrous oxide induces the release of an opioid peptide in the periaqueductal grey matter (PAG) of the midbrain, leading to the activation of the descending inhibitory pathways, resulting in modulation of the pain at the nociceptive processing in the spinal cord (43).

Meanwhile, benzodiazepines have their mechanism of action related to the inhibition of the polysynaptic pathway through direct interaction with the gamma-Aminobutyric acid (GABA) (44). GABA is an inhibitory neurotransmitter presented in the central nervous system and is divided into three subtypes: GABA-A, GABA-B, and GABA-C (44). The subtype responsible for the effects of the benzodiazepines is the GABA-A receptor, an anion-selective ligand-gated ion canal, composed of five subunits: two alpha (α), two beta (β) and one gamma (γ) (45). These subunits form a canal that crosses the neuron's plasma membrane, where chloride ions pass (46). When benzodiazepines bind to the GABA-A receptor, there is a conformational change in the canal, which results in a more significant influx of chloride ions, leading to a hyperpolarization of the neural plasma membrane and, consequently, an inhibition of the central nervous system (47). Therefore, while nitrous oxide gas acts as a central nervous system depressor and as an opioid-like drug, benzodiazepines only promote a sedative effect.

Regarding adverse reactions of benzodiazepines, it has been reported minimal changes in the patient's respiration rate when therapeutic doses of benzodiazepines were administered (48). Some authors have found a relation between the administration of these drugs with cognitive decline, interfering in recent memories' formation and inducing permanent memory loss if used during long periods (49–52). A previous study (53) showed that former users of benzodiazepines have persistent cognitive deficits in the months following withdrawal. Benzodiazepines can also cause paradoxical reactions, such as increased talkativeness, emotional release, excitement, excessive movement, and even hostility and rage (54). These effects are related to several predisposing risk factors like age, genetic predisposition, alcoholism, and psychiatric or personality disorders (55).

The adverse reactions presented by the nitrous oxide gas can include gastrointestinal disorders, such as vomiting and nausea, and nervous system and psychiatric disorders, mainly agitation and euphoria (16). Also, it has been reported that more serious adverse reactions can occur, and these include conscious disorder, bradycardia, O₂ desaturation, laryngospasm, apnea, convulsions, cardiac arrest, and narcolepsy (14,16,56). It is crucial to emphasize that the use of nitrous oxide gas in the dental office should be preceded by an extensive training period for its correct administration, which could minimize the risks of the therapy (14,16).

This systematic review presents some limitations. Mainly due to the high methodological heterogeneity among the retrieved studies, a meta-analysis was not possible to be performed. This systematic review was also limited in verifying if pharmacological interventions could decrease intraoperative pain experiences in endodontic treatments but did not evaluate non-pharmacological therapies.

As for the implications of this systematic review on future research, it was verified the need for more high-quality research on the subject, with a standardization of the adopted methodologies, so that an adequate comparison is possible. This is the first systematic review that correlates the effects of pharmacological control of anxiety through conscious sedation in reducing intraoperative pain experience in endodontic treatments. About the future directions for clinical practice, based on the results of this systematic review, it is possible to suggest that nitrous oxide can present benefits in reducing intraoperative pain during non-surgical endodontic treatment. At the same time, the use of benzodiazepines seems not to be as effective. However, this suggestion is based on a low quality of evidence. Meanwhile, in the absence of better-quality information that can confirm the above suggestions, using any of the referred techniques to control anxiety and promoting a reduction in the intraoperative pain experience should be taken with caution.

Conclusion

With low certainty of the evidence, the control of anxiety through benzodiazepines does not influence the occurrence of intraoperative pain and anesthetic efficacy, while the administration of nitrous oxide gas seems to be more effective.

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Supplementary File 1. Search strategy in each database.

Database	Search strategy	Findings
MEDLINE/PubMed	#1: (((((((root canal[MeSH Terms]) OR (root canal[Title/Abstract])) OR (root canal therapy[MeSH Terms])) OR (root canal therapy[Title/Abstract])) OR (root canal treatment[MeSH Terms])) OR (root canal treatment[Title/Abstract])) OR (endodont*[MeSH Terms])) OR (endodont*[Title/Abstract])	44.877
	#2: (((dental anxiety[MeSH Terms]) OR (dental anxiety[Title/Abstract])) OR (anxiety[MeSH Terms])) OR (anxiety[Title/Abstract])	225.630
	#3: (((((((((((pain[MeSH Terms]) OR (pain[Title/Abstract])) OR (intraoperative pain[MeSH Terms])) OR (intraoperative pain[Title/Abstract])) OR (pain control[MeSH Terms])) OR (pain control[Title/Abstract])) OR (analgesia[MeSH Terms])) OR (analgesia[Title/Abstract])) OR (anesthetic[MeSH Terms])) OR (anesthetic[Title/Abstract]))	1.101.476

