



Bioprinting Applications in Craniofacial Regeneration

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10.1 Introduction

Three-dimensional (3D) bioprinting technology has progressed at a rapid pace since its invention in the 1980s. Charles W. Hull (Chuck Hull) had first described the 3D printing technique under the name of stereolithography. Since then, multiple different techniques and methods have emerged. These techniques all aim for the same objective: to create 3D structures that mimic the external and internal structures of the anatomic sites, to provide scaffolds for cell attachment and migration, and to initiate tissue regeneration. This concept of 3D bioprinting, combined with the advancement of tissue engineering, has been proposed as a promising strategy to reconstruct and replace damaged tissues and diseased organs in many areas of medicine and dentistry, including craniofacial tissue regeneration [1]. In particular, 3D bioprinting technology allows for precise manufacturing of biocompatible scaffolds with complex 3D architectures using cell sources and other biomaterials [2].

Craniofacial tissues have highly complex 3D architectures with sophisticated multicellular interactions. Due to this complexity, complete regeneration of craniofacial structures from congenital malformations, trauma, and resective surgeries is extremely challenging. Despite the advances in the field of craniofacial reconstruction, conventional regenerative strategies still have difficulty mimicking the complex architectures and the biological interactions of this anatomical site [2]. To date, the development and advancement of 3D bioprinting technology are still in its early phase. In fact, 3D bioprinting is mainly used in research settings, and its clinical application has been limited by its ability to mostly fabricate simple homogeneous tissues as opposed to heterogeneous tissues in clinical settings [3].

Currently, reconstruction of extensive or complex craniofacial defects requires local or regional flap, or sometimes microvascular transfer of free flaps as the gold standard treatment [4]. These reconstructive procedures have significant limitations including donor site morbidity as well as size mismatch to the recipient site, leading to compromised aesthetics and function

[5]. Therefore, 3D bioprinting technology in combination with tissue engineering strategies presents a promising alternative to the current reconstruction techniques. The aim of this chapter is to provide a comprehensive overview of major concepts in 3D bioprinting including the bioprinting process, armamentarium, types of bioprinters, clinical application in craniofacial regenerative medicine, limitations, and future perspectives.

10.2 3D Bioprinting Process

The basic process of 3D bioprinting in craniofacial regeneration can be classified into three phases including pre-bioprinting phase, bioprinting phase, and post-bioprinting phase (Fig. 10.1).

10.2.1 Pre-bioprinting Phase

The pre-bioprinting phase involves (1) digital imaging and computer-assisted design; (2) biomaterial selection and bioink preparation; and (3) cell selection, isolation, culture, and preparation [6].

First, digital imaging of the defect or structure to be replaced is acquired via cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), computed tomography (CT), or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). These imaging modalities are the most commonly used for medical and dental application of 3D bioprinting [7]. After imaging, the Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) files are processed with computer-assisted design (CAD) softwares. In addition, tomographic reconstruction is performed to achieve segmented 2D images for the layer-by-layer 3D bioprinting process. Subsequently, Standard Triangle/Tessellation Language (STL) files are generated and sent to the bioprinter [3].

Biomaterial and bioink selection is another crucial part of the pre-bioprinting phase and is determined by the type of 3D printer used as well as specific mechanical, rheological, and biological requirements of the final tissue construct or organ discussed in Sect. 10.4 [8].

