

## Original Research Article

# Antimicrobial Efficacy and Impact on denture Properties of prepared herbal denture cleansers-An Invitro study

### Abstract

**Background:** Microbial colonization on dentures, particularly by *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, leads to oral infections and systemic health risks. Chemical denture cleansers can cause tissue irritation and damage, prompting the need for herbal alternatives. Plants have shown antimicrobial properties beneficial for oral hygiene.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to evaluate the antimicrobial efficacy of herbal denture cleansers prepared from *Ocimum sanctum*, *Aloe barbadensis miller*, *Coffea arabica*, *Elettaria cardamomum*, and *Salvadora persica* against common denture-colonizing microorganisms. Additionally, the impact of these cleansers on the physical properties of denture materials was assessed.

**Materials and method:** Herbal methanolic extracts were prepared. Each extract was diluted to specific concentrations and tested for antimicrobial activity using the agar well diffusion method against *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans* and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* for zone of inhibition. Denture specimens were immersed in the cleansers for six months, and physical properties including Colour change, Surface roughness, Surface hardness and Flexural strength were evaluated. p-value < 0.05 considered statistically significant.

**Results:** *Ocimum sanctum* and *Aloe barbadensis miller* demonstrated significant antimicrobial activity, though less than standard drugs (Nystatin, Amoxicillin, Chlorhexidine). *Ocimum sanctum* showed the highest inhibition against *Candida albicans* (17.56 mm) and *Streptococcus mutans* (20.02 mm). *Aloe barbadensis miller* showed the highest inhibition against *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (22.98 mm). Minimal adverse effects on denture properties were observed, with no significant deterioration over six months.

**Conclusion:** Herbal denture cleansers, particularly those derived from *Ocimum sanctum* and *Aloe barbadensis miller*, exhibit promising antimicrobial efficacy and are potential eco-friendly alternatives to conventional chemical cleansers, with minimal impact on denture properties.

**Keywords:** Herbal denture cleansers, antimicrobial efficacy, *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Ocimum sanctum*, denture material properties.

**Comment [H1]:** Suggest to specify the physical properties of the dentures that being tested in this research.

**Comment [H2]:** Suggesting to specify the concentration of the extracts used/ dilution percentage for each extracts.

**Comment [H3]:** Is the extract is compared with this standard drugs in this research or not? May need to clarify it in the methodology.

**Comment [H4]:** Which denture properties? Should state the specific denture properties that has minimal adverse effect.

**Comment [H5]:** A bit confusing as in results it was seem the herbal denture cleanser was compared with the standard drugs. But then in the conclusion it was compared with conventional chemical cleanser. Please specify.

## **Introduction**

Denture-related issues, including microbial colonization, are of significant concern for patients using removable prostheses. Accumulation of microbial biofilms on dentures can lead to oral infections, unpleasant odours, and an increased risk of systemic diseases. *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* are among the most common pathogens found in denture plaque, contributing to conditions such as denture stomatitis, gingivitis, dental caries and periodontal disease [1, 2]. Therefore regular, and effective cleaning of dentures is essential for maintaining oral health and preventing infections [3].

Patients often clean their dentures with water and soaps however a variety of commercially available denture cleansers are available. These denture cleansers contain various chemical agents that can lead to tissue irritation and damage to the denture's surface, affecting its fit and longevity [4]. There has thus always been a need for developing a milder, natural and a compatible denture cleansers, derived from natural plant sources with known antimicrobial properties and biocompatibility. Plants such as *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi), *Aloe barbadensis miller* (Aloe vera), *Coffea arabica* (Green coffee), *Elettaria cardamomum* (Cardamom), and *Salvadora persica* (Miswak) have been reported for their uses in oral hygiene and as they have demonstrated significant antimicrobial activities against common pathogens in addition to having a refreshing properties on the oral cavity [5-8].

This study thus undertaken with an aim of evaluating the antimicrobial efficacy of denture cleansers prepared from plant sources against microorganisms that most commonly colonise dentures (*Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonas gingivalis*) in an in vitro setting. Additionally, the impacts of these herbal cleansers on the physical properties of dentures were assessed. Findings of this study will provide insights into the potential development of herbal denture cleansers as a safe, effective, and eco-friendly alternative to conventional denture cleaning agents.

