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**PROLIFERAÇÃO DE CÉLULAS-TRONCO DE POLPA DENTAL COM O  
USO DE LASER DE BAIXA POTÊNCIA: ESTUDO *IN VITRO***

Juiz de Fora

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Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-graduação em Clínica Odontológica da Faculdade de Odontologia da Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, como requisito parcial para a obtenção do título de Mestre. Área de concentração em Clínica Odontológica.

**Orientador: Professor Dr. Antônio Márcio Resende do Carmo**

**Co-orientador: Professor Dr. Leandro Marques de Resende**

Juiz de Fora

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2017

# Dedicatória

*Dedicado a Deus, aos meus pais Marcos e Jean pelo amor incondicional, aos meus irmãos Fernanda e Felippe por toda amizade e companheirismo, a minha família e ao meu namorado Daniel, sem os quais esta conquista não teria se tornado realidade. Dedico também aos meus orientadores Professores Doutores Antônio Márcio Resende do Carmo e Leandro Marques de Resende por toda paciência, sabedoria e apoio recebidos. Dedico este trabalho ainda, ao Professor Carlos Magno da Costa Maranduba por toda ajuda e ensinamentos recebidos.*

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OLIVEIRA, P. Y. **Proliferação de células-tronco de polpa dental com o uso de laser de baixa potência: estudo *in vitro*.** Juiz de Fora (MG), 2017. 34f. Defesa de dissertação (Mestrado em Clínica Odontológica) – Faculdade de Odontologia, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora.

## RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Neste estudo *in vitro*, avaliou-se a proliferação de células-tronco de polpa dentária (DPSCs) após a aplicação de laser de baixa intensidade. **Métodos:** A análise da proliferação de DPSCs cultivadas com DMEM e SFB a 10% foi realizada pelo ensaio de redução de MTT. Estas células foram irradiadas a cada 12 horas durante 72 horas ou de 24 em 24 horas durante 72 horas, com um laser Vermelho-InGaAIP (660nm, 30mW e 0,5 ou 1J/cm<sup>2</sup>) durante 16 ou 33 segundos. O melhor parâmetro dado pelo ensaio do MTT foi utilizado para analisar a diferenciação osteogênica e a viabilidade celular através do teste *Trypan Blue*. Para a análise estatística foi utilizado o teste ANOVA com nível de significância de 5% ( $p <0,05$ ). **Resultados:** Através do MTT, foi possível observar que a menor dose de laser (0,5J/cm<sup>2</sup>) em aplicações as 0 e 48 horas obteve as melhores taxas de proliferação comparada a todos os outros grupos. Além disso, o laser de baixa intensidade não influenciou estatisticamente na diferenciação osteogênica e na viabilidade celular após a coloração com o vermelho de alizarina e o teste *Trypan Blue* no melhor parâmetro encontrado pelo MTT (0,5J/cm<sup>2</sup>). **Conclusões:** Ao analisar os resultados e considerando os parâmetros utilizados, podemos observar que o laser de baixa intensidade é uma ferramenta que favorece a proliferação de DPSCs. Finalmente, outros estudos devem ser realizados a fim de melhor definir os parâmetros para as aplicações de células-tronco.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Células-tronco de polpa dental, laser de baixa potência.

OLIVEIRA, P. Y. *Proliferation of dental pulp stem cells using low intensity laser: in vitro study.* Juiz de Fora (MG), 2017. 34f. Defesa de dissertação (Mestrado em Clínica Odontológica) – Faculdade de Odontologia, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora.

## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** In this *in vitro* study, the proliferation of dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) was evaluated after the application of low intensity laser. **Methods:** Analysis of the proliferation of DPSCs cultured with DMEM and 10% FBS was performed by the MTT reduction assay. These cells were irradiated every 12 hours for 72 hours or every 24 hours for 72 hours, with a Red-InGaAlP laser (660nm, 30mW and 0.5 or 1J/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 16 or 33 seconds. The best parameter recorded by MTT was used to analyze the osteogenic differentiation and viability using the Trypan Blue test. For the statistical analysis the ANOVA test was used with significance level of 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ). **Results:** Through the MTT, it was possible to observe that the lowest dose of the laser (0.5J/cm<sup>2</sup>) in applications at 0 and 48 hours obtained the best proliferation rates than all the other groups. In addition, the low level laser did not appear to influence on the osteogenic differentiation nor the viability of the cells by the Trypan Blue test in the best parameter found by MTT (0.5J /cm<sup>2</sup>). **Conclusions:** When analyzing the results and considering the parameters used, we can observe that the low intensity laser is a tool that favors the proliferation of dental pulp stem cells. Finally, further studies should be carried out in order to better define parameters for stem cell applications.

**KEYWORDS:** Dental Pulp Stem Cells, Low-intensity laser.

## LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

CO <sub>2</sub>	Gás carbônico
CT	Células-tronco
DMEM	Meio de Eagle modificado por Dulbecco ( <i>Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium</i> )
DPSCs	Células-tronco da polpa dental humana ( <i>dental pulp stem cells</i> )
FBM	Fotobiomodulação
ICB	Instituto de Ciências Biológicas
InGaAIP	Índio/Gálio/Alumínio/Fósforo
J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Joules por centímetro quadrado
LASER	Amplificação da luz por emissão estimulada de radiação ( <i>Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation</i> )
LBI	Laser de baixa intensidade
MTT	<i>Metiltetrazolium[3-(4.5-dimethylthiazol-2yl)]-2.5</i>
mW	Megawatts
nm	Nanômetros
SFB	Soro fetal bovino
UFJF	Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora

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## 1 INTRODUÇÃO

A utilização de células-tronco (CT) mesenquimais, tanto embrionárias quanto adultas, devido ao potencial para aplicação na regeneração de tecidos, tem sido objeto de interesse crescente em diferentes áreas para substituir modalidades terapêuticas convencionais (EDUARDO et al. 2008; LOSANO et al. 2012; SÁ SILVA et al. 2012). Estas células têm propriedades de autorrenovação e são capazes de se diferenciarem em um ou muitos tipos de células especializadas diferentes sobre condições controladas *in vitro*. Em adição, estas células podem ser obtidas a partir de vários tecidos, tais como medula óssea, polpa dentária, tecido adiposo, cordão umbilical, entre outros (EDUARDO et al. 2008; ULLOA-MONTOYA, VERFAILLIE, e HU, 2005).

