

## Nano-drug Delivery from PMMA Denture Base Material

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The need for removable prostheses will continue due to the increase in human aged population. Poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) is the denture based material of choice for more than 50 years and up to now owing to its applicable mechanical, physiochemical, and working properties. However, denture PMMA may be colonized by some oral microorganisms. These oral microorganisms may contribute to oral infections as denture stomatitis, systemic infections, and pneumonia. Denture cleansers alone are ineffective against denture plaque removal and also, may cause significant damage to dentures. Systemic antibiotic has been specified for management of oral infections; however, excessive use of systemic drugs led to the development of microbial resistant strains. On the other hand, the topical application of antibiotics may be ineffective due to its inability to maintain physical contact with oral mucosal tissue, limiting anatomical features of the oral cavity as well as constant washing effect caused by the salivary flow. Therefore, there is a need for a technology that permits controlled drug delivery with optimal concentration at the required site. The introduction of nanoparticle-based drug delivery technologies allows an effective and targeted drug delivery without undesirable side effects. Local drug delivery technology is more appropriate to patients as it does not require frequent application regimes. In addition, direct delivery of the drug to the site of infection reduces the risk of systemic side effects or drug-drug interactions. For a material to be used as a drug carrier, it must have the ability to carry a drug either physically or chemically. Drug carrier must preserve the drug until it reaches the targeted site, being progressively degraded, and deliver the drug in a controllable manner over time. Conclusion: Removable dental prosthesis fabricated from PMMA can be used as a vehicle for drug nanocarriers for management of oral infections. PMMA can incorporate additives up to 20% w/w without significantly altering the surface micro-hardness.

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