

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

WILEY

Radiological and histological evaluation of horizontal ridge augmentation using corticocancellous freeze-dried bone allograft with and without autogenous bone: A randomized controlled clinical trial

Mahtab Hashemipour DDS, MSc¹ | Najmeh Asghari DMD² |
Mohammad Mohammadi DDS, MSc³  | Mahsa Kalantari DDS, MSc⁴ |
Mohaddese Arabsolghar DDS, MSc³ | Hadi Ranjbar PhD⁵

¹Department of Periodontics, Kashan Dental School, Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Kashan, Iran

²Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

³Oral and Dental Diseases Research Center and Department of Periodontics, Kerman Dental School, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran

⁴Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, and Oral and Dental Diseases Research Center, Kerman Dental School, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran

⁵Mental Health Research Center, Psychosocial Health Research Institute, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Correspondence

Mohammad Mohammadi, Oral and Dental Diseases Research Center and Department of Periodontics, Kerman Dental School, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran.
Email: m_mohammadi@kmu.ac.ir, mmohammadi28@yahoo.com

Funding information

Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Grant/Award Number: 1

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study was radiological and histological evaluation of horizontal ridge augmentation using corticocancellous freeze-dried bone allograft (FDBA) with and without autogenous bone (AB).

Materials and methods: The present research was conducted on 42 patients (27 females and 15 males) with insufficient width of edentulous ridge. The patients were randomly assigned into two groups, FDBA alone + collagen membrane (n = 21) and the combined FDBA and AB + collagen membrane (n = 21). The horizontal alveolar ridge dimensions were measured using cone-beam computerized tomography before and 6 months after alveolar ridge augmentation. At the time of insertion of implants, biopsy of new bone was taken from 11 patients in each group and was analyzed histologically. The obtained data were statistically analyzed with paired *t* test and two-sample *t* test. The registration number was IRCT201109165305N3.

Results: The mean \pm SD ridge width gain after 6 months at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from crest of alveolar ridge was 2.78 ± 1.44 , 3.05 ± 1.21 , 2.82 ± 1.62 , and 2.23 ± 1.95 mm in the FDBA group and 2.40 ± 1.60 , 3.10 ± 1.80 , 3.60 ± 1.87 , and 2.65 ± 2.39 mm in the combined group, respectively, which was statistically significant in both groups using paired *t* test ($P < .001$). However, the difference between two groups analyzed by two-sample *t* test was not statistically significant ($P > .05$). Amount of new bone generation, remained particles, and connective tissue was not statistically different between two groups ($P = .367$, $P = .428$, and $P = .598$, respectively).

Conclusion: Based on the results of this study, corticocancellous FDBA granules along with collagen membrane can successfully be used for horizontal augmentation of edentulous ridge, and adding AB to the granules of FDBA does not significantly increase the quality and quantity of regenerated bone.

KEYWORDS

allograft, bone graft, bone regeneration, collagen membrane

1 | INTRODUCTION

Osseointegrated implants are an ideal alternative to missing teeth; however, their success is directly related to the quantity and quality of bone in edentulous areas.^{1,2} During the first year, loss of teeth results in a 25% reduction in bone width and a decrease of 4 mm in vertical bone height.³ There are several proposed surgical procedures to reconstruct bone before insertion of the implant, including distraction osteogenesis, ridge splitting, maxillary sinus augmentation, autogenous bone (AB) block, and guided bone regeneration (GBR).⁴⁻⁷

Among the above-mentioned methods, GBR has been frequently studied for treating local defects of jawbones.⁸ The success rate of implant treatment in the area restored by the GBR technique is similar to that of implant treatment in the healthy native bone region.⁸ ABs, allografts, ceramics, and xenografts are usual biomaterials used to perform GBR.

The AB grafts are known as the gold standard due to the nature of osteogenesis, osteoinduction, and osteoconduction. However, problems such as delayed resorption of augmented bone, increasing the surgery time, pain, and morbidity in the donor site have limited their application. They are also doubtful about their cell vitality.⁹⁻¹¹ Allografts have no osteogenic properties, but they are widely used because of sufficient amounts and no need for donor site. Demineralized freeze-dried bone allograft (DFDBA) and FDBA are the known allografts.¹² FDBA is in the mineralized form; therefore, it matures faster than DFDBA and suffers atrophy at a lower rate.⁹ The FDBA either in particulate¹³⁻¹⁶ or block¹⁷ form has been used in bone augmentation processes with successful histological and clinical results.¹²

Due to the different mechanical and biological properties of various graft materials, a combination of these materials can be used to optimize the environment for bone regeneration. If osteoinductivity and osteogenesis are required along with increased mineral density, the FDBA can be used in combination with AB. Beitlitum et al showed that using AB along with FDBA in a layered technique did not increase the treatment results in comparison with FDBA alone.⁴

Regarding the controversial and insufficient information on the advantages of combining these biomaterials and the existence of only one study comparing FDBA alone with FDBA + AB,⁴ the present study was conducted to investigate histologically and radiographically horizontal ridge augmentation using corticocancellous FDBA with and without AB in a randomized controlled clinical trial (RCT).

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a randomized, controlled clinical trial. This RCT was registered on the Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (IRCT) with registration number of IRCT201109165305N3 at <https://irct.ir/trial/38904>. In this study, we considered the CONSORT guidelines.

The study population included patients who were continuously referred to the Dental School of Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Iran. The sample size was calculated considering $\alpha = .05$,

$1-\beta = 0.2$, $d = 1.5$, and in view of the SD acquired in the Beitlitum's study⁴ which was 1.28, the result was 19 cases in each group; and by taking into account the 10% possibility of sample loss, sample size was set on 21 in each group.