Na área odontológica, uma importante fonte de CT é a polpa dentária, sendo esta a primeira CT de tecido dentário isolada na região bucal. Posteriormente mais três tipos de populações de CT mesenquimais foram isoladas e caracterizadas: as células provenientes de dentes decíduos esfoliados, do ligamento periodontal e as células oriundas da papila apical. Estudos recentes identificaram ainda, uma quinta população, classificadas como células precursoras do folículo dentário (CASAGRANDE et al. 2011; DEMARCO et al. 2011; MIYAGI et al. 2012).

Entretanto, algumas culturas de células-tronco, como as advindas da polpa dental, demandam longos períodos de proliferação celular, o que aumenta consideravelmente os riscos de contaminação do meio e até mesmo a morte celular (ULLOA-MONTOYA, VERFAILLIE e HU, 2005). Recentemente, foi demonstrado que o laser aumenta a proliferação de células-tronco mesenquimais e de células cardíacas, aumenta o processo de cicatrização e a síntese de colágeno (BARBOZA et al. 2014; EDUARDO et al. 2008; LOSANO et al. 2012).

O laser de baixa intensidade (LBI) vem sendo utilizado como terapia coadjuvante ou de forma terapêutica isolada em diversas áreas na Odontologia (HENRIQUES, CAZAL e CASTRO, 2010). Numerosos estudos experimentais e clínicos sugerem que a laserterapia modula processos metabólicos celulares, aumentando o potencial regenerativo dos tecidos biológicos (BARBOZA et al. 2014; CASAGRANDE et al. 2011; EDUARDO et al. 2008; LOSANO et al. 2012, MYIAGI et al. 2012; SÁ SILVA et al. 2012).

O LBI é utilizado para estimular a proliferação e a diferenciação de diversos tipos de células. Porém, a bioestimulação não é sempre observada, devido a uma variedade de fatores que influenciam no processo (BARBOZA et al. 2014; EBRAHIMI et al. 2012). Nesse sentido, a bioestimulação *in vitro* depende de parâmetros relacionados ao laser, como o comprimento de onda, dose, potência e tempo de irradiação, tipo de célula irradiada, e características fisiológicas de células no momento da irradiação (AZEVEDO et al. 2006; BARBOZA et al. 2014; LIN et al. 2010; EMELYANOV e KIRYANOVA, 2015). Como consequência desses fatores, a interação da luz do laser com células e tecidos pode estimular ou inibir a proliferação celular (BARBOZA et al. 2014).

Deste modo, o presente estudo pretende avaliar a possibilidade de se elevar a viabilidade de células-tronco derivadas da polpa dental e a proliferação celular em culturas irradiadas ou não (grupo controle) com laser de baixa intensidade. A hipótese testada é que os grupos irradiados com o laser de baixa intensidade vão apresentar proliferação celular superior ao grupo não irradiado (controle).

## **2 PROPOSIÇÃO**

Este trabalho tem como proposta avaliar a possibilidade de se elevar a viabilidade de células-tronco derivadas da polpa dental e a proliferação celular em culturas irradiadas ou não (grupo controle) com laser de baixa intensidade.

### 3 MATERIAIS E MÉTODOS

Este estudo foi dividido em:

- Cultivo das células-tronco de polpa dental.
- Aplicação do laser de baixa potência sobre as células-tronco de polpa dental.
- Avaliação da proliferação e da viabilidade celular através do ensaio de redução do MTT.
- Diferenciação Osteogênica com aplicação do laser no melhor parâmetro de proliferação identificado.
- Avaliação da viabilidade celular através do ensaio *Trypan Blue* no melhor parâmetro de proliferação identificado pelo ensaio de redução do MTT.
- Análise estatística.

#### 3.1 DELINEAMENTO EXPERIMENTAL

Quatro grupos teste (G1 – G4) foram irradiados durante 3 (três) dias com laser de baixa intensidade sob diferentes protocolos de aplicação e um quinto grupo (G5) não foi irradiado (controle).

GRUPO	TEMPO DE IRRADIAÇÃO	DOSAGEM	HORÁRIO DAS IRRADIAÇÕES
I	16 segundos	0,5J/cm <sup>2</sup>	24/24 horas
II	33 segundos	1,0J/cm <sup>2</sup>	24/24 horas
III	16 segundos	0,5J/cm <sup>2</sup>	12/12 horas
IV	33 segundos	1,0J/cm <sup>2</sup>	12/12 horas
V	Sem irradiação	Sem dosagem	Sem irradiação

Tabela 1: Delineamento experimental para o ensaio MTT.

### 3.2 CULTURA CELULAR

As células-tronco de polpa dental (DPSCs) foram gentilmente cedidas pelo Biobanco Genetec do Departamento de Biologia (ICB) da Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (Anexo B). Essas células foram descongeladas e cultivadas em placas contendo meio D-MEM F12 suplementado com 10% SFB em atmosfera úmida, com 5% CO<sub>2</sub> a 37°C. As células ficaram incubadas por um período de 24 horas para a adesão ao fundo da placa de cultura. O meio de cultura foi trocado em intervalos de 2 a 3 dias, até que as células atingissem 80 a 95% de confluência. O experimento foi realizado na passagem 11 (P11). Após o plaqueamento, o meio passou a ser suplementado com 2% de SFB, com objetivo de tirar as células de sua zona de conforto estimulando-as a agir de maneira mais intensa após a aplicação do laser de baixa intensidade.