## **Materials and method**

Ethical clearance was obtained from institutional ethics committee. Sample size was calculated using G power software and was found to 10 samples each per group.

**Comment [H6]:** Suggesting to state the institution or committee where the ethics is granted.

**Comment [H7]:** It is good if can show the calculation formula

### Identification and Preparation of Plant Extracts

Plant materials used in this study *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi) and *Aloe barbadensis miller* (Aloe vera) leaves, *Coffea arabica* (Green coffee) and *Elettaria cardamomum* (Cardamom) seeds, and *Salvadora persica* (Miswak) dried stem were identified and authenticated based on botanical guidelines. Fresh leaves and parts of these plants were collected from herbarium and authenticated by a botanist. The plant material was washed thoroughly with distilled water to remove dirt and contaminants. It was then air-dried in a shaded area to prevent the degradation of active compounds due to direct sunlight. After drying, the plant material was ground into a fine powder using a laboratory grinder. The powder was stored in an airtight container until further use.

The herbal methanolic extracts were prepared as a known weight (10g) of the dried plant powder was soaked in 100 mL of methanol and left for 72 hours at room temperature with occasional shaking. After the extraction period, the solution was filtered through Whatman No.1 filter paper. The filtrate was evaporated using a rotary evaporator at 40°C to obtain concentrated herbal extracts, which were then stored in a refrigerator at 4°C for use in antimicrobial testing [9-13].

### Preparation of Herbal Denture Cleanser

For the preparation of herbal denture cleansers, each of the concentrated herbal extracts was diluted to the following concentrations with distilled water:

1. *Salvadora persica* (Miswak): 25 mg of extract diluted with 100 mL of distilled water to obtain a 25% concentration of the denture cleanser [9].
2. *Aloe barbadensis miller* (Aloe vera): 3 mg of extract diluted with 100 mL of distilled water to obtain a 3% concentration of the denture cleanser [10].
3. *Coffea arabica* (Green coffee): 20 mg of extract diluted with 100 mL of distilled water to obtain a 20% concentration of the denture cleanser [11].
4. *Elettaria cardamomum* (Cardamom): 25 mg of extract diluted with 100 mL of distilled water to obtain a 25% concentration of the denture cleanser [12].

**Comment [H8]:** In my opinion, in order to do comparison of each herbal it should be in the same % of concentration. If not maybe have to justify why is the concentration is different as I'm supposed it was referred from previous study?

5. *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi): 50 mg of extract diluted with 100 mL of distilled water to obtain a 50% concentration of the denture cleanser [13].

These herbal denture cleansers were prepared fresh for each antimicrobial testing procedure and were used to evaluate their antimicrobial activity against *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* in vitro.

### **Zone of Inhibition**

The antimicrobial activity of each herbal denture cleanser was assessed using the agar well diffusion method for total of 10 samples. Sterile Mueller-Hinton agar plates (Petri dishes) were prepared and inoculated with a standardized suspension of *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (adjusted to 0.5 McFarland turbidity standard).

Wells of 6 mm in diameter were carefully punched in the inoculated agar plates, which were prepared using Mueller-Hinton culture medium. A volume of 50 µL from each herbal extract, prepared at the following concentrations, was added to the wells:

The inoculated plates were then incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. After incubation, the zones of inhibition were measured in millimetres using a digital caliper. The presence of a clear zone around the well indicated the antimicrobial activity of the herbal denture cleansers. The size of the zone was used to evaluate the relative antimicrobial efficacy of each herbal extract against the tested microorganisms with reference to the standard drug Ciprofloxacin and Nystatin(14).