The location of this study was the Periodontics Department of Kerman Dental School. This research was approved by Ethical Committee of Kerman University of Medical Sciences and the Ethical approval Code was IR.KMU.REC.1396.1098.

The patients were recruited with nonprobability sampling technique (convenience sampling). The study was conducted on these subjects after obtaining their written consent. Considering inclusion criteria, a periodontist who was not blind to the study determined the need for bone augmentation in these individuals with the help of cone-beam computerized tomography (CBCT). The patients were randomly assigned into two parallel groups of corticocancellous FDBA (FDBA group) alone and corticocancellous FDBA + AB (combined group) by minimization method. Minimization is a dynamic randomization method in relatively small randomized clinical trials.¹⁸ At the beginning, the first few participants were assigned into these two groups through tossing coin (simple randomization), then the next participants were allocated to these two groups considering sex variable to balance. In this method, clinician can predict the allocation of the next participants by knowing the factor levels of a previously enrolled participants and knowing the characteristics of the next participant. Because of the entity of this randomization method, allocation concealment was not performed.^{18,19}

2.1 | Inclusion and exclusion criteria

To enroll in the study, these individuals had to be at least 18 years old and require a horizontal bone augmentation for the implant treatment in an edentulous ridge with two to three lost teeth, bordered by at least one tooth and 2.5 to 4 mm width in the posterior of maxilla or mandible. Exclusion criteria were heavy smoking (over 10 cigarettes per day), pregnancy, uncontrolled periodontal disease, known allergy to FDBA, collagen membrane, or medication used in this study, and any medication (such as corticosteroid and bisphosphonate) or systematic diseases (such as uncontrolled diabetes, osteoporosis, and immune deficiency), and medical treatments such as the chemotherapy and radiotherapy that could interfere with treatment. Oral hygiene should also be good (plaque index less than 20%). If necessary, dental calculus removal was performed prior to surgery. The exclusion criteria after starting the treatment were infection, loss of graft materials in cases with wound opening, and failing to follow up the cases.

2.2 | Preoperative measurements

Edentulous ridge width measurements in the implant sites were performed at a distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge. These measurements were done in the distance of 5 mm

from the distal of tooth root located anterior of the deficient ridge by using CBCT. These measurements were done only at one site for each patient. We decided to use CBCTs to measure the width of edentulous ridge in this study, because several studies have proven the accuracy of the linear measurements of dento-facial structures by CBCTs.^{20,21} All measurements (baseline and 6 months after surgery) were done by two periodontists who were educated and calibrated by an experienced radiologist. Both of them were blind to the study groups. For blindness, the demographic information of each patient was removed from CBCTs and a code was given to each CBCT.

2.3 | Surgical procedures

One hour before surgery, 1 g of amoxicillin and 800 mg of ibuprofen were given to the patients for prophylaxis of wound infection and postoperative pain. The technique of bone augmentation was performed in one session by a periodontist who was not blind to the study. First, an injection of a local anesthetic was performed using lidocaine 2% with epinephrine 1:80000 (Darou Pakhsh, Tehran, Iran) in the affected areas (infiltration or block). After achieving the local anesthesia, a mid-crestal incision and two vertical releasing incisions with one tooth further than the site being treated in each side were made, followed by a full thickness mucoperiosteal flap to get the perfect access to the target area. Soft tissue remnants were detached from the bone surface, and cortical perforation was done during irrigation with saline to ensure vascularization. The combined group was treated by the combination of the 1 to 1.5 cc FDBA granules of 1000 to 2000 μm (Tissue Regeneration Corporation, Kish, Iran) and AB with a ratio of 1:1²² prepared from the ramus or chin region by Bonesier (Jeil medical Co, Seoul, Korea) (Figure 1). Bonesier is a rotary

collecting bone instrument to harvest bone with less trauma to adjacent tissues. FDBA group was treated by the 2 to 3 cc FDBA granules of 1000 to 2000 μm alone (Figure 2). The bone graft materials were moisturized and hydrated by sterile normal saline before use. Knowing that one third of the augmented ridge width will be lost after regeneration,²³ we grafted the ridge to about 8 to 9 mm horizontally to obtain sufficient width to place regular implants. After putting the graft materials on the target area in both groups, they were completely covered by a resorbable collagen membrane (Jason membrane, botiss biomaterials GmbH, Berlin, Germany). To fix the graft materials, a 5-0 absorbable suture of Vicryl (Supa, Tehran, Iran) was applied on the membrane using the horizontal mattress technique by taking anchorage from the remained periosteum on the bone in the apical region of facial flap. A periosteal releasing incision was created in order to tension-free closure of the flap. The primary soft tissue closure was performed by nylon suture (5-0) (Supa, Tehran, Iran) with horizontal mattress, interrupted, and criss-cross techniques. Six months after the augmentation procedure, the implants were inserted during the second surgical procedure.

2.4 | Postoperative cares

The patients were instructed not to brush in the transplanted area for the first 2 weeks after surgery. The chlorhexidine mouthwash 0.2% was administered twice daily for 2 weeks, ibuprofen 400 mg every 6 hours as needed and amoxicillin 500 mg every 8 hours for 1 week. The patients were also instructed to have a soft diet. After the first 14 days, sutures were removed and patients were educated to start the mechanical plaque control adjacent to operated area.⁶ All postoperative instructions were explained to the patients and also a copy was handed to them to make sure they act accordingly.