#### COMPOSIÇÃO DO MEIO DE CULTIVO

Água
Sais Inorgânicos
Hormônios
Açucares
Aminoácidos
Vitaminas
Lipídeos
Proteínas
Ácidos Orgânicos
Fontes de Carbono
Fontes de Nitrogênio
Micronutrientes (íons orgânicos e minerais)

Tabela 2: Composição básica de meio de cultivo, essencial para nutrição, adesão celular, proteção biológica e proteção mecânica para as células.

Sais Inorgânicos	mg/L		
CaCl <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O	265,00	L-tirosina	104,20
Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> .9H <sub>2</sub> O	0,10	L-valina	94,00

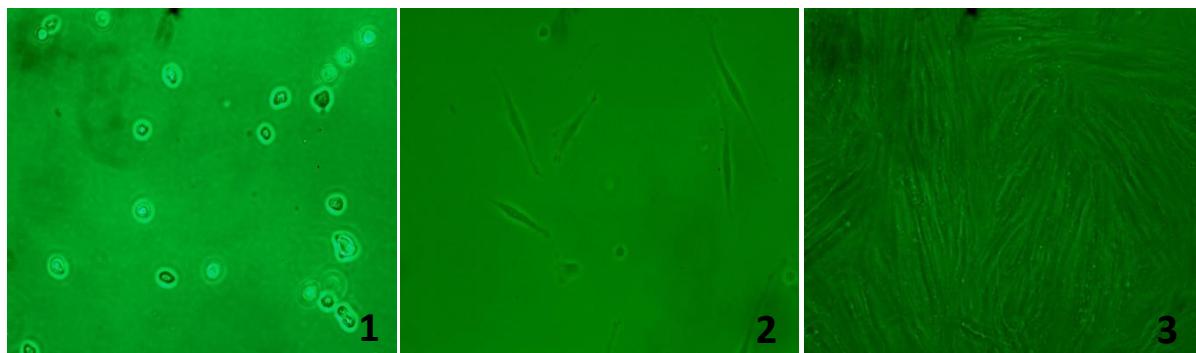
KCL	400,00	Vitaminas	mg/L
MgSO <sub>4</sub> .7H <sub>2</sub> O	200,00	Cloreto de Colina	4,00
		Pantotenato de Cálcio	4,00
Aminoácidos	mg/L		
L-arginina.HCL	84,00	Ácido Fólico	4,00
L-cistina	62,57	Inositol	7,20
L-glutamina	584,00	Nicotinamida	4,00
Glicina	30,00	Piridoxina.HCL	4,00
L-histidina.HCL.H <sub>2</sub> O	42,00	Riboflavina	0,40
L-isoleucina	105,00	Tiramina.HCL	4,00
L-lisina.HCL	146,00	Outros Componentes	mg/L
L-metionina	30,00	Glicose	1.000,00
L-fenilanina	66,00	Piruvato de Sódio	110,00
L-leucina	105,00	Vermelho de fenol	15,00
L-serina	42,00		
L-treonina	95,00		
L-triptofano	16,00		

Fonte: DMEM

Tabela 3: Composição do meio DMEM

Componentes do SFB	Valores Padrão
Proteínas totais	3,8 g/100ml
Albumina	2,3 g/100ml
Endotoxinas	0,36 ng/100ml
Hemoglobina	11,3 mg/100ml
Colesterol	31 mg/100ml
Ácidos graxos	Sem especificação
Fosfolipídeos	Sem especificação
Triglicerídeos	Sem especificação
Glicose	125 mg/100ml
Insulina	10 µU/ml
Corticóides	0,5 µg/100ml
Tiroxinas	12,1 ng/100ml
Tironina	119 ng/100ml
PTH	1718 pg/ml
PGE	5,91 ng/ml
PGF	12,33 ng/ml

Tabela 4: Composição de Soro Fetal Bovino



Figuras: DPSCs após o descongelamento (1), aderidas (2) e em confluência (3).

### **3.3 IRRADIAÇÃO A LASER**

Na décima primeira passagem (P11), as culturas celulares foram irradiadas com laser diodo InGaAlP (Photon Lase I DMC, Brasil) em modo continuo utilizando potência de 30mW, comprimento de onda de 660nm e doses de 0,5 ou 1,0J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Cada poço tratado com doses de 0,5 ou 1,0J/cm<sup>2</sup> foi irradiado por 16 ou 33 segundos em 0 e 48 horas (grupos 1 e 2) ou de 12 em 12 horas durante em 72 horas (grupos 3 e 4). O grupo controle (grupo 5) não foi irradiado.

Após a primeira irradiação a laser, as células foram analisadas em 24, 48 e 72 horas. Para irradiação a laser, a sonda foi direcionada perpendicularmente a cada placa, com distância focal de 0,5cm da placa. As células foram incubadas de modo que um poço, entre os semeados, foi deixado vazio, para prevenir a dispersão intencional de luz entre os poços durante a irradiação a laser. O grupo controle permaneceu na placa de 96 poços em maior distância dos grupos irradiados.