### **Preparation of denture blocks and assessment of physical properties of denture.**

Rectangular specimens were made with dimensions of 65 x 10 x 3 mm using the ADA specification number 12 for denture base polymers. A total of sixty specimens were prepared and were assigned to five different mouth rinses and one control as distilled water. Each specimen was immersed in the assigned solution for a period of eight hours to simulate overnight denture immersion. Regular immersion was carried out for a period of six months. The color difference was evaluated using CIE L\*a\*b colorimetric system. Readings for flexural strength were taken after six months using a three-point bending test machine. The specimen was subjected to flexion till fracture. The surface roughness was measured using a

**Comment [H9]:** Please specify the mouth rinse that has been used specifically the active ingredients that was used to compared with the herbal extract.

profilometer. A diamond stylus was moved over the surface of the specimen at a speed of 0.5mm/s. An average of 3 measurements thus obtained from each specimen determined the surface roughness. Surface hardness was measured using Vicker's Hardness Tester. A diamond indenter in the shape of a square-based pyramid was used for measuring hardness (15,16,17)

### **Statistical Analysis**

Statistical test ANOVA was used to assess significance of antimicrobial efficacy of the herbal denture cleansers and standard drugs. Post hoc Tukey's test was applied for multiple comparisons to evaluate significant differences in the mean zones of inhibition. For the physical properties of denture base materials, ANOVA was used to evaluate significance. p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

### **Results**

**Table 1-**Mean zone of inhibition of different herbal denture cleanser and standard drug

		Mean± Std. Deviation	p-value <sup>A</sup>
<i>Candida albicans</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	17.56±1.21	<0.001*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	15.83±0.78	
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	17.02±0.93	
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	14.65±0.54	
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	15.77±0.81	
	Nystatin	21.50±2.52	
<i>Streptococcus mutans</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	20.02±1.13	<0.001*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	16.84±1.18	
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	16.09±1.19	
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	12.00±1.31	
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	17.52±1.01	
	Amoxicillin	28.69±3.94	
<i>Porphyromonasgingivalis</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	21.36±1.01	<0.001*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	22.98±1.25	
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	17.53±1.84	
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	17.24±1.47	
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	18.52±2.22	
	Chlorhexidine	25.97±1.34	

p-value<sup>A</sup>-ANOVA, \*<0.05 was statistically significant.

**Comment [H10]:** Not sure whether the comparison is correct. I think it should be compared with the denture cleanser that has antimicrobial effects instead of drugs.

The antimicrobial efficacy of different herbal denture cleansers was assessed against *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. Against *Candida albicans*, among herbal denture cleansers *Ocimum sanctum* showed the highest mean zone of inhibition ( $17.56 \pm 1.216$  mm), followed by *Coffea arabica* ( $17.02 \pm 0.939$  mm) and *Aloebarbadensis miller* ( $15.83 \pm 0.787$  mm), but standard drug Nystatin ( $21.50 \pm 2.520$  mm) exhibited significantly superior inhibition ( $p < 0.001$ ).

For *Streptococcus mutans*, *Ocimum sanctum* again demonstrated the highest inhibition among the herbal cleansers ( $20.02 \pm 1.13$  mm), followed by *Salvadora persica* ( $17.52 \pm 1.01$  mm) while standard drug Amoxicillin ( $28.69 \pm 3.94$  mm) showed the greatest effect overall ( $p < 0.001$ ).

Against *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Aloebarbadensis miller* ( $22.98 \pm 1.25$  mm) and Chlorhexidine ( $25.97 \pm 1.34$  mm) exhibited comparable zones of inhibition, both significantly higher than other herbal denture cleansers ( $p < 0.001$ ).

These findings suggest and *Ocimum sanctum* and *Aloebarbadensis miller* are particularly effective among the tested herbal cleansers, with standard agents like Nystatin, Amoxicillin, and Chlorhexidine showing superior efficacy as shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 2** – Multiple comparison for mean zone of inhibition of different herbal denture cleanser and standard drug Nystatin in *Candida albicans*

(I) MR	(J) MR	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	1.730	.054*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	.630	.893
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	3.030*	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	1.830*	.035*
	Nystatin	-3.870*	.000*
<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-1.730	.054*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	-1.100	.437
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	1.300	.256
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	.100	1.000
	Nystatin	-5.600*	.000*

**Comment [H11]:** Should confirm again whether this Table is correctly presented as it is quite confusing. I don't really understand the significance of this Table as well as Table 3 and 4. Maybe can combine the table to be more presentable?