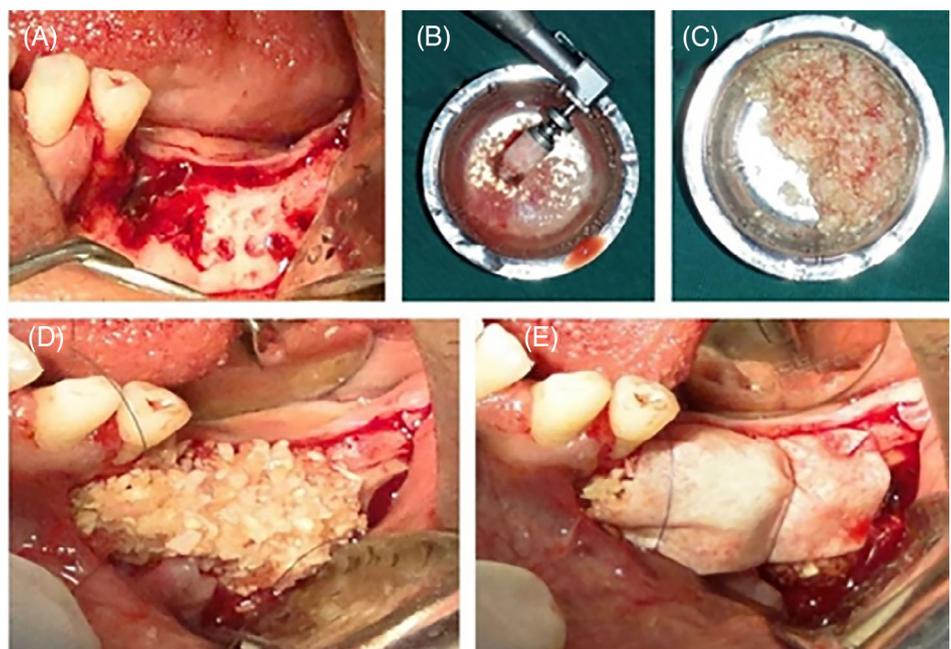


FIGURE 1 Surgical procedures by graft material of FDBA with autogenous bone. A, Clinical view after flap elevation and cortical perforation. B, Autogenous bone harvesting with bonesier. C, Combination of FDBA and autogenous bone. D, Placement of graft materials in the target area. E, Coating the graft materials with collagen membrane and fixing with horizontal mattress suture. FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft

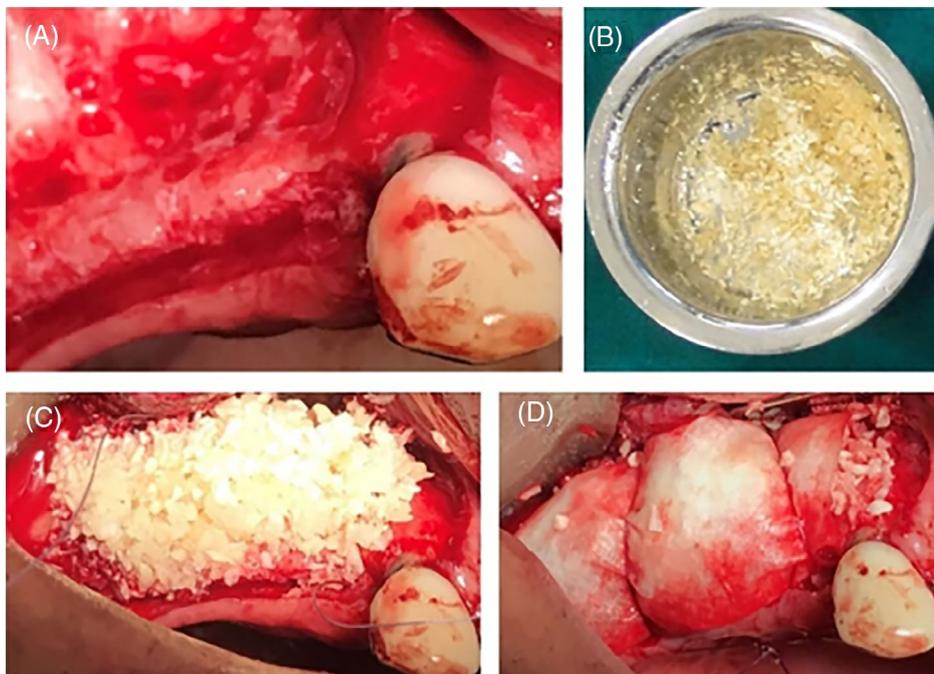


FIGURE 2 Surgical procedures by graft material of FDDB. A, Clinical view after flap elevation and cortical perforation, B, FDDB, C, placement of graft materials in the target area, and, D, coating the graft materials with collagen membrane and fixing with a horizontal mattress suture. FDDB, freeze-dried bone allograft

2.5 | Postoperative measurements

The re-measurements of ridge width at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge were performed in the same areas as previously measured through another CBCT taken 6 months after the bone augmentation, at the time of the implant surgery.

2.6 | Histological assessments

At the time of insertion of implants, a bone biopsy with 2 mm diameter and 6 mm length was performed using Trepine bur (Hu-Friedy) from 22 patients (11 in each group).

Because of lateral augmentation of the edentulous ridge, the biopsies were prepared from the buccal of augmented ridge between the implant sites or distal to the last implant site. Because of the site of taking biopsy, probability of bone traumatization during trephine biopsy, and patients consent, histological evaluation was limited to 11 cases in combined group. Therefore, the biopsies from FDDB group were also limited to 11 cases to balance the number of participants in each group.