### **3.4 ANÁLISE DO EFEITO DA IRRADIAÇÃO A LASER NA PROLIFERAÇÃO CELULAR POR MTT**

As curvas de crescimento foram obtidas através do ensaio MTT, usado para estabelecer a proliferação das células submetidas à terapia a laser. Para análise do padrão de proliferação da linhagem obtida foram semeadas (dia 0) 1000 células por poço, em 20 poços de diferentes placas de 96 poços. As placas foram divididas em controle e mais quatro grupos teste, de forma que o grupo controle foi cultivado na

ausência da irradiação com laser de baixa intensidade, enquanto os quatro grupos testes sofreram influência do laser durante todo o experimento. Após 24, 48 e 72 horas, o meio de cultura foi removido e em seguida foi adicionado meio de cultivo com 10% de uma solução (5mg/mL) preparada previamente do reagente de MTT (Thiazolyl Blue Tetrazolium, Sigma, cód M2128). As placas foram, então, envoltas em papel alumínio e incubadas em estufa a 37°C com 5% de CO<sub>2</sub> por 4 horas. Após esse tempo, o meio com MTT foi removido e foi adicionado 200µL do solubilizador isopropanol-ácido 0.04 M HCl. Em seguida, as placas foram novamente envoltas em papel alumínio e incubadas em estufa a 37°C e 5% de CO<sub>2</sub> por uma hora. A leitura dos poços foi realizada no espectrofotômetro a 570nm usando como branco três poços com 200µL do isopropanol-ácido.

### **3.5 DIFERENCIACÃO OSTEOGÊNICA**

Para a realização da diferenciação osteogênica, as DPSCs foram cultivadas em meio D-MEM, suplementado com 10% de SFB e suplementadas com 0,01µm de 1,25-dihidroxivitamina D3, 50µm de ascorbato-2-fosfato, 10µm de β-glicerofosfato e 1% de antibiótico/antimicótico. A diferenciação foi realizada durante 14 dias com troca de meio a cada três dias. Apenas o grupo com melhor resultado de proliferação celular após a aplicação do laser sofreu a diferenciação osteogênica.

### **3.6 ANÁLISE DO EFEITO DA IRRADIAÇÃO A LASER NA VIABILIDADE CELULAR POR *TRYPAN BLUE***

A integridade da membrana celular e a contagem direta das células vivas e mortas foram avaliadas por exclusão do corante azul de tripano (*Trypan Blue*). Este corante não entra em células vivas, mas passa através das membranas de células mortas. Assim, as células-tronco de polpa dental em placas foram expostas ao melhor parâmetro do laser de baixa intensidade e o *Trypan Blue* foi realizado após 24 horas. O meio foi removido dos poços e as células foram lavadas com 200µL de PBS. As células foram separadas pela adição de 100µL de tripsina/EDTA a 0,5%. Foi ainda

adicionado a cada poço, RPMI-1640 suplementado com SFB a 10% (50µL) e azul de tripano a 0,5% (50µL) (Merck, Alemanha) e as placas foram incubadas durante 5 minutos. Subsequentemente, uma alíquota de 20µL foi removida e colocada em um Hemocitômetro de Neubauer. O número de células viáveis e não viáveis foi finalmente contado ao microscópio. O número de células viáveis foi calculado de acordo com a seguinte fórmula:

$$\frac{\text{Contagem de células viáveis} \times \text{diluição} \times 10^4}{n}$$

Onde n é o número de quadrados de hemocitômetro que foram contados. A viabilidade percentual foi calculada como:

$$\frac{\text{Contagem de células viáveis}}{\text{Total de células contadas}} \times 100$$

### 3.7 ANÁLISE ESTATÍSTICA

Os resultados foram analisados estatisticamente pelo programa IBM SPSS Statistics e pelo programa Graphpad Prism 5®. Os dados medidos por absorbância foram submetidos à análise de variância ANOVA complementado pelo teste de Tukey com nível de significância de 5% ( $p < 0,05$ ).

## 4 ARTIGO CIENTÍFICO

O trabalho abaixo foi submetido à revista *Lasers in Medical Science*, portanto a formatação deste tópico segue as exigências da revista científica.

### **PROLIFERATION OF DENTAL PULP STEM CELLS WITH LOW-LEVEL LASER: IN VITRO STUDY**

#### **Acknowledgments:**

We are grateful to Federal University of Juiz de Fora for the continuous support.

#### **Abstract:**

**Purpose:** In this in vitro study, the proliferation of dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) was evaluated after the application of low intensity laser. **Methods:** Analysis of the proliferation of DPSCs cultured with DMEM and 10% FBS was performed by the MTT reduction assay. These cells were irradiated every 12 hours for 72 hours or every 24 hours for 72 hours, with a Red-InGaAlP laser (660nm, 30mW and 0.5 or 1J/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 16 or 33 seconds. The best parameter recorded by MTT was used to analyze the osteogenic differentiation and viability using the Trypan Blue test. For the statistical analysis the ANOVA test was used with significance level of 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ). **Results:** Through the MTT, it was possible to observe that the lowest dose of the laser (0.5J/cm<sup>2</sup>) in applications at 0 and 48 hours obtained the best proliferation rates than all the other groups. In addition, the low level laser did not appear to influence on the osteogenic differentiation nor the viability of the cells by the Trypan Blue test in the best parameter found by MTT (0.5J/cm<sup>2</sup>). **Conclusions:** When analyzing the results and considering the parameters used, we can observe that the low intensity laser is a tool that favors the proliferation of dental pulp stem cells. Finally, further studies should be carried out in order to better define parameters for stem cell applications.

**Key-words:** Dental pulp stem cells, low level laser, cell proliferation, biomodulation.

#### **Introduction:**

The use of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), both embryonic and adult, due to the potential for application in tissue regeneration, has been the object of increasing interest in different areas to replace conventional therapeutic modalities [1,2,3]. These cells have self-renewal properties and are capable of differentiating into one or many different specialized cell types under controlled conditions *in vitro*. In addition, stem cells can be obtained from various tissues, such as bone marrow, dental pulp, adipose tissue, umbilical cord, among others [4].