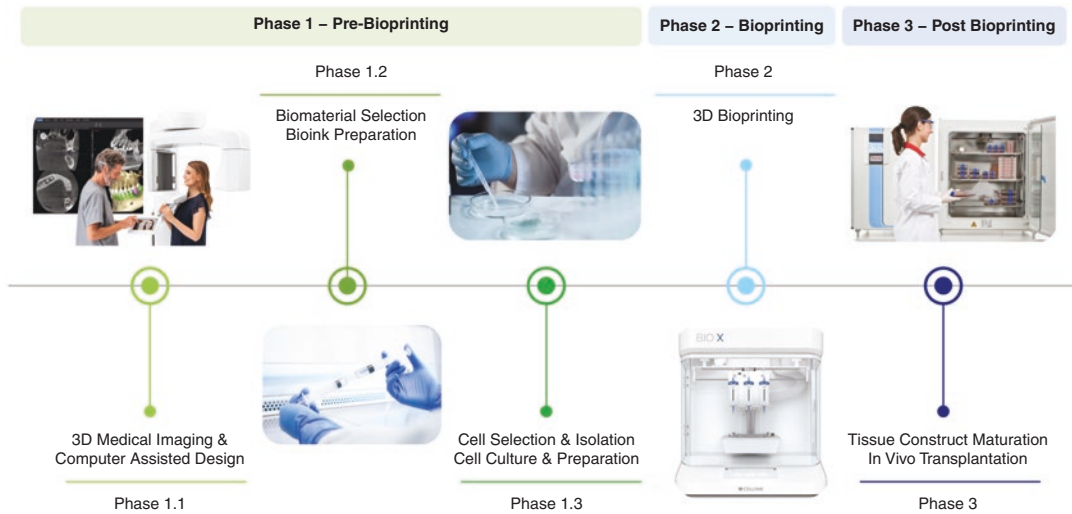


Fig. 10.1 3D bioprinting process: The basic process of 3D bioprinting in craniofacial regeneration can be classified into three phases including (1) pre-bioprinting phase, (2) bioprinting phase, and (3) post-bioprinting phase. The pre-bioprinting phase involves (1) 3D digital imaging and

computer-assisted design; (2) biomaterial selection and bioink preparation; (3) cell selection, isolation, culture, and preparation [6]. The post-bioprinting phase involves tissue construct maturation in a bioreactor, and in vivo transplantation [6]

Prior to the bioprinting phase, isolation, expansion, and quality assessment of the desired cells represent another important step. The different types of cells including their sources, characteristics, and advantages are described in Sect. 10.3.1. It is important to ensure that cells have adequate viability, proliferative, differentiation, and extracellular matrix production potential. In addition, cells can be supplemented with biologics and growth factors-enriched culture media to enhance cell viability, proliferation, and differentiation. Currently, only two growth factors are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for clinical applications in craniofacial regeneration including human recombinant platelet-derived growth factor-BB (rhPDGF-BB) and human recombinant bone morphogenetic protein-2 (rhBMP-2). Additional biologics include fibroblast growth factor (FGF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), transforming growth factor beta (TGF-B), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). Finally, other culture medium supplements can be used to potentiate cell viability and growth

including vitamins, hormones, and other macronutrients (Fig. 10.2) [9].

10.2.2 Bioprinting Phase

The bioprinting phase involves the deposition of bioink, cells, and signaling molecules with a bioprinter to form a tissue construct. Bioink and cells are prepared and transferred to their respective cartridges, installed in the printer, and the bioprinting process is initiated to print 3D structures with specific microarchitecture. The main types of bioprinters, their advantages, and respective mechanisms of action are reviewed in Sect. 10.4.

10.2.3 Post-bioprinting Phase

The post-bioprinting phase is key to ensuring the manufacturing of reliable 3D tissue constructs with appropriate structural integrity and biological function [7]. One important component of this

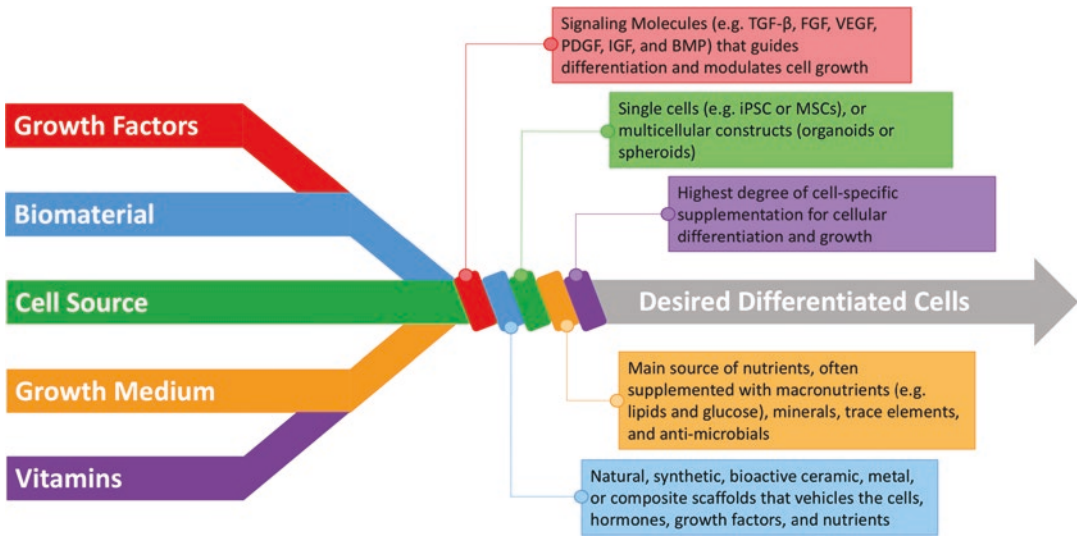


Fig. 10.2 Cell preparation for 3D bioprinting: Key components of cellular preparation for 3D bioprinting include (1) growth factors (2) biomaterials (3) cell source (4) growth medium (5) vitamins. Achieving an optimal com-

bination of the above elements allow desired cells to proliferate, differentiate, and synthesize extracellular matrix to enhance the quality of the 3D bioprinted tissue construct or organ

phase is tissue maturation. The transfer of 3D bioprinted tissue constructs into an incubator or bioreactor allows for enhanced survival, maturation, vascularization, and remodeling prior to *in vivo* implantation [3]. Recent advances in bioreactor design enable convective nutrient transport, creation of microgravity environment, and compression for dynamic mechanical stimulation [6]. Once the tissue construct or bioprinted organ is ready to be used, a surgical team will perform the surgical implantation or transplantation in animals or patients to address the clinical problem.

cision to enhance tissue structure, architecture, and functionality.