The bone samples were placed in 10% formalin for fixation for 24 hours. After decalcification with nitric acid 13%, the samples were sectioned in parallel with the diameter of the sample and embedded in the paraffin. Multiple sections of 3 to 5 μm were prepared from the samples and stained by hematoxylin and eosin to be observed under Olympus Optical Microscope (YX-100, Japan). In this phase, all samples were evaluated in terms of new viable bone formation, presence of remaining bone graft particles, presentation of acute and chronic inflammation, and granulomatous inflammatory response to a foreign body.

2.7 | Histomorphometrical assessments

For histomorphometrical analysis, micrographs were prepared from each slide under the light microscope (Olympus BX-41 connected to Olympus camera DP12-2, Japan) at magnifications of 40 \times and 100 \times . For each sample, a micrograph was prepared at a magnification of 40 \times and three micrographs at a magnification of 100 \times (from the upper, middle, and lower borders of the sample). The micrographs were encoded according to the slide code and saved on the computer, and then evaluated with the Adobe photo shop software program.²⁴ For each sample, the areas of new bone region, remaining graft particles, and soft tissue were calculated separately. Then, the sum of each of these areas was calculated in all samples, and a total area was obtained for each one. In the next stage, the area of each region (new bone, remaining graft particles and soft tissue) was divided by the total area and was reported as percentage.^{25,26} The histomorphometrical evaluation of all samples was done at a magnification of 100 \times and all samples were matched in length, width, and pixel. To prevent sampling bias, five slides from each sample were randomly selected and analyzed for histology and histomorphometry and then their average was calculated.

The following criteria were used to differentiate a new bone from native bone:

1. The absence of organized mature lamellar bone
2. Increased new cellularity and vascularity
3. Observations of multiple osteocytes
4. Higher staining due to hematoxylin vs eosin

Also, the differentiation of new bone from allograft particles was based on the presence of cells in new bone lacunas (unlike FDDB, where lacunas lack cells) and the difference in staining intensity.^{13,25}

The histological and histomorphometrical examinations of all samples were performed by a pathologist who was blind to the study. A code was given to each prepared slide to blind the assessor.

2.8 | Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed by SPSS 20 software. Kolmogorov-Simonov statistical test showed normal distribution of the data. Therefore, two-sample *t* test was used to analyze the results between the two groups, and the paired *t* test was applied to analyze the preoperative and postoperative differences for the two groups. The reliability between two examiners was determined by Pearson's correlation coefficient.

3 | RESULTS

The present research was conducted on 42 patients. The FDDBA group consisted of 21 patients (13 females and 8 males) and the combined group also had 21 patients (14 females and 7 males). Recruitment, surgery, and data gathering were performed between May 2017 and April 2018. Two of the 21 participants in the FDDBA + AB group did not show up to complete the treatment, so the results were analyzed based on 40 remaining participants (Figure 3). Only two patients in the present study who were both from the FDDBA group needed to receive complementary GBR in the implant insertion session due to insufficient quantity of bone regeneration.

A small membrane exposure occurred only in one surgical site related to the FDDBA group, which healed completely without loss of graft materials. All patients reported some extent of inflammation, pain, and bruises during the healing process. Any harm did not occur to the participants during operation and after follow-up in both groups.

3.1 | Radiological findings

Inter-examiner reliability was excellent ($r = 0.89$). In the FDDBA group (Figure 4), the mean ridge width at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge in CBCT was 2.22 ± 1.02 , 3.90 ± 0.75 , 5.36 ± 1.59 , and 6.31 ± 2.07 mm, respectively, before treatment. This amount was increased by 5.00 ± 1.15 , 6.95 ± 0.21 , 8.18 ± 1.56 , and 8.54 ± 1.65 mm, 6 months after treatment; this increase was statistically significant ($P < .001$) (Table 1).

In the combined group (Figure 5), the mean ridge width at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge in CBCT was 1.90 ± 0.78 , 3.55 ± 1.05 , 5.10 ± 2.12 , and 6.60 ± 2.25 mm, respectively, before treatment. This amount was increased by 4.30 ± 1.68 , 6.65 ± 1.75 , 8.70 ± 1.68 , and 9.25 ± 1.58 mm after 6 months; this increase was statistically significant ($P < .001$) (Table 1).

The difference between the two groups was not statistically significant in any of the measurements performed at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from the alveolar crest before ($P = .255$, $P = 1.28$,