In dentistry, an important source of stem cells is the dental pulp, which was the first tissue where these cells were isolated in dentistry. Subsequently another three types of MSCs populations were isolated and characterized: stem cells from exfoliated deciduous teeth, of the periodontal ligament and from the apical papilla. Recent studies have identified a fifth population of MSCs known as precursor cells of the dental follicle [5,6,7]. However some stem cell cultures, such as those from the dental pulp, require long periods of cell proliferation, which considerably increases the risks of contamination of the medium and even cell death [4]. Recently, it has been demonstrated that the laser increases the proliferation of MSCs and cardiac cells, increases the healing process and the synthesis of collagen [1,2,8].

Low intensity laser (LIL) has been used as adjunctive therapy or as an isolated therapy in several areas in dentistry [9]. A number of experimental and clinical studies suggest that laser therapy modulates cellular metabolic processes, increasing the regenerative potential of biological tissues [5,7].

LIL has been used to stimulate the proliferation and differentiation of various cell types. However, biostimulation is not always observed, due to a variety of factors that influence the process [8,10]. In this sense, *in vitro* biostimulation depends on parameters related to the laser, such as wavelength, dosage, power and irradiation time, type of irradiated cell, and physiological characteristics of cells at the moment of irradiation [11,12]. As a consequence of these factors, the interaction of laser light with cells and tissues may stimulate or inhibit cell proliferation [8].

Thus, the present study intends to evaluate the possibility of increasing the viability of stem cells derived from dental pulp and the proliferation of cells in cultures irradiated or not (control group) with LIL. The hypothesis tested in this study, is that the groups irradiated with the LIL show cellular proliferation superior to the non-irradiated group (control).

## Materials and Methods

This project has been approved by the Ethical Committee of the School of Dentistry of the University of Juiz de Fora.

### Cell Culture

Dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) were kindly provided by Genetec Biobank of the Department of Biology of the Federal University of Juiz de Fora. These cells were thawed and plated on plates containing F12 D-MEM medium supplemented with 10% FBS in humid atmosphere, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C. The cells were incubated for a period of 24 hours for adhesion to the bottom of the culture dish. The culture medium was changed at intervals of 2 to 3 days, until the cells reached 80 to 95% confluence. The experiment was performed at passage 11 (P11). After plating, the medium was supplemented with 2% FBS, in order to remove the cells from their comfort zone, stimulating them to act more intensely after the application of the LIL.

### Laser Irradiation

In the eleventh passage (P11), cell cultures were irradiated with InGaAIP diode laser (Photon Lase I DMC, Brazil) in continuous mode using 30mW power, 660nm wavelength and doses of 0.5 or 1.0J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Each well treated at doses of 0.5 or 1.0J/cm<sup>2</sup> was irradiated for 16 or 33 seconds at 0 and 48 hours (groups 1 and 2) or every 12 hours for 72 hours (groups 3 and 4). The control group (group 5) was not irradiated.

After the first laser irradiation, the cells were analyzed at 24, 48 and 72 hours. For laser irradiation, the probe was directed perpendicularly to each plate, with a focal distance of 0.5cm from the plate. The cells were incubated leaving a well, between the seeded empty, to prevent intentional dispersion of light between the wells during laser irradiation. The control group remained in the 96-well plate at greater distance from the irradiated groups.

Group	Irradiation time	Dosage	Time for irradiation
I	16 seconds	0,5J/cm <sup>2</sup>	24/24 hours
II	33 seconds	1,0J/cm <sup>2</sup>	24/24 hours
III	16 seconds	0,5J/cm <sup>2</sup>	12/12 hours
IV	33 seconds	1,0J/cm <sup>2</sup>	12/12 hours
V	Control	Control	Control

Table 1: Experimental design for the MTT assay.

### MTT analyses

Growth curves were obtained through the MTT assay used to establish the proliferation of cells submitted to laser therapy. For analysis of the proliferation pattern of the obtained lineage, 1000 cells per well were seeded (day 0) in 20 wells of different 96-well plates. The plates were divided into control and another four test groups, so that the control group was cultivated in the absence of low intensity laser irradiation, while the test groups were influenced by the laser throughout the experiment. After 24, 48 and 72 hours, the culture medium was removed and then culture medium was added with 10% of a previously prepared solution (5mg/ml) of the MTT reagent (Thiazole Blue Tetrazolium, Sigma, code M2128). The plates were then incubated in an oven at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 4 hours. After that time, the MTT medium was removed and 200µL of the isopropanol-0.04M HCl acid

solubilizer was added. The plates were then incubated for one hour. The wells were read in the spectrophotometer at 570nm using as white three wells with 200 $\mu$ L of the isopropanol-acid.

#### Osteogenic differentiation

For the osteogenic differentiation, the DPSCs were cultured in D-MEM medium, supplemented with 10% FBS and supplemented with 0.01 $\mu$ m 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3, 50 $\mu$ m ascorbate-2-phosphate, 10 $\mu$ m  $\beta$ -glycerophosphate and 1% antibiotic/antimycotic. The differentiation was performed during 21 days with medium change in every three days. Only the group with the best cell proliferation result after laser application underwent for osteogenic differentiation.