10.3 3D Bioprinting Armamentarium

Tissue engineering combines the field of biology and engineering to develop functional substitutes for damaged tissues. The creation of functional tissue engineered constructs requires three main components termed “Tissue Engineering Triad,” which includes (1) cells, (2) scaffold, and (3) regulators [10]. 3D bioprinting utilizes the principles of tissue engineering and combines these three key tissue building blocks with spatial pre-

10.3.1 Cellular Component

The first and most important component of the tissue engineering triad is the cells [10]. They are the fundamental building blocks that reconstitute the 3D bioprinted tissue construct and/or organ. Many factors must be considered during cell selection for 3D bioprinting. Ideally, the user should be able to control the proliferative properties of the cells as excessive or insufficient proliferation can lead to complications. This is commonly evident in multicellular constructs that overgrow and develop a necrotic core due to hypoxia. Additionally, researchers should be able to predict or control the timing for cell proliferation [6]. Also, cells must be able to withstand the mechanical and physiological stresses associated with 3D bioprinting as cell viability can be affected by stresses such as shear forces, changes in temperature and pH, and the presence of chemicals, toxins, and enzymes [6, 11]. Finally, cell viability may also be greatly altered by the bioprinting

technique and properties of the scaffold material selected to contain and support the cells.

Due to their complexity and intricacy, more than one type of cells is required to adequately reconstruct the desired tissue and/or organ. For example, in alveolar bone regeneration, osteoblasts, osteoclasts, and osteocytes are required for bone repair and remodeling; epithelial cells and fibroblasts provide structural and barrier functions; and endothelial cells form vasculature to support osteogenesis [6, 12, 13]. In addition, stem cells and progenitor cells are required to provide the tissue construct with self-renewing abilities. Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that have the potential to divide indefinitely and give rise to various cell lineages. In contrast, progenitor cells have limited proliferative capabilities and determined set of cell fates and thus can only differentiate into certain cell types. One particularly important type of stem cells is the mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs). As many craniofacial structures are derived from MSCs, they are an integral component to craniofacial regeneration [14].

Cells may be categorized based on their differentiation potential or source. Firstly, cells may be selected based on their differentiation capabilities: undifferentiated stem cells {totipotent, pluripotent [e.g., embryonic stem cells (ESCs) and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)], multipotent stem cells (e.g., MSCs, oligopotent, or omnipotent stem cells)}, and differentiated somatic cells [15]. Secondly, cells may also be selected based on their sources: endogenous cells from the donor or exogenous cells from another organism. Exogenous cells may pose immunogenicity challenges [16]. Lastly, in light of 3D bioprinting, cells may also be selected as single cells or larger clusters of cells termed spheroids and organoids. This subsection will explore the use of single cells and multicellular constructs for 3D bioprinting of craniofacial tissue.

10.3.1.1 Single Cells

Single cells are particularly useful in 3D bioprinting to creating vascular channels and capillaries that are composed of a single layer of endothelial cells. In addition, stem cells and pro-

genitor cells from various sources are used in 3D bioprinting. The most common source of stem cells and progenitor cells for craniofacial regeneration come from the bone marrow. Although bone marrow-derived stem and progenitor cells have been extensively used in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, their harvest is rather invasive and involves bone marrow aspiration from long bones or iliac crests, which may lead to patient discomfort and morbidity.

Since the discovery and characterization of multipotent mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) from the bone marrow, MSCs from other tissues have been identified and characterized including umbilical cord blood, adipose tissues, and dental tissues. These MSCs are capable of differentiating into cell lineages including osteogenic, chondrogenic, myogenic, and adipogenic [17]. From the early 2000s, significant progress has been made toward identifying different human MSC-like stem/progenitor cells from dental and oral sources. These cells include periodontal ligament stem cells (PDLSCs), dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs), stem cells from exfoliated deciduous teeth (SHED), stem cells from apical papilla (SCAP), dental follicle progenitor cells (DFPCs), and gingiva-derived MSCs (GMSCs) [18–23]. Dental stem cells have the advantage of being easily accessible, thus avoiding the need for invasive harvest in comparison to BM-derived MSCs. Together, this group of cells represents a promising cell source for 3D bioprinting for craniofacial regeneration.