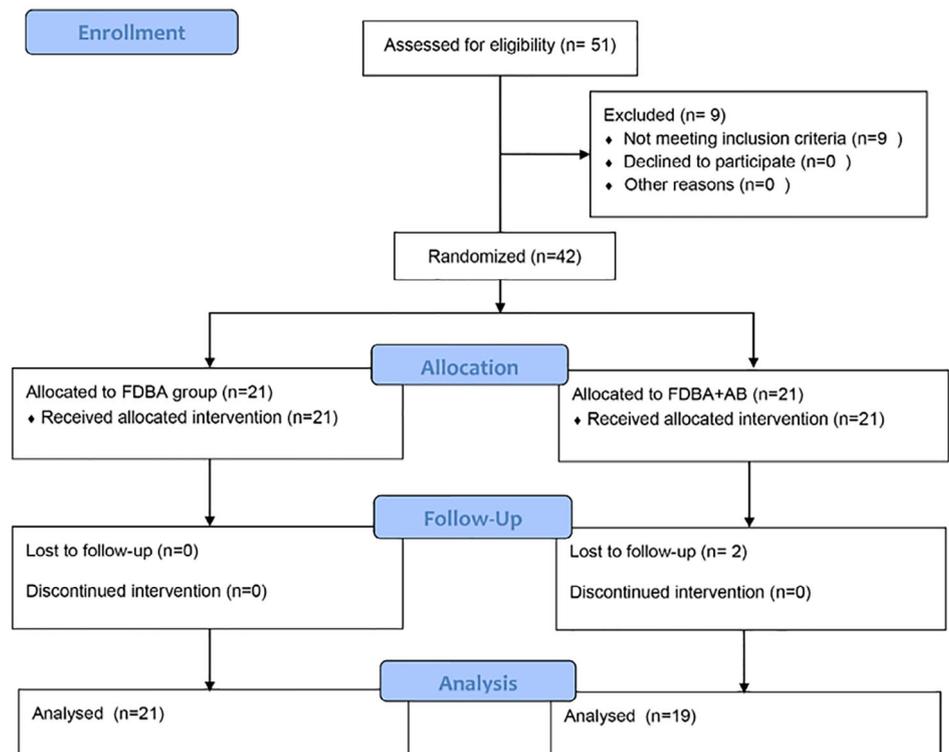


FIGURE 3 Consort fellow diagram of participants

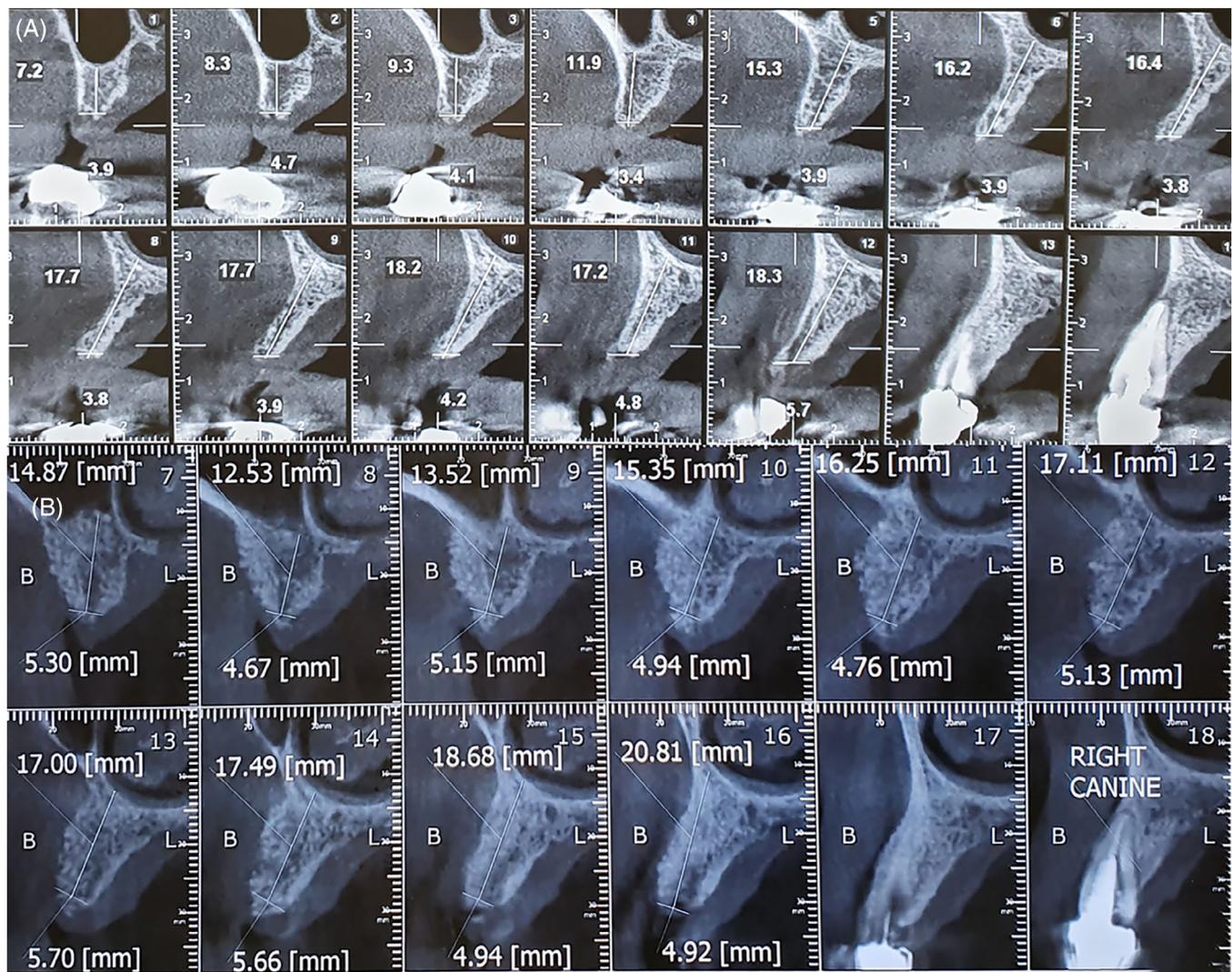


FIGURE 4 CBCT before, A, and after, B, augmentation in a patient from FDDB group. CBCT, cone-beam computerized tomography; FDDB, freeze-dried bone allograft