**Comment [H12]:** What is MR stand for?

<i>Coffea arabica</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-.630	.893
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	1.100	.437
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	2.400*	.002*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	1.200	.340
	Nystatin	-4.500*	.000*
<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-3.030*	.000*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-1.300	.256
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	-2.400*	.002*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	-1.200	.340
	Nystatin	-6.900*	.000*
<i>Salvadora persica</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-1.830*	.035*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-.100	1.000
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	-1.200	.340
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	1.200	.340
	Nystatin	-5.700*	.000*
<b>Nystatin</b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	3.870*	.000*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	5.600*	.000*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	4.500*	.000*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	6.900*	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	5.700*	.000*

Sig.- post hoc tukey , \*-<0.05 considered statistically significant

The multiple comparison analysis using post hoc Tukey's test revealed significant differences in the mean zone of inhibition among the herbal denture cleansers and the standard drug Nystatin against *Candida albicans*. *Ocimum sanctum* demonstrated a significantly higher mean zone of inhibition compared to *Elettaria cardamomum* ( $p = 0.000$ ) and *Salvadora persica* ( $p = 0.035$ ) but was significantly lower than Nystatin ( $p = 0.000$ ). *Aloe barbadensis miller* showed no significant differences with other herbal cleansers except for Nystatin, which had a significantly higher zone ( $p = 0.000$ ). Similarly, *Coffea arabica* and *Salvadora persica* had lower inhibition zones compared to Nystatin ( $p = 0.000$ ). *Elettaria cardamomum* demonstrated the least inhibition among the herbal cleansers, with Nystatin showing the highest efficacy overall, as shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 3** – Multiple comparison for mean zone of inhibition of different herbal denture cleanser and standard drug Amoxicillin in *Streptococcus mutans*

(I) MR	(J) MR	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
<b><i>Ocimum sanctum</i></b>	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	3.230 <sup>a</sup>	.031*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	4.030 <sup>a</sup>	.003*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	8.030 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	2.530	.155
	Amoxicillin	-9.570 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
<b><i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i></b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-3.230 <sup>a</sup>	.031*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	.800	.970
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	4.800 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	-.700	.983
	Amoxicillin	-12.800 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
<b><i>Coffea arabica</i></b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-4.030 <sup>a</sup>	.003*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-.800	.970
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	4.000 <sup>a</sup>	.004*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	-1.500	.692
	Amoxicillin	-13.600 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
<b><i>Elettaria cardamomum</i></b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-8.030 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-4.800 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	-4.000 <sup>a</sup>	.004*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	-5.500 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	Amoxicillin	-17.600 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
<b><i>Salvadora persica</i></b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-2.530	.155
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	.700	.983
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	1.500	.692
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	5.500 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	Amoxicillin	-12.100 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
<b>Amoxicillin</b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	9.570 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	12.800 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	13.600 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	17.600 <sup>a</sup>	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	12.100 <sup>a</sup>	.000*

Sig.- post hoc tukey , \*-<0.05 considered statistically significant

Multiple comparison of mean zone of inhibition among the herbal denture cleansers and the standard drug Amoxicillin against *Streptococcus mutans*. *Ocimum sanctum* showed significantly higher inhibition compared to *Aloe barbadensis miller* (p = 0.031), *Coffea*

*arabica* ( $p = 0.003$ ), and *Elettaria cardamomum* ( $p = 0.000$ ), but significantly lower than Amoxicillin ( $p = 0.000$ ). *Aloe barbadensis miller* and *Coffea arabica* exhibited no significant differences with each other but had lower inhibition zones compared to *Elettaria cardamomum* ( $p = 0.000$  and  $p = 0.004$ , respectively) and Amoxicillin ( $p = 0.000$ ). Amoxicillin showed the highest inhibition zone among all groups, with statistically significant differences ( $p = 0.000$ ) compared to each herbal cleanser as shown in **Table 3**.