#### Trypan Blue analyses

The integrity of the cell membrane and the direct count of the living and dead cells were evaluated by the Trypan Blue. This dye does not enter living cells but passes through the membranes of dead cells. Thus, the stem cells of the dental pulp plaque were exposed to the best parameter of the low-level laser and Trypan Blue was performed after 24 hours. The medium was removed from the wells and cells were washed with 200 $\mu$ L of PBS. Cells were separated by addition of 100 $\mu$ L of trypsin /EDTA 0.5%. RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FBS (50 $\mu$ L) and 0.5% trypan blue (50  $\mu$ L) (Merck, Germany) were added additionally to each well and the plates were incubated for 5 minutes. Subsequently, a 20 $\mu$ L aliquot was removed and placed in a Neubauer Hemocytometer. The number of viable and non-viable cells was finally counted under the microscope. The number of viable cells was calculated according to the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Viable cell count} \times \text{Dilution} \times 10^4}{N}$$

Where n is the number of hemocytometer squares that have been counted. The percentage of viability was calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Viable Cell Count}}{\text{Total of counted cells}} \times 100$$

#### Statistical Analysis

The results were statistically analyzed by the IBM SPSS Statistics program and the Graphpad Prism 5® program. The data measured by absorbance were submitted to analysis of variance ANOVA complemented by the Tukey test with significance level of 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### Results

#### Cell growth

Observing Table 2, we conclude that the absorbance in the 0.5J treatment (24-hour laser application) is higher than in the 0.5J treatments (12-hour laser application) and 10% SFB (control). Since the F value is significant for the blocks, there is a difference between the means of absorbance between at least two blocks. Observing Table 3 it is concluded that the absorbance in the 24 hour MTT block is lower than in the 48 hour and 72 hour blocks while the absorbance in the 48 hour block is longer than in the 72 hour block.

In the MTT block at 48 hours the absorbance in the 0.5J treatment (24-hour laser application) is higher than in the 1J treatments (24-hour laser application), 0.5J (12-12 hours), 1J (laser application every 12 hours) and 10% SFB; The treatment 1J (laser application every 24 hours) is practically equal to treatments 0.5J (laser application every 12 hours) and 1J (laser application every 12 hours) and greater than treatment with SFB 10%; The 0.5J treatment (laser application every 12 hours) is practically equal to 1J (laser application every 12 hours) and greater than in SFB10% treatment; In the treatment 0.5J (laser application every 12 hours) is practically equal to that of the 1J treatment (laser application every 12 hours) and higher than that of the 10% SFB treatment; In 1J treatment (12-hour laser application) is greater than in SFB10% treatment.

Thus, the best result found after the application of the laser is 0.5J (graphic 1), which is applied every 24 hours. In order to perform the osteogenic differentiation and the Trypan Blue, only this parameter was used.

**Table 2** Variance analysis

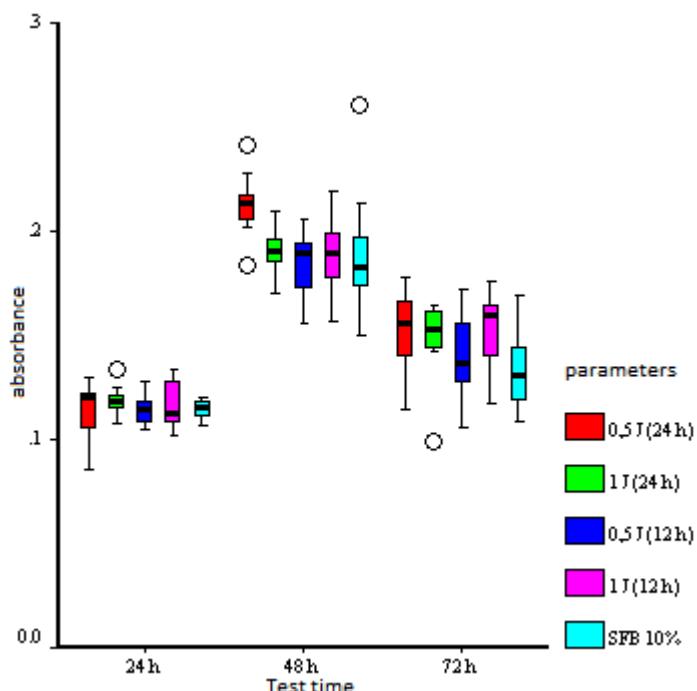
Source of variation	Sum os square	Degrees of freedom	Average square	F	p value
Treatments	0,004822	4	0,001206	4,747**	0,00119
Blocks	0,181	2	0,0907	357,343**	0,00000
Interaction	0,005391	8	0,0006739	2,654**	0,00916
Residual	0,0419	165	0,0002539	—	—
Total	0,233111	179	—	—	—

\* Significant value for significance level of 5%

\*\* Significant value for significance level of 1%

**Table 3** Treatmens averages

Treatments	0,5J (24h)				
Average	0,15925	0,15308	0,14653	0,15292	0,14481

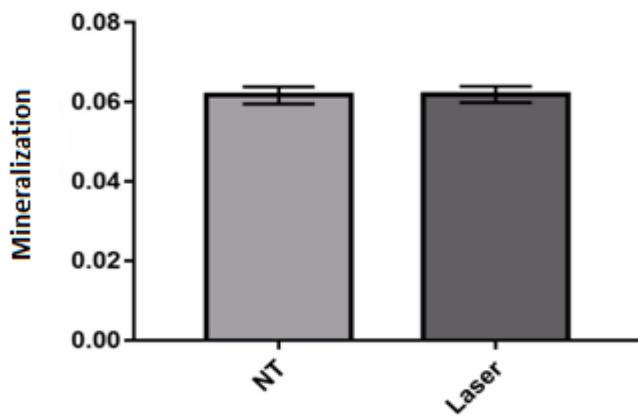


**Graph 1** Joint distributions of treatments and blocks. We can observe that the best parameter found after the application of the laser was 0.5J (24h).