	(anesthesia[MeSH Terms]) OR (anesthesia[Title/Abstract])	
	#1 AND #2 AND #3	104
Cochrane Library	#1: root canal OR root canal therapy OR root canal treatment OR endodont*	4.410
	#2: dental anxiety OR anxiety	54.304
	#3: pain OR intraoperative pain OR pain control OR analgesia OR anesthetic OR anesthesia	242.970
	#1 AND #2 AND #3	103
Scopus	#1: (TITLE-ABS-KEY (root AND canal) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (root AND canal AND therapy) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (root AND canal AND treatment) OR TITLE-ABS- KEY (endodont*))	59.288
	#2: (TITLE-ABS-KEY (dental AND anxiety) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (anxiety))	401.484
	#3: (TITLE-ABS-KEY (pain) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (intraoperative AND pain) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (pain AND control) OR TITLE-ABS- KEY (analgesia) OR TITLE-ABS- KEY (anesthetic) OR TITLE-ABS- KEY (anesthesia))	1.619.091
	#1 AND #2 AND #3	157
Web of Science (All Databases)	#1: TOPIC: (root canal) OR TOPIC: (root canal therapy) OR TOPIC: (root canal treatment) OR TOPIC: (endodont*)	38.595
	#2: TOPIC: (dental anxiety) OR TOPIC: (anxiety)	396.714
	#3: TOPIC: (pain) OR TOPIC: (intraoperative pain) OR TOPIC: (pain control) OR TOPIC: (analgesia)	1.326.871

	OR TOPIC: (anesthetic) OR TOPIC: (anesthesia)	
	#1 AND #2 AND #3	91
EMBASE	#1: 'root canal':ti,ab,kw OR 'root canal therapy':ti,ab,kw OR 'root canal treatment':ti,ab,kw OR endodont*:ti,ab,kw	30.282
	#2: 'dental anxiety':ti,ab,kw OR anxiety:ti,ab,kw	291.787
	#3: pain:ti,ab,kw OR 'intraoperative pain':ti,ab,kw OR 'pain control':ti,ab,kw OR analgesia:ti,ab,kw OR anesthetic:ti,ab,kw OR anesthesia:ti,ab,kw	1.218.413
	#1 AND #2 AND #3	55
Open Grey	#1: ("root canal" OR "root canal therapy" OR "root canal treatment" OR "endodont*")	465
	#2: ("dental anxiety" OR "anxiety")	1.317
	#3: ("pain" OR "intraoperative pain" OR "pain control" OR "analgesia" OR "anesthetic" OR "anesthesia")	3.047
	#1 AND #2 AND #3	0

Table 1 – Data extracted from the included studies.

Author (s) (Year of publication)	Number of participants (per group)	Participants age (per group)	Anxiety scale	Preoperative anxiety scores	Pain scale	Preoperative pain scores	Anesthetic technique	Endodontic intervention	Pharmacological intervention	Control group	Drug administration protocol	Moments of evaluation	Outcomes	Main findings
Ehrich DG. (1997)	79 (Triazolam group: 25; Diazepam group: 26; Placebo group: 28)	NR	Vertical and horizontal visual analogue scales (VVAS and HVAS)	VVAS: Range of 20-40mm; HVAS: NR*	Horizontal visual analogue scale (HVAS)	NR	NR	NR	0,25mg triazolam; 5mg diazepam	Placebo	0,25mg triazolam or 5mg diazepam or placebo after completion of the baseline data	<u>Anxiety:</u> 45, 30 and 15 min before the procedures; at the start of procedure; 15, 30, 60, 90, 120 and 180 min after the start of the procedures; <u>Pain:</u> 60 min after procedures	<u>Anxiety:</u> VVAS: Triazolam significantly decreased anxiety compared to placebo; Diazepam was similar to placebo <u>Pain:</u> HVAS: No differences between groups	Single dose of 0,25mg triazolam prior to treatment is safe in decreasing anxiety; None of the medications improved pain control
Lindemann M. et al (2008)	58 (Triazolam group: 30; Placebo group: 28)	Triazolam group: 37±12; Placebo group: 28±12	Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (CDAS)	Triazolam group: 11±4; Placebo group: 11±4	Heft-Parker Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)	Triazolam group: 109±50mm; Placebo group: 106±4mm	IAN block with 3.6 mL of 2% lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine	Mandibular posterior or tooth (molar or premolar) with irreversible pulpitis	0,25mg triazolam and local anesthesia	Placebo and local anesthesia	0,25mg triazolam/placebo, 30 min before IAN block	<u>Anxiety:</u> Baseline (previous to drug administration) <u>Pain:</u> Baseline and if patient felt pain during endodontic procedure	Anesthetic success rate was 43% with triazolam and 57% with placebo, without differences between groups	0,25mg triazolam sublingual did not result in an increase in the success of lower alveolar nerve block