**Table 4** – Multiple comparison for mean zone of inhibition of different herbal denture cleanser and standard drug Chlorhexidine in *Porphyromonas gingivalis*

(I) MR	(J) MR	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-1.700	.148
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	3.900 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	4.100 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	2.700 <sup>*</sup>	.003*
	Chlorhexidine	-1.700	.148
<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	1.700	.148
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	5.600 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	5.800 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	4.400 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	Chlorhexidine	.000	1.000
<i>Coffea arabica</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-3.900 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-5.600 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	.200	1.000
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	-1.200	.506
	Chlorhexidine	-5.600 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-4.100 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-5.800 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	-.200	1.000
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	-1.400	.333
	Chlorhexidine	-5.800 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
<i>Salvadora persica</i>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	-2.700 <sup>*</sup>	.003*
	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	-4.400 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	1.200	.506
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	1.400	.333
	Chlorhexidine	-4.400 <sup>*</sup>	.000*
<b>Chlorhexidine</b>	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	1.700	.148

	<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	.000	1.000
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	5.600*	.000*
	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	5.800*	.000*
	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	4.400*	.000*

Sig.- post hoc tukey , \*-<0.05 considered statistically significant

Multiple comparison of mean zone of inhibition among the herbal denture cleansers and the standard drug Chlorhexidine for *Porphyromonas gingivalis* indicated significant differences in inhibition zones among the herbal cleansers and Chlorhexidine. *Ocimum sanctum* had significantly higher inhibition compared to *Coffea arabica* ( $p = 0.000$ ), *Elettaria cardamomum* ( $p = 0.000$ ), and *Salvadora persica* ( $p = 0.003$ ), but not with *Aloe barbadensis miller* or Chlorhexidine. *Aloe barbadensis miller* showed significantly greater inhibition compared to *Coffea arabica* ( $p = 0.000$ ), *Elettaria cardamomum* ( $p = 0.000$ ), and *Salvadora persica* ( $p = 0.000$ ), while Chlorhexidine demonstrated the highest inhibition, significantly outperforming *Coffea arabica*, *Elettaria cardamomum*, and *Salvadora persica* ( $p = 0.000$ ) as in **Table 4**.

**Table 5** – Assessment of physical properties of denture base material.

Denture cleanser	Colour stability (Delta E)	Surface roughness (Micron)	Flexural strength (Mpa)	Surface hardness (Vhn)
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	0.32±0.5	0.22±0.2	110.12±2.5	28.23±3.2
<i>Aloebarbadensis miller</i>	0.33±0.8	0.22±0.3	110.15±2.3	28.12±4.5
<i>Coffea arabica</i>	0.31±0.9	0.22±0.8	110.63±2.8	28.56±5.2
<i>Salvadora persica</i>	0.32±0.3	0.22±0.7	110.37±2.7	28.51±3.1
<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	0.35±0.4	0.21±0.6	110.56±2.4	28.52±3.0
Control	0.37±0.3	0.22±0.3	110.47±2.1	28.53±2.5
p-value <sup>A</sup>	NS	NS	NS	NS

p-value<sup>A</sup>-ANOVA, <0.05 was statistically significant NS-not significant.

*Ocimum sanctum* showed the colour difference ( $\Delta E = 0.32 \pm 0.5$ ), closely followed by *Coffea arabica* ( $\Delta E = 0.31 \pm 0.9$ ), *Salvadora persica* ( $\Delta E = 0.32 \pm 0.3$ ), and *Elettaria cardamomum* ( $\Delta E = 0.35 \pm 0.4$ ). The control group showed a  $\Delta E$  of  $0.37 \pm 0.3$ . No statistically significant differences were found among the herbal cleansers and the control,

Surface roughness measurements revealed no significant alterations in the denture materials after immersion in herbal cleansers. All groups, including the control, exhibited similar roughness values, around 0.22 microns. Specifically, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Aloe*

*barbadensis* Miller, *Coffea arabica*, *Salvadora persica*, and *Elettaria cardamomum* all showed values ranging from 0.21 to 0.22 microns,

The flexural strength of the denture specimens remained stable across all groups. The values for *Ocimum sanctum* (110.12 MPa), *Aloe barbadensis* Miller (110.15 MPa), *Coffea arabica* (110.63 MPa), *Salvadora persica* (110.37 MPa), *Elettaria cardamomum* (110.56 MPa), and the Control (110.47 MPa) were identical. No significant differences were observed.

The hardness values for *Ocimum sanctum* (28.23 VHN), *Aloe barbadensis* Miller (28.12 VHN), *Coffea arabica* (28.56 VHN), *Salvadora persica* (28.51 VHN), *Elettaria cardamomum* (28.52 VHN), and the control (28.53 VHN) were comparable, with no statistically significant changes **Table 5**.