Other cell types are useful in 3D bioprinting of functional craniofacial tissue and structures including salivary glands, nerves, and vasculature; three examples are highlighted in this section. To begin with, exogenous salivary gland stem cells may be used in 3D bioprinting as a building block for functional salivary organoids [24, 25]. In addition, in a preclinical animal study, Zhang et al. demonstrated that human gingiva-derived MSCs (GMSCs) can be differentiated into both neuronal and Schwann-like cells and be used in 3D bioprinting to generate nerve constructs that promoted nerve regeneration and functional recovery in bridge segmental defects in rat facial nerves [26]. Finally, human umbilical

vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) may be used in combination with MSCs to induce the formation of pre-vascular networks leading to improved cell viability and proliferation [27].

10.3.1.2 Multicellular Constructs

Fabricating 3D multicellular constructs grown in suspension is an alternative to growing cells in a monolayer fashion. In fact, cells tend to aggregate in clusters and form 3D constructs termed spheroids and organoids. While both spheroids and organoids are well-organized multicellular structures, there are a few defining features that differentiate the two types of constructs. On one hand, spheroids are derived from cell line monoculture, have transient cell organization, and only represent a component of tissue. They are difficult to maintain long term and depend on cell-cell and cell-environment interactions to proliferate and survive. On the other hand, organoids are heterogeneous multilineage constructs derived from stem cells and/or progenitor cells, which possess the ability to differentiate and self-renew. Consequently, organoids can better recapitulate organ physiological parameters and can be maintained in culture for a longer period of time [28, 29]. Ultimately, cells grown in 3D cultures will have increased cell-cell and cell-extracellular matrix (cell-ECM) interactions compared to cells cultured in a monoplane orientation [28]. Thus, 3D cellular models are more physiologically relevant and biologically applicable to 3D bioprinting tissue engineered constructs.

Another advantage of using spheroids and organoids in 3D bioprinting is that they require fewer amount of scaffolding material to support the cells, thus applicable to “scaffold-free printing.” More specifically, spheroids and organoids can synthesize and secrete their native ECM; thus, only a minimal amount of scaffold is required their initial formation and subsequent bioprinting. The benefits of multicellular constructs include reduced costs and efforts associated with the fabrication of cell-laden hydrogels, enhanced biocompatibility, and physiological relevance as the cell construct secretes native ECM; thus, the use of exogenous materials is reduced [2, 28, 29].

Craniofacial structures pose challenges in tissue reconstruction due its various multicellular interactions and complex anatomical features [2]. By harnessing the power of spheroids and organoids in 3D bioprinting, researchers have the ability to print homotypic and heterotypic multicellular constructs with higher spatial resolution and density and, thus, may be able to recreate complex tissues such as vascularized bone, cartilage, periodontium, and whole teeth. Specific clinical applications of 3D bioprinting are reviewed in detail in Sect. 10.5 [2].

10.3.2 Biomaterials

The next component to the tissue engineering triad is the biomaterial scaffolds. This component encompasses all natural and synthetic biomaterials, or a combination of both, used to provide structural support and a favorable microenvironment for cells. Biomaterials can be engineered for tunable release of regulators such as growth factors (GF).

Biomaterials used during the bioprinting process to encapsulate cells are termed bioink [3]. Bioinks can serve as cell encapsulation material to provide cells with protection. In addition, bioinks can be printed onto acellular biomaterial ink scaffolds with higher rigidity, which provides the construct with higher structural integrity. Bioinks are typically composed of cell-laden hydrogels consisting of natural or synthetic materials. In contrast, acellular biomaterial ink scaffolds can be composed of a wider selection of materials depending on desired properties and its intended use [30, 31]. Researchers and clinicians may select a biomaterial based on its rheological, mechanical, chemical, and biological properties, which should ultimately reflect the target organ or tissue’s native physiological environment. These properties may include pH levels, biocompatibility, immunogenicity, cytotoxicity, degradation rate, inductivity, stiffness, viscoelasticity, and strength. Other properties that may be considered include the material’s tunability, reproducibility, cost, availability, printability, and complexity of use [32, 33].

The main advantage of 3D bioprinted scaffolds compared to 3D printed scaffolds is its micron-level precision of cell positioning throughout the scaffold. This characteristic enables researchers and clinicians to create a more desirable and viable scaffold for tissue reconstruction [1]. However, in comparison to the traditional acellular 3D printing method, 3D bioprinting requires additional considerations due to the presence of cells. These considerations include cell positioning, the degree of heat generated, sheering forces, maximum compressive moduli of the biomaterial, and their respective impact on cell viability. Additional printing parameters may affect cell viability and proliferation such as vibrating frequencies, voltage, and mechanical impact during the printing process [1, 31–34]. As a result, some printing techniques and materials may not be suitable for 3D bioprinting of living tissue constructs.