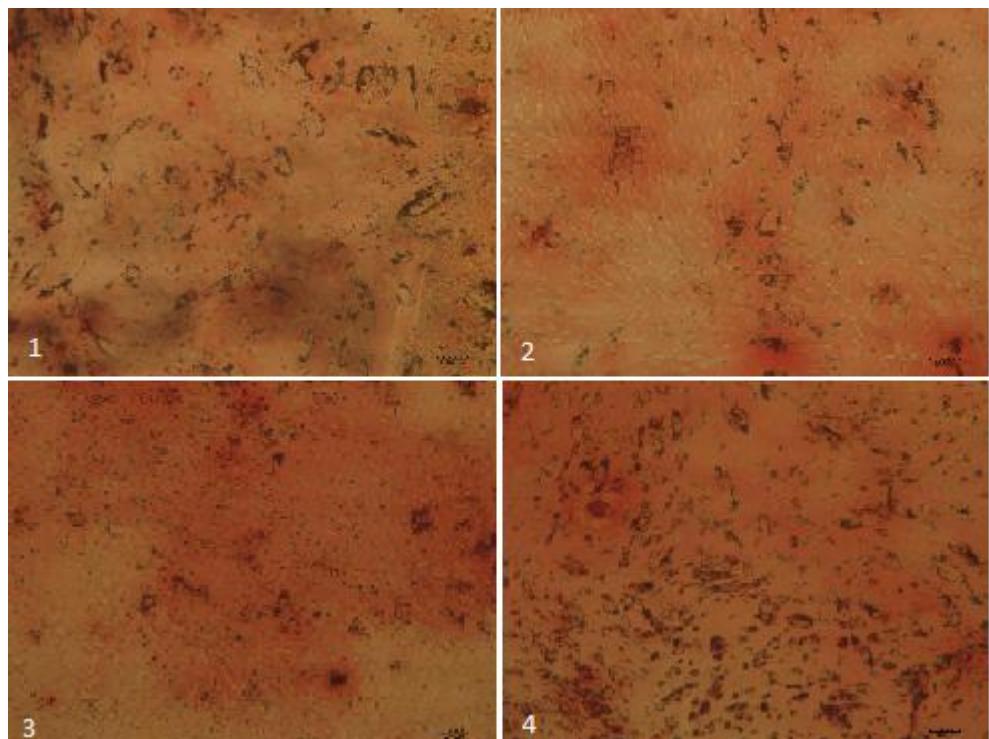
#### Osteogenic differentiaton

Fig. 1 show the number of differentiated cells (after 14 days) in the control and in the test group receiving the low intensity laser at 0.5J for 48 hours.

Three weeks after treatment with the laser, the irradiated cells did not demonstrate superior differentiation to the control group, with statistical significance. (Graph 2).



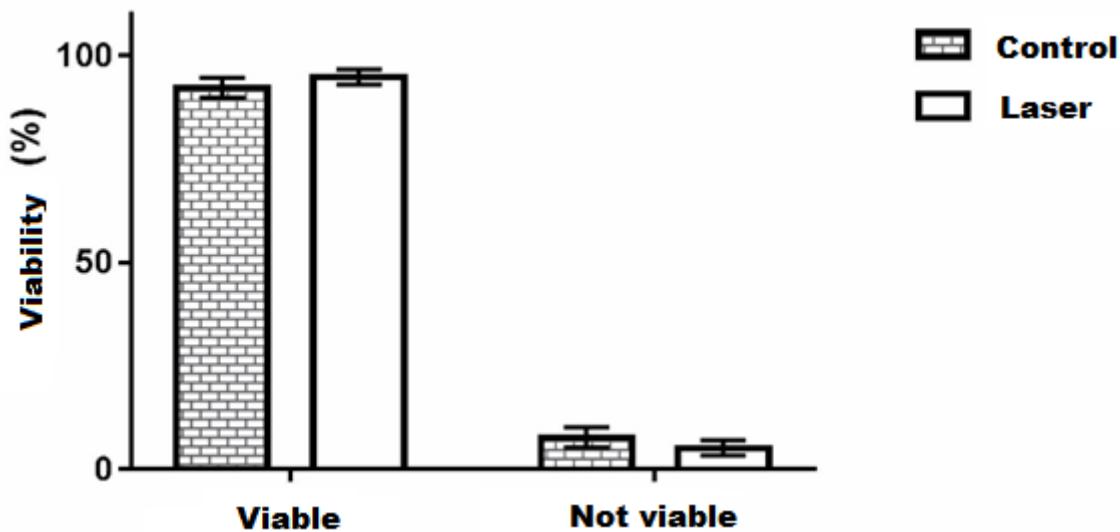
**Graph 2** Osteogenic differentiation between the test and control groups.



**Fig. 1** Assessment of differentiation at 14 days with alizarin red: 1 and 2 – laser group and 3 and 4 – control group.

#### Viability test with Trypan Blue

The result of Trypan Blue reflects under the number of viable and non-viable cells after staining. At this stage, the test was performed only with the best MTT result ( $0.5\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  application for 48 hours) with the control group (absence of the laser). After staining with Trypan Blue and statistical analyzes, we can conclude that although the test group presented a higher number of viable cells and a smaller number of cells with ruptured cell membrane, this value was not statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared with the control group. The results were also able to show that the laser was in no way damaging the dental pulp stem cells.



**Graph 3** Number of viable and non-viable cells after Trypan Blue

## Discussion

Over the past few years, dentistry has begun to explore the potential of stem cell and tissue engineering application for repair and regeneration of dental structures. It is increasingly clear that this concept and the therapeutic approach with the name "regenerative dentistry" will have a place in the dentistry clinic of the future [5]. The use of DPSCs is of great interest for tissue engineering since these cells can be easily isolated and expanded in culture. In addition, DPSCs have shown multipotential plasticity *in vitro* and *in vivo* and these cells appear to have immunosuppressive activity, which may lead to potential clinical applications in allogeneic stem cell transplantation *in vivo* [1].