TABLE 1 Comparison of horizontal alveolar ridge dimensions at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from crest of alveolar ridge before and after ridge augmentation in each group by the means of CBCT and the effect size of treatment type on horizontal ridge augmentation in each group

| Group | Distance from the crest | Preoperative mean \pm SD | Postoperative mean \pm SD | Paired T test | Effect size |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| FDDB | 0 mm | 2.22 \pm 1.02 | 5.00 \pm 1.15 | $t(21) = -8.99 P < .001$ | 2.72 |
| | 2 mm | 3.90 \pm 0.75 | 6.95 \pm 1.21 | $t(21) = -11.76 P < .001$ | 4.06 |
| | 4 mm | 5.36 \pm 1.59 | 8.18 \pm 1.56 | $t(21) = -8.14 P < .001$ | 1.77 |
| | 6 mm | 6.31 \pm 2.07 | 8.54 \pm 1.65 | $t(21) = -5.35 P < .001$ | 1.07 |
| FDDB + AB | 0 mm | 1.90 \pm 0.78 | 4.30 \pm 1.68 | $t(19) = -6.69 P < .001$ | 3.07 |
| | 2 mm | 3.55 \pm 1.05 | 6.65 \pm 1.75 | $t(19) = -7.69 P < .001$ | 2.95 |
| | 4 mm | 5.10 \pm 2.12 | 8.70 \pm 1.68 | $t(19) = -8.58 P < .001$ | 1.69 |
| | 6 mm | 6.60 \pm 2.25 | 9.25 \pm 1.58 | $t(19) = -4.95 P < .001$ | 1.17 |

Note: P value $< .05$ is statistically significant.

Abbreviations: AB, autogenous bone; CBCT, cone-beam computerized tomography; FDDB, freeze-dried bone allograft.

$P = .649$, and $P = .676$, respectively) and after the treatment ($P = .122$, $P = .514$, $P = .308$, and $P = .167$, respectively) (Table 2).

To assess the effect size (ES), the difference in the mean of ridge width from baseline to 6 months after operation was calculated and

divided by the SD at baseline. In all distances from the crest, the ES was high in both groups (>0.8). This means that both treatments had very good outcomes in regeneration of barely sufficient ridges (Table 1).



FIGURE 5 CBCT before, A, and after, B, augmentation in a patient of FDBA + autogenous bone group. CBCT, cone-beam computerized tomography; FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft

TABLE 2 Comparison of horizontal alveolar ridge dimensions at the distance of 0, 2, 4, and 6 mm from crest of alveolar ridge before and after ridge augmentation between the two groups by CBCT

| | Time | FDBA | FDBA + AB | Independent t-test |
|------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 0 mm | Preoperative | 2.22 ± 1.02 | 1.90 ± 0.78 | t (40) = 1.15 P = .255 |
| | Postoperative | 5.00 ± 1.15 | 4.30 ± 1.68 | t (40) = 1.58 P = .122 |
| 2 mm | Preoperative | 3.90 ± 0.75 | 3.55 ± 1.05 | t (40) = 0.206 P = 1.28 |
| | Postoperative | 6.95 ± 1.21 | 6.65 ± 1.75 | t (40) = 0.65 P = .514 |
| 4 mm | Preoperative | 5.36 ± 1.59 | 5.10 ± 2.12 | t (40) = 0.45 P = .649 |
| | Postoperative | 8.18 ± 1.56 | 8.70 ± 1.68 | t (40) = -1.03 P = .308 |
| 6 mm | Preoperative | 6.31 ± 2.07 | 6.60 ± 2.25 | t (40) = -0.42 P = .676 |
| | Postoperative | 8.54 ± 1.65 | 9.25 ± 1.58 | t (40) = -1.40 P = .167 |

Note: P value <.05 is statistically significant.

Abbreviations: AB, autogenous bone; CBCT, cone-beam computerized tomography; FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft.

3.2 | Histological findings

In the histological examination of 11 samples in both groups, evidence was found from a new viable bone in the form of broad bone trabeculae and more delicate lace-like regions adjacent to graft. The graft particles were surrounded by new bone (containing numerous osteocytes and osteoblasts) and were in close contact with the new bone. No evidence of acute or chronic inflammation and granulomatous inflammatory response to a foreign body was observed in any of the samples (Figures 6-8).

3.3 | Histomorphometrical findings

The mean new bone was 43.71 ± 5.63% in the FDBA group and 46.07 ± 6.34% in the combined group, and the difference between the two groups was not statistically significant (P = .367). The mean remaining graft particles were 9.86 ± 2.16% in the FDBA and 9.08 ± 2.33% in the combined group, and the difference between the two groups was not statistically significant (P = .428). The mean soft tissue was 46.42 ± 7.33% in the FDBA group and 44.83 ± 6.55% in the combined group, and the

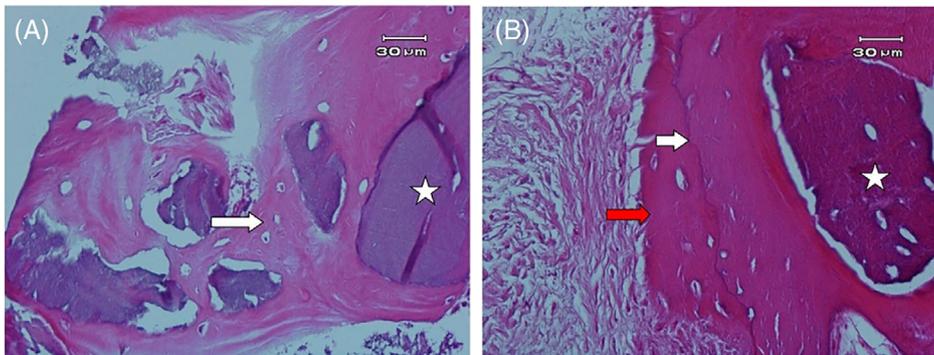


FIGURE 6 A new bone consisting of multiple lacunas containing osteocyte (arrow) adjacent to connective tissue (star) in FDBA group (right image) and combined group (left image) (400 \times). FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft

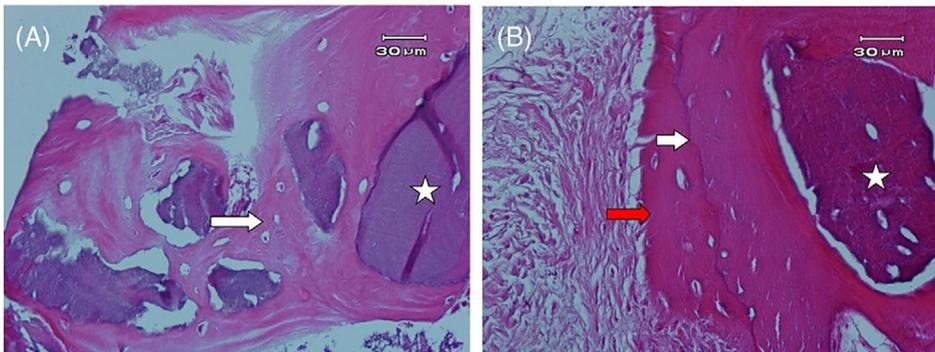


FIGURE 7 Remaining graft particles (star) surrounded by new bone (red arrow) containing osteoblast rhyme (white arrow) in FDBA group (right image) and combined group (left image) (400 \times). FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft. FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft

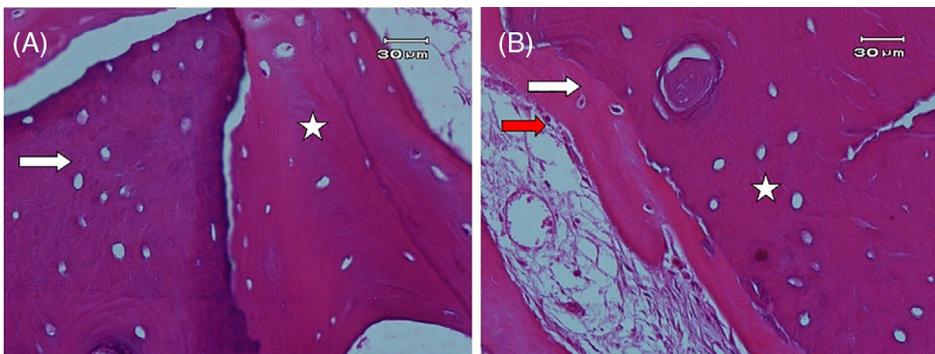


FIGURE 8 New bone (red arrow) containing osteoblast rhyme (white arrow) adjacent to native mature lamellar bone (star) in FDBA group (right image) and the combined group (left image) (400 \times). FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft

| Variable | FDBA | FDBA + AB | Independent <i>t</i> -test |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Soft tissue | 46.42 \pm 7.33% | 44.83 \pm 6.55% | <i>P</i> = .598 |
| New bone | 43.71 \pm 5.63% | 46.07 \pm 6.34% | <i>P</i> = .367 |
| Remaining graft particles | 9.86 \pm 2.16% | 9.08 \pm 2.33% | <i>P</i> = .428 |

Note: *P* value <.05 is statistically significant.

Abbreviations: AB, autogenous bone; FDBA, freeze-dried bone allograft.

difference between the two groups was not statistically significant (*P* = .598) (Table 3).

4 | DISCUSSION

The aim of this study was histological and radiological evaluation of horizontal ridge augmentation using corticocancellous FDBA with and without AB.

Based on the results of this study, the horizontal ridge dimension at the baseline was almost the same in both groups, and there was no statistically significant difference, indicating the homogeneity of the two groups at the start of the study. The ridge dimensions showed no significant difference between the two groups after 6 months of intervention. Accordingly, the ridge width in the FDBA group was 0.7 and 0.3 mm more than that of the combined group in the distance of 0 and 2 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge, but this difference was not statistically significant (*P* = .122 and *P* = .514, respectively). In

TABLE 3 Histomorphometric comparison of soft tissue, new bone, and remaining graft particles in the two groups after bone augmentation

the distance of 4 and 6 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge, the ridge width in the combined group was, respectively, 0.52 and 0.71 mm more than that of the FDDB group, which was not statistically significant ($P = .308$ and $.167$, respectively).

Feuille et al (2003) reported the mean horizontal ridge width gain at the distance of 3 to 5 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge 6 months after augmentation with FDDB alone was 2.3 ± 1.0 mm, which was statistically significant ($P < .05$). This result was almost the same as the mean horizontal ridge width gain by FDDB alone in our study at the distance of 2 and 4 mm from the crest of the alveolar ridge (3.05 and 2.82 mm, respectively), with the difference that they used nonresorbable e-PTFE membrane. Due to the similar results, the high exposure probability, and the problems associated with these membranes, it can be concluded that the resorbable collagen membranes are suitable alternative to them.