It is suggested that bioinks should have minimal incorporation of synthetic biopolymers to minimize unwanted changes and effects on cells [31]. However, natural biomaterials often have significantly lower mechanical strength compared to synthetic biomaterials and thus cannot be used to create certain craniofacial tissues with high mechanical strength requirements. For example, craniofacial bone has a compressive moduli between 100 MPa and 20 GPa. While alginate is highly biocompatible and fibrin is highly biologically active, both materials have very low compressive moduli (~5 kPa). Comparatively, while the use of synthetic materials such as polyethylene glycol (PEG) with cells may be less favorable, PEG confers higher physical and mechanical strength (~300–350 kPa) needed for harder tissues or areas of high stress such as bone and teeth. These obstacles can be overcome by using natural-synthetic composite bioink and/or simultaneously using 3D printing and bioprinting techniques together [1].

The various biomaterials used in 3D bioprinting have been categorized into the following five categories: natural materials, synthetic materials, bioactive ceramics and cements, metals, and hybrids and composites. It is important to note that there are hundreds of biomaterials being

researched, and even more when considering the possible combinations of materials used to create composite gels and scaffolds. Thus, this section will provide an overview of the most commonly used materials and notable composites (Table 10.1).

10.3.2.1 Natural Materials

The main advantage of natural material is its bioactivity and ability to induce cellular activity. For instance, researchers have used protein-based natural biomaterials such as collagen, elastin, laminin, fibrin, fibronectin, and gelatin as scaffolds to mimic the cell's native ECM, which can enhance cell differentiation, proliferation, and migration. Previous studies on the use of ECM-like scaffolds and 3D bioprinting have demonstrated, both in vitro and in vivo, the successful fabrication of various tissue engineered constructs including skin, bone, and cartilage, cardiovascular tissue, hepatic tissue, neuronal tissue, and cornea tissue [46]. Furthermore, there is increasing interest in the use of more complex protein scaffolds containing more than one type of protein substrate such as decellularized ECM (dECM) and decellularized bone matrix (DBM). These materials are natural ECM that have been cleared of native cells, debris, and other immunogenic components leaving intact structure and microarchitectures composed of collagen, adhesive proteins, growth factors, proteoglycans, and glycosaminoglycans (GAGs). Subsequently, dECM can be reseeded with desired cells. In the case of 3D bioprinting, dECM can be further processed into bioinks to be bioprinted [47, 48]. Other protein-based natural materials used in 3D bioprinting include albumin, keratin, and silk fibers.

Natural biomaterials can also be carbohydrate-based (alginate, chitin, chitosan, cellulose, starch, glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), and hyaluronic acid) as shown in Table 10.1 [3, 35, 39, 49]. While some natural carbohydrate-based materials are not found in the human body (e.g., alginate, cellulose, and chitin), their unique properties including biocompatibility, affordability, and accessibility make them excellent biomaterial scaffold candidates for research [50,

Table 10.1 Biomaterial scaffolds used in 3D bioprinting

Biomaterial	Key properties			
	Cost (low-high)	Bioactivity	Degradation rate (low-high)	Unique features
Natural				
<i>Carbohydrate-based</i> E.g., alginate, agarose, dextran, chitin, and chitosan, cellulose, starch, glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), and hyaluronic acid (HA) [35–37]	Low-high • Cost of HA, GAGs, chitin and chitosan are med-high	High bioactivity	Low-high	Antibacterial properties; very low mechanical properties; tunable
<i>Protein-based</i> E.g., keratin, collagen, gelatin, laminin, elastin, fibrin, fibronectin, albumin, silk fibers, decellularized extracellular matrix (dECM), decellularized bone matrix (DBM) [35, 37, 38]	Med • Cost of recombinant human proteins are typically high	High bioactivity	Med-high	High biocompatibility; very low mechanical properties; osteoconductive; osteoinductive; low compressive strength; low reproducibility • dECM and DBM have variable results due to processing method/ technique • Silk fibers have high mechanical property
Synthetics				
<i>Biodegradable</i> E.g., polylactic acid (PLA), polyglycolic acid (PGA), polylactic-co-glycolic acid (PLGA), poly- ϵ -caprolactone (PCL), polyether urethane (PU), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polymerization of methyl methacrylate (PMMA) [35, 37, 39]	Low	Bioinert	Low • PGA and PLA have high degradation rates	Hydrophobic; poor cell adhesion; poor osteoinduction; highly tunable; highly reproducible; acidic degradation byproducts; high printing resolution; porous; moderate mechanical properties • PLA has osteoconductivity • PGA has low compressive strength
<i>Nonbiodegradable</i> E.g., polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyethylene glycol dimethacrylate (PEGDMA), porous polyethylene (PPE), polyetherketoneketone (PEKK)**, polyetheretherketone (PEEK) [38, 39]	Low	Bioinert	Nondegradable	Highly resembles bone; high biocompatibility; durable; risk of bacterial infections; moderate mechanical properties
Bioactive ceramics and cements				
<i>Calcium phosphate-based</i> E.g., calcium phosphate, biphasic calcium phosphate (BCP), β -tricalcium phosphate (β -TCP), hydroxyapatite (HA) [35, 40–42]	Low	High bioactivity	Med • β -TCP has a low degradation rate	Highly resembles bone; osteoinductive; osteoconductive; osteointegrative; high mechanical properties; risk of infections; little injectability in bulk; brittle; reproducible; porous structure