Khade mi AA. et al (2012)	60 (Alprazolam group: 30; Placebo group: 30)	Alprazolam group: 29±8; Placebo group: 29±8	Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (CDAS)	Alprazolam group: 11.1±4.6; Placebo group: 9.4±4.4	Heft-Parker Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)	Alprazolam group: 125±21.1 mm; Placebo group: 124±23.3 mm	Inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) block with 3.6 mL of 2% lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine	Mandibular molar with irreversible pulpitis	0,5mg alprazolam and local anesthesia	Placebo and local anesthesia	0,5mg alprazolam capsule or placebo 45 min before IAN block	<u>Anxiety:</u> Baseline <u>Pain:</u> Baseline and if patient felt pain during endodontic procedure	There were no statistically significant differences in IAN block success rate between groups (Alprazolam: 53%; Placebo: 40%)	Preoperative dose of 0,5mg alprazolam did not improve success rate of IAN block
Stanley W. et al (2012)	100 (Nitrous oxide/oxygen – intervention group: 50; Room air/oxygen – placebo group: 50)	Nitrous oxide group: 33±11; Placebo group: 35±13	Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (CDAS)	Nitrous oxide group: 11±4; Placebo group: 11±4	Heft-Parker Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)	Intervention group: 128±25 mm; Placebo group: 130±23 mm	Inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) block with 3.6 mL of 2% lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine	Mandibular molar with irreversible pulpitis	Local anesthesia and nitrous oxide/oxygen	Local anesthesia and room air/oxygen (placebo)	<u>Nitrous oxide group:</u> 10 min before local anesthesia; 6L/min - 5 min of 100% oxygen and 5 min of nitrous oxide (30-50%)/oxygen until sedation <u>Placebo group:</u> 10 min before local anesthesia; 6L/min – 100% room air/oxygen;	<u>Anxiety:</u> Baseline <u>Pain:</u> Baseline and if patient felt pain during endodontic procedure	There was a significantly higher anesthetic success rate in the nitrous oxide/oxygen group (50%) compared to the placebo group (28%)	Administration of 30%/50% nitrous oxide/oxygen resulted in an increase in the success rate of the IAN block

Gupta P. et al (2019)	60 (Control group: 30; Nitrous oxide group: 30)	≥ 18 years	Modified Dental Anxiety Scale (MDAS)	MDAS -	Heft-Parker Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)	NR	Inferior alveolar nerve block (IANB) with 3,6 mL of lidocaine 2% with epinephrine 1:100.000	Mandibular molar with irreversible pulpitis	Local anesthesia and nitrous oxide/oxygen	Local anesthesia only	<u>Nitrous oxide group:</u> 5 min before local anesthesia; 6L/min - 5 min of 100% oxygen and 5 min of nitrous oxide (30-50%)/oxygen until sedation	<u>Anxiety:</u> Preoperative and postoperative;	<u>Pain:</u> During administration of local anesthesia and access opening	Significant reduction in postoperative anxiety scores in intervention group;	Significant reduction in pain perceived by patients during anesthesia and access opening in intervention's group	Nitrous oxide effectively reduced painful perception during treatment and anxiety
	Nitrous oxide group: 20.27;			MDAS -							Intervention group: 20.67					

*NR – Not Reported

Table 2. Quality of evidence for the pharmacological management of anxiety on pain occurrence during root canal treatment.

Certainty assessment							
Nº of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Overall certainty of evidence
5	Randomized trials	Serious ^a	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ^b	None	⊕⊕○○ LOW

a. 1 study did not perform allocation concealment and did not perform blinding for patients and caregivers; 1 study did not present all the measured outcomes.; b. Pool sample size lower than 400.

4. CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

Diante dos achados dessa revisão sistemática, é indiscutível que há a necessidade de novos estudos sobre o manejo farmacológico da ansiedade e o seu impacto na dor intraoperatória de pacientes com necessidade de tratamento endodôntico.

O tratamento endodôntico de dentes vitais é um desafio para o clínico. Como já explicado anteriormente, a dor é uma experiência sensorial e emocional desagradável, associada a um dano potencial ou real. Entretanto, sua percepção é resultante de uma complexa interpretação da excitação sensorial integrada, com emoções como medo, ansiedade, e memórias de experiências anteriores (LOPES; SIQUEIRA, 2020).