According to the results of Beitlimum's study, the use of a layer of AB has no significant effect on regeneration of horizontal or vertical ridge defects, and the horizontal or vertical ridge deficiencies may be treated with FDDB alone and cross-linked collagen barrier membranes with clinically successful outcomes, which is in line with the results of our study.⁴

Eskan et al showed the mean gain of crestal ridge width was 2 ± 1.2 mm in particulate cancellous allograft group.²³ This was less than that of our study with a mean gain of 2.78 mm. The causes of this difference may be the smaller size of allograft granules (500-800 μm vs 1000-2000 μm) and the type of allograft (cancellous vs corticocancellous) used in Eskan's study; hence, more resorption of allograft and less space maintenance can be expected while using cancellous allograft with smaller particles.

In all distances from the crest, the ES was high in both groups (>0.8). This means that lateral ridge augmentation with FDDB + collagen membrane or FDDB + AB + collagen membrane had very good outcomes in regeneration of barely sufficient ridges in comparison to the baseline.

No evidence of acute or chronic inflammation was observed in any of the samples. Solakoglu et al also demonstrated no signs of inflammatory reactions with using allogenic bone materials.²⁷ In the present study, all biopsies were prepared from the buccal region of the augmented ridge; thus, the probability of native bone existence in prepared biopsies decreased. Taking biopsy from the implant site increases the percentage of native bone to regenerated bone in the biopsy core; therefore, it may affect the histological results as a confounder variable in such studies.

According to histomorphometrical analysis, the mean new bone in the combined group was more than that of the FDDB group ($46.07 \pm 6.34\%$ and $43.71 \pm 5.63\%$, respectively), which can be due to BMP in the AB and its role in osteogenesis, but their difference was not statistically significant ($P = .367$).

The mean remaining graft particles in the FDDB group were more than in the combined group ($9.86 \pm 2.16\%$ and $9.08 \pm 2.33\%$, respectively) which could be due to the higher resorption rate in AB, but their difference was not statistically significant ($P = .428$). The mean

soft tissue was higher in the FDDB group than in the combined group ($46.42 \pm 7.33\%$ and $44.83 \pm 6.55\%$, respectively) but the difference was not statistically significant either ($P = .598$).

According to histomorphometrical analyses in the Feuille's study, the mean new bone was 47.6%, similar to the results of our study. The mean remaining graft particles were 52.4%, much more than ours (9.86%), which may be due to the fact that all biopsy samples in this study were prepared at the time of the removal of the membranes, earlier than the time of biopsy in our study (6 months after augmentation).¹³

In a study by Cammack et al in 2005, the mean new bone regenerated in the FDDB group was 41.89%, which was similar to that found in our study in the FDDB group (43.71%). The mean remaining graft particles and soft tissue in the FDDB group were 7.29% and 49.57%, consistent to those obtained in our study in the FDDB group (9.86% and 46.42%, respectively).²⁵

Based on the results of a systematic review and meta-analysis by Sanchez et al, the use of bone substitute materials and AB in the ridge augmentation process had similar results.²⁸ They also reported that the sample size of all included studies was relatively low.²⁸ After back calculating the needed sample size considering the mean (SD) obtained in the present study, the sample size of this study had enough power to show significant results.

The shorter healing time by using AB is another scientific subject, which is because of osteoinductive property of AB. As a result, bone regeneration can be assumed to be delayed by the use of bone substitute materials alone, and the implant inserting and loading will be postponed.²⁹

The economic aspect should not be ignored regarding the graft materials. The AB grafting process has been lengthening the process time, especially in cases of extra-oral donor graft sites, which will impose more cost for long periods of general surgery and general anesthesia. Cost-effectiveness analyses are needed to characterize this aspect.²⁹

One of the limitations of this study was the size of bone defects. Patients with 2 to 3 lost teeth were enrolled in the present study; therefore, the results of this study should be interpreted with caution and may not be generalized to larger defects. The next limitation of present study was not using of stent during taking CBCT. Another limitation of this study was randomization method. At the start of the study, all patients were not on the access and assessing of the patients based on inclusion criteria and entering them to the study was performed during the study. In addition, to balance the participants in the study groups based on sex variable, minimization method was used for allocation. Allocation concealment was not applied because of the entity of this randomization method.

The results of this study showed that the quantity and quality of regenerated bone by using FDDB alone or FDDB + AB were statistically similar. Therefore, using of FDDB alone for reconstruction of small to moderate ridge deficiencies is suggested resulting in less cost, time, and postoperative complications.

5 | CONCLUSION

The results obtained from the present study demonstrated that the amount of increase of ridge width after augmentation between the two groups of FDDB and FDDB + AB were not statistically significant. Based on histomorphometrical analysis, there was no significant difference between the two groups in terms of new bone, remaining graft particles, and soft tissue. Considering the similar clinical and histological results of the two groups, the FDDB alone can be used for horizontal augmentation of edentulous ridge, and adding AB to corticocancellous FDDB granules does not significantly increase the quality and quantity of regenerated bone 6 months after operation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This study was supported by a grant from Kerman Oral and Dental Diseases Research Center, Kerman University of Medical Sciences.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

ORCID

Mohammad Mohammadi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6257-6126>

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How to cite this article: Hashemipoor M, Asghari N, Mohammadi M, Kalantari M, Arabsolghar M, Ranjbar H. Radiological and histological evaluation of horizontal ridge augmentation using corticocancellous freeze-dried bone allograft with and without autogenous bone: A randomized controlled clinical trial. *Clin Implant Dent Relat Res*. 2020;1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cid.12935>