Table 10.1 (continued)

Biomaterial	Key properties			
	Cost (low-high)	Bioactivity	Degradation rate (low-high)	Unique features
<i>Others</i> E.g., calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, aluminum oxide, calcium silicate, silicon, bioactive glass, zirconia, akermanite, diopside [32, 36, 38, 40–42]	Low	High bioactivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aluminum oxide and zirconia are bioinert 	Nondegradable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akermanite has a controllable degradation rate 	High hardness; high wear resistance; osteoinductive; brittle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioactive glass has low fracture resistance, mechanical strength, brittle, and porous nanostructures which allows for cell adhesion Silicon has some evidence of angiogenesis and osteogenesis effect Diopside is capable of thermal expansion
Metals				
<i>Nonbiodegradable</i> Gold, stainless steel, zinc oxide, titanium alloy, cobalt alloy, tantalum [32, 36, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44]	Low-med	Bioinert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Titanium has osteointegrative properties Tantalum has bioactive properties 	Nondegradable	High wear resistance; ductile; high mechanic strength; risk of stress shielding; biomolecules cannot be added into scaffold; thermostability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Titanium has high compatibility and strength-to-weight ratio, similar strength modulus to bone, lower risk of stress shielding
<i>Biodegradable</i> Magnesium, magnesium alloy, iron alloy [38, 43–45]	Low	Med bioactivity	Med-high <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnesium alloys degrade faster than iron-alloys 	Osteoconductive; porous; moderate-high mechanical properties; lower risk of stress shielding than nonbiodegradable metals; ductile; degradation byproduct can cause local acidic environment and form gas pockets; biomolecules cannot be added into scaffold
Composites and hybrids				
<i>Can be any combination of biomaterial previously mentioned</i>	Characteristics will vary based on the composite composition, as desired by the researcher			

51]. However, a major drawback of using naturally occurring materials is the variability in material composition depending on its source. Consequently, this can affect reproducibility and reliability, thus the quality of the research [51].

10.3.2.2 Synthetic Materials

Synthetic materials unlike natural materials are much more reproducible due to its controlled

manufacturing conditions. As a result, their use in biomedical research provides more consistent and reliable data [32]. Another advantage of synthetic materials is their superior physical properties such as higher mechanical strength, compressive moduli, and stress-bearing capabilities. Furthermore, many synthetic materials such as polylactic acid (PLA), polyglycolic acid (PGA), and polylactic-co-glycolic acid (PLGA)

are thermoplastic and thus can be easily manipulated into desired shapes and microstructures [52]. However, the main concern of synthetic materials is its degradation byproducts. For example, PLA and PGA produce carbon dioxide as they degrade and thus can lead to hypercapnia, an acidic environment, and consequently necrosis of proximal tissue. Another concern with synthetic material stems from its common bioinert property, which can result in rejection of the material *in vivo* [34].

Other synthetic materials commonly used for 3D bioprinting include poly- ϵ -caprolactone (PCL), polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyethylene glycol dimethacrylate (PEGDMA), porous polyethylene (PPE), polymerization of methyl methacrylate (PMMA), polyether urethane (PU), polyetherketoneketone (PEKK), and polyetheretherketone (PEEK) [3, 35, 39, 49]. Here, we will further classify synthetic materials into two subgroups, biodegradable and nonbiodegradable (Table 10.1).