Stem cells, with their enormous regeneration potential and ability to differentiate into multiple functional strains, are therefore highly attractive to many applications in tissue engineering, cell therapy and drug screening. The implementation of technologies based on these cells requires a readily available source of stem cells and/or differentiated derivatives outside a living body [4]. Such a requirement poses a challenge in the cultivation, and thus, the low intensity laser becomes a tool of great interest for regenerative medicine, due to its capacity to increase cell proliferation, thus reducing the time of cultivation and the risk of contamination, which is huge when it comes to stem cell culture.

LIL has been used in wound healing for the past 30 years. It is also widely applied in various branches of regenerative medicine (eg tissue regeneration) and dentistry, where it is used to improve healing processes. This therapy shows beneficial effects on a variety of pathological conditions, including pain relief, and inflammation [10,13]. Thus, laser is also an important tool for cell culture, since when employed at low intensity it has a biostimulatory effect on cell proliferation *in vitro*. This biostimulation, however, is dependent on the parameters of laser irradiation, such as wavelength, laser output energy, and energy density [1,14].

There are many studies that address the potential of low intensity laser on cell activity, however, few studies have been done on stem cells of dental pulp. Some authors affirm that only in the state of nutritional stress the biostimulatory effects of the low-intensity laser are observed [15]. However, in this study, the laser acted positively in both nutritional deficits and ideal conditions (10% FBS), and irradiated dental pulp stem cells showed a higher proliferation when compared to control. Many studies point to the great effects of the laser under cell proliferation and these say that for this to occur, the medium must have 20% confluence and must always be changed. In addition, irradiation should occur in the dark and energy density should always vary according to the cell line worked [11]. In this study, the factors mentioned above were taken into account and the irradiation occurred in the dark and in a density of energy previously tested by other authors.

The choice of some of the laser irradiation parameters in the cell culture in this study was based on previous *in vitro* studies of other authors, such as [1,8,16,17], all these studies also performed on dental pulp stem cells. Diode InGaAlP laser with 660nm was used and generated results in all the studies cited above and also in the present study, considerably increasing the proliferation of DPSCs in the test groups when compared to the control groups (non-irradiated).

Previously used parameters of density energy were used in this study, but new parameters of application of these energies were added (application every 12 hours). After the tests, however, we observed that this new parameter generated less proliferation of the DPSCs when compared to the group already tested by other authors

(application every 24 hours). The best energy density found in this study was  $0.5\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  in an application of the InGaAlP laser once a day for 48 hours, which does not corroborate previous research by others authors [8,16], who observed that the dosage of  $1\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  after 48 hours and  $1\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  after 72 hours of irradiation respectively obtained better results when compared with the control and  $0.5\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  groups. However, our results resemble the work of Hou et al. [18] that considered the energy density  $0.5\text{ J}/\text{cm}^2$  as optimal.

Regarding the difference, osteogenic, it was not possible to observe exponential growth after 14 days of differentiation with laser in  $0.5\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  (laser application at 24 and 48 hours). Some studies such as Leonida et al. [19] showed positive results of LBI irradiation on cell differentiation. And in relation to the viability analysis by Trypan Blue, no statistically significant difference between the test and control groups was observed. However with our results we can see that although the laser did not increase viability and cell differentiation by this tests, the laser was not harmful to the cells.

Therefore, the results of the present study are promising, laser phototherapy can significantly influence the proliferation of stem cells, which leads to better tissue healing. However, in order to verify if this therapy can contribute to the optimal fixation and functional improvement of the cells after the implant, as well as reduce the time of tissue healing, future studies are necessary to evaluate its potential in bone and muscle neoformation after the implantation of stem cells into injured tissues.

In short, this in vitro study suggests that DPSCs respond positively to laser phototherapy at a wavelength of 660nm. Thus, the association of laser phototherapy and DPSC could be of importance for tissue engineering and future regenerative medicine. In addition, it opens the possibility of greater use of laser phototherapy to improve the growth of other types of stem cells in dentistry.

### **Conflict of interest statement**

The authors certify that they have NO affiliations or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest (such as honoraria, educational grants, participation in speakers' bureaus, membership, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or other equity interest, and expert testimony or patent-licensing arrangements), or non-financial interest (such as personal or professional relationships, affiliations, knowledge or beliefs) in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

### **Role of the funding source**

The authors declare that this work is not in any type of funding or sponsorship.

### **Ethical approval**

This study is in accordance with the recommendations of the international protection bodies and the Helsinki Declaration, respecting the ethical standards of the committee responsible for human experimentation.

### **Informed Consent**

Informed consent was obtained from all the individuals participants included in the study.

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## 5 CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

Nas condições experimentais deste estudo, as irradiações com laser de baixa intensidade Diodo InGaAlP (660nm) em quatro densidades de energia diferentes potencializaram a proliferação de células-tronco de polpa dentária. Neste estudo, o laser de diodo InGaAlP (Photon Lase I DMC, Brasil) em modo continuo utilizando potência de 30mW, comprimento de onda de 660nm em dosagem de 0,5J/cm<sup>2</sup> em aplicação do laser as 0 e 48 horas por 16 segundos foi o melhor parâmetro encontrado. Em relação à diferenciação celular osteogênica e análise da viabilidade celular utilizando apenas o melhor resultado identificado pelo ensaio do MTT, apesar de não termos obtido diferenças estatísticas significativas ( $p < 0,05$ ), podemos concluir que o laser de baixa intensidade não é um material que danifica as DPSCs. O efeito do LBI sobre a proliferação e diferenciação de DPSCs é dependente da dose e doses menores parecem provocar um estímulo mais adequado para a proliferação da linhagem de células-tronco de polpa dental.

Mais estudos são necessários para determinar o potencial da terapia laser de baixa intensidade como novo conceito de tratamento de células-tronco *in vitro*.

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