## **Discussion**

This study evaluated the antimicrobial efficacy and impact on denture properties of herbal denture cleansers derived from *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi), *Aloe barbadensis miller* (Aloe vera), *Coffea arabica* (Green coffee), *Elettaria cardamomum* (Cardamom), and *Salvadora persica* (Miswak) against *Candida albicans*, *Streptococcus mutans*, and *Porphyromonasgingivalis* in an in vitro setting. The results indicate that Tulsi and Aloe vera exhibited significant antimicrobial activity, particularly against *Candida albicans* and *Porphyromonasgingivalis*, respectively. The antimicrobial efficacy was compared to standard drugs such as Nystatin, Amoxicillin, and Chlorhexidine, which showed superior inhibition but highlighted the potential of herbal alternatives. Regarding the impact on physical properties, the herbal denture cleansers did not significantly alter the colour stability, surface roughness, flexural strength, or surface hardness of denture materials. This suggests that the use of these herbal cleansers does not compromise the structural integrity of dentures over time, making them a viable alternative to conventional chemical-based cleansers.

The antimicrobial properties of herbal extracts have been widely reported in the literature. Our findings are consistent with several studies. Singh et al. [18] demonstrated the efficacy of *Ocimum sanctum* against oral pathogens, which aligns with our findings. Jain et al. [19] have shown that Aloe vera possesses considerable antimicrobial activity, corroborating its effectiveness against *Porphyromonasgingivalis* in our study. Khalifa et al. [20] highlighted the

antimicrobial properties of *Salvadora persica*, supporting its use in oral hygiene. Similarly, Patel et al. [21] found that *Coffea arabica* showed significant antimicrobial activity against oral pathogens, like our observations. Roberts et al. [22] reported that herbal extracts, including *Elettaria cardamomum*, effectively inhibit microbial growth, consistent with our results. Additionally, Smith et al. [23] emphasized the potential of natural denture cleansers in reducing microbial colonization, aligning with our study. Gupta and Sharma [24] demonstrated that herbal mouth rinses effectively reduce biofilm formation, which is supported by our findings. Singh and Kaur [25] reported the efficacy of Tulsi in preventing oral infections, similar to our results, while Agarwal et al. [26] highlighted the antimicrobial properties of Aloe vera against *Candida* species, aligning with our findings. Verma et al. [27] found that Miswak exhibits strong antimicrobial activity against *Streptococcus mutans*, corroborating our results. Furthermore, Rao et al. [28] emphasized the efficacy of herbal denture cleansers in maintaining oral hygiene, consistent with our study. Chandra et al. [29] demonstrated that herbal extracts are effective against oral biofilms, supporting our observations. Mishra et al. [30] found that Aloe vera and Tulsi are particularly effective against oral pathogens, aligning with our findings. Kumar et al. [31] reported that Cardamom exhibits significant antimicrobial activity, consistent with our results. Lastly, Sharma et al. [32] demonstrated the efficacy of herbal cleansers in reducing microbial load on dentures, corroborating our findings.

This study's strengths include a comprehensive assessment of both antimicrobial efficacy and the impact on key physical properties of dentures, the use of diverse plant sources providing a broad perspective on the potential of herbal cleansers, and the controlled in vitro conditions ensuring reliable and reproducible results. However, there are limitations to consider. The in vitro setting may not fully translate to clinical settings, and the limited microbial spectrum tested may not represent the full range of oral pathogens encountered in clinical scenarios. Additionally, the study's short-term assessment did not evaluate the long-term effects of herbal denture cleansers on both antimicrobial efficacy and denture properties.

The findings of this study suggest that herbal denture cleansers could serve as a safe and eco-friendly alternative to conventional chemical-based denture cleansers. The minimal impact on denture properties makes them suitable for long-term use without compromising the durability of dentures. Future research should focus on conducting in vivo studies to confirm the efficacy and safety of these herbal cleansers in a real-world setting, evaluating the

antimicrobial activity against a wider range of oral pathogens, investigating the prolonged use of herbal denture cleansers on both antimicrobial efficacy and the physical properties of dentures, and exploring different formulations and concentrations to enhance the efficacy of herbal denture cleansers.

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