10.3.2.3 Bioactive Ceramics and Cements

Bioactive ceramics and cements are great candidates for use in 3D bioprinting due to their chemical properties resembling the mineral components of natural bone. Typically, this group of biomaterials exhibits excellent biocompatibility, high mechanical stiffness, brittleness, low elasticity, and slow degradation rate. However, its most notable advantage is its osteoinductive property, hence its popular use in bone regeneration [32, 34]. The most commonly used bioactive ceramics are those with a mineral phase composed of calcium and phosphate, such as hydroxyapatite (HA), β -tricalcium phosphate (β -TCP), biphasic calcium phosphate (BCP), and calcium phosphate. Other types of ceramics or cements include calcium carbonates, calcium sulfates, calcium silicate, silicon, bioactive glasses, zirconia, and aluminum oxide [3, 35, 53–55]. Some ceramics such as bioactive glass or HA can be further improved with the incorporation of silicone which can promote angiogenesis and bone ingrowth. Other researchers have explored the addition of metallic ions such as

copper and/or cobalt into bioactive glass which has been shown to induce angiogenesis [3]. The major drawbacks to using bioactive ceramics are its brittleness and porous property which makes it difficult to sustain high mechanical loading required for bone remodeling [34]. Here we subcategorize bioactive ceramics and cements into two groups: calcium phosphate-based and non-calcium phosphate-based.

10.3.2.4 Metals

Metals are the last group of materials being used in tissue engineering. Metals are generally incorporated into bioinks to increase its stiffness, processability, and printability [56]. Metals used in bioprinting include gold, zinc oxide, iron, stainless steel, titanium alloys, and cobalt alloys. Advantages that metals have to offer are its superior mechanical properties, bioinert, and nondegradable which allow for it to last a long time, even in high-stress areas such as bone and teeth [3, 32, 53–55]. While most metals are nondegradable, there is increasing research on biodegradable metals such as magnesium alloys and iron alloys [43].

It has been suggested that metal-based scaffolds can cause stress shielding due to its higher relatively higher elastic modulus which can result in bone resorption and therefore leaving subjects prone to implant failures [3, 54]. To date, titanium-based constructs are the most widely used metal for craniofacial reconstruction due to its biocompatibility, high strength-to-weight ratio, elastic modulus, nonabsorbable characteristic, and potential for bone ingrowth [36].

10.3.2.5 Hybrids and Composites

Due to each type of material having their own unique set of advantages and disadvantages, there is increasing interest in exploring and using hybrid or composite scaffolds, which are biomaterials comprised of multiple phases and materials [34]. In general, composites have higher biological capacity because it is comprised of two or more materials, where one material's weakness is supported by the strength of another material. Depending on the intended use or desired properties, researchers may combine bio-

active ceramics with synthetic or natural biomaterials, or more commonly, they may combine synthetic biomaterials with natural biomaterials. Researchers may even combine materials of the same category, such as a protein phase with a carbohydrate phase from the natural biomaterial category. This allows researchers to create ideal bioinks or scaffolds that would otherwise be not viable when used alone. For example, synthetic materials may often create local acidity through its byproducts as it degrades, in addition to being bioinert. Conversely, natural materials have excellent bioactivity, though it lacks mechanical properties. By combining a synthetic material such as PEG with a natural material such as collagen, a cell-inductive scaffold with improved mechanical properties can be created [35].

10.3.3 Regulators

The third and final component to the tissue engineering triad is the regulators, which consists of signaling molecules, notably growth factors (GFs). These biological molecules signal cells to undergo proliferation, morphogenesis, differentiation, migration, and survival [57]. While GFs exist naturally in the human body, for the purpose of tissue engineering, an exogenous source is also required. They are typically incorporated into scaffolds and are released as the material degrades. The release of GFs should be controlled spatiotemporally to adequately guide proper cellular growth, differentiation, morphology, and function. The release of GFs should also be steady as to prevent unwanted diffusion and therefore unwanted outcomes [57, 58]. A gradient of GF diffusion in conjunction with physical contact of ECM and other inductive cues establishes the microenvironment necessary to induce these effects on the embedded cells.

There are several types of GFs that are being used in craniofacial regeneration research. These include transforming growth factor beta (TGF- β), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), and bone morphogenic proteins (BMP-

2,4,6,7) [35, 59]. While many GFs show promising results *in vivo* and *in vitro*, there are currently only two GFs that are FDA-approved for clinical use: recombinant human PDGF-BB (rhPDGF-BB) and recombinant human BMP-2 (rhBMP-2).

PDGF has several isoforms (PDGF-A, PDGF-B, PDGF-C, and PDGF-D) and becomes active when it dimerizes. These dimeric isoforms include PDGF-AA, PDGF-BB, PDGF-AB, PDGF-CC, and PDGF-DD. PDGF-BB has the highest activity as it is capable of binding all dermic forms of PDGF receptors and thus is the isoform that has translated into clinical use. In 2005, Nevins et al. reported in a pivotal randomized control trial study involving 180 subjects the clinical application of rhPDGF-BB in periodontal tissue regeneration, more specifically, its effectiveness in inducing radiographic bone fill, and clinical attachment level gain, and reduction in probing depth when used in conjunction with β -TCP [59–61].

BMPs are the second FDA-approved GF for clinical use. Currently, the only BMP isoform approved by the FDA for clinical use is rhBMP-2 (InFuse Bone Graft[®], Medtronic and Wyeth). rhBMP-2 is infused in an absorbable collagen scaffold and is capable of guiding bone regeneration via inducing MSCs to differentiate into osteoblasts. rhFGF-2 is also noteworthy as it currently used for periodontal regeneration in Japan, and has shown to have beneficial outcomes in patients with lower limb ischemia [55, 59].

10.4 3D Bioprinter Technology

10.4.1 Inkjet 3D Bioprinting

Inkjet bioprinting uses thermal or piezoelectric processes in the nozzle head to dispense droplets of bioink (Fig. 10.3a). The thermal induced inkjet nozzles pass a current through a resistor to create a bubble by vaporizing the nearby fluid, and therefore building up pressure in the nozzle head resulting in droplet ejection. The piezoelectric inkjet nozzles apply voltage to the piezo element to create a pulse, which produces volumetric changes in the nozzle head resulting

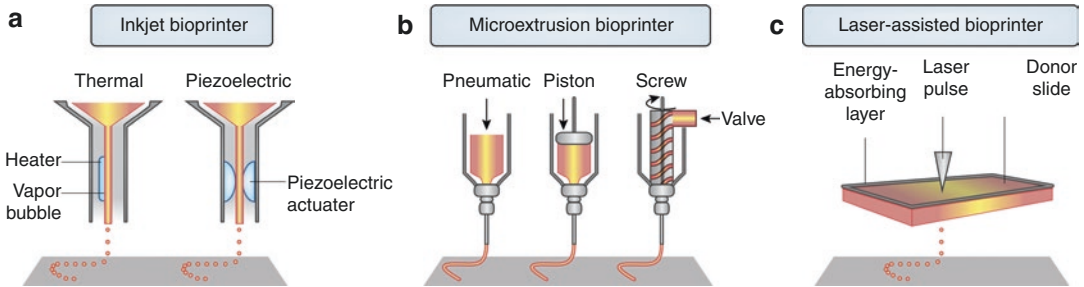


Fig. 10.3 Types of 3D bioprinting technologies: (a) Inkjet 3D bioprinting. Droplets dispensed by thermal or piezoelectric processes in the nozzle head. (b) Extrusion 3D bioprinting. The bioink is extruded through a nozzle due to pneumatic or mechanical (piston/screw driven)

pressure. (c) Laser-assisted 3D bioprinting. A laser is focused on an absorbing substrate to generate pressure that propel cell-containing bioink onto a collector substrate. (Reproduced with permission from Murphy and Atala, 2014 [6])

in droplet ejection. The droplet ejection process from the piezoelectric nozzle head allows for more control of the droplet shape and size and has a greater tolerability for heat-sensitive materials (such as cells) when compared to the thermal induced nozzle head, but the vibrational frequencies from the piezoelectric process can cause cell membrane damage [31, 62]. Thermal inkjet printers have advantages in availability, higher print speed, and lower cost of parts fabrication [62]. When compared to other bioprinting technologies, inkjet bioprinting has advantages in high print speeds, low cost, and wide availability [11, 63].

Several considerations must be made with regard to cell viability when choosing to use inkjet-based bioprinters. While a wide range of bioinks can be used with inkjet bioprinting (including various combinations of cells, ceramics, polymers, and proteins), a limitation however in the type of bioink used is the viscosity requirement: to prevent the continuous flow of the material once a droplet is ejected and to prevent high ejection pressures (which can damage the cells), a low viscosity fluid between 3.5 and 12 mPa s is required [64]. This limitation is achieved by using low concentration solutions, which can increase the possibilities of cells drying and dying, and a low viscosity fluid will have greater difficulty in forming larger 3D structures [11, 31, 65]. The mechanical impact of the cells leaving the nozzle head and hitting the collector surface also affects cell viability. Another limita-

tion is that cell aggregation within the bioink can affect droplet formation and trajectory, resulting in the poor precision of bioink droplet placement and potentially affecting the distribution of cells in the final construct [65]. Despite these considerations, observations of inkjet-based bioprinting have reported good cell viabilities (over 90%), and a resolution of greater than 50 μm [11, 31, 65].

10.4.2 Light-Assisted 3D Bioprinting

Light-assisted 3D bioprinting includes stereolithography (SLA) and laser-induced forward transfer (LIFT). While selective laser sintering (SLS) is another light-based 3D printing technology, it is not compatible for bioprinting due to its methodology of melting the polymer (and subjecting cells to high temperatures) to create a 3D construct [2]. Light-assisted 3D printing is noncontact and nozzle free and therefore has the advantage that materials with higher viscosities can be used (1–300 mPa s) without the issue of nozzle clogging [64].

SLA, more specifically, consists of directing a light source (UV or visible light) over a photopolymerizable fluid (