Ensaio clínico randomizado são o padrão ouro para o desenvolvimento de pesquisa com seres humanos. No entanto, são propensos a vieses. Isso pode ser explicado pela arbitrariedade dos investigadores na seleção da amostra e aferição das variáveis analisadas, e na dificuldade no controle de outros fatores que podem influenciar no desfecho clínico (FLETCHER, 2014). Nessa revisão sistemática, mesmo com algumas limitações, o uso do gás de óxido nitroso parece ter melhores resultados no controle da dor, em comparação com os benzodiazepínicos. Um estudo que utilizou esse fármaco como intervenção (GRUPTA *et al.*, 2019) foi classificado como alto risco de viés. Em sua metodologia, nos pacientes do grupo experimental, foi realizada abertura coronária e extirpação pulpar sob anestesia local e gás de óxido nitroso. No grupo controle, apenas anestesia local; diferentemente de Stanley *et al.* (2012), que utilizou óxido nitroso/oxigênio ou ar ambiente/oxigênio de maneira aleatória. A ausência de descrição sobre o processo de randomização, além do não-cegamento dos profissionais e pacientes no estudo de Grupta *et al.*, (2019), colaborou para uma baixa qualidade de evidência.

No Brasil, a analgesia relativa ou sedação consciente foi garantida para os cirurgiões-dentistas em 2004 pelo Brazilian College of Dentists (BCD). Para se tornar

apto a praticar a sedação consciente com óxido nitroso, o profissional deve realizar um curso de treinamento com carga horária de 96 horas. Daher *et al.* (2012) procuraram identificar as práticas atuais e opiniões de dentistas brasileiros licenciados para realizar a sedação consciente com óxido nitroso. Os profissionais entrevistados responderam que a maior motivação para realizar o curso é a possibilidade de dar um maior conforto para pacientes com ansiedade dentária. Desses profissionais, 22% eram especialistas em odontopediatria, 18% em cirurgia bucomaxilofacial, 17% implantodontistas e 14% eram de outra especialidade. Outro dado interessante foi que 76,2% trabalhavam nas regiões Sul e Sudeste, onde há maior concentração de profissionais especialistas e cursos para essa prática (DAHER *et al.*, 2012). É de se ressaltar, portanto, que o uso da sedação consciente com o gás de óxido nitroso ainda não é uma realidade para todos os profissionais no país.

5. CONCLUSÃO

Diante do exposto e considerando as limitações desta revisão sistemática, é possível concluir que, apesar da baixa certeza das evidências, os benzodiazepínicos não influenciam na ocorrência de dor durante os procedimentos endodônticos. No entanto, o gás de óxido nitroso parece influenciar positivamente o mesmo parâmetro.

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ANEXO A – APROVAÇÃO COMPESQ


Sistema Pesquisa - Pesquisador: Ricardo Abreu Da Rosa



- Linhas de Pesquisa
- Projetos de Pesquisa
- Áreas de Atuação
- Bolsas de Pesquisa
- Iniciação Científica/Tecnológica Voluntário
- Programa de Fomento à Pesquisa (Auxílio)

Dados Gerais:

Projeto Nº:	40219	Título:	INFLUENCIA DO MANEJO FARMACOLOGICO DA ANSIEDADE NA OCORRENCIA DE DOR DURANTE O TRATAMENTO ENDODONTICO: UMA REVISAO SISTEMÁTICA.		
Área de conhecimento:	Endodontia	Início:	01/02/2021	Previsão de conclusão:	30/08/2021
Situação:	Projeto em Andamento				
Origem:	Faculdade de Odontologia Programa de Pós-Graduação em Odontologia	Projeto Isolado			
Local de Realização:	não informado				
Não apresenta relação com Patrimônio Genético ou Conhecimento Tradicional Associado.					
Objetivo:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>O objetivo dessa revisão sistemática será responder a seguinte pergunta: ?o manejo farmacológico da ansiedade influencia na ocorrência de dor durante o tratamento endodôntico??.</p> </div>				



- Linhas de Pesquisa
- Projetos de Pesquisa
- Áreas de Atuação
- Bolsas de Pesquisa
- Iniciação Científica/Tecnológica Voluntário
- Programa de Fomento à Pesquisa (Auxílio)

Palavras Chave:

ANSIEDADE; DOR; ENDODONTIA; REVISÃO SISTEMÁTICA.

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Avaliações:

Comissão de Pesquisa de Odontologia - Aprovado em 16/03/2021 [Clique aqui para visualizar o parecer](#)

Anexos:

[Projeto Completo](#) **Data de Envio:** 04/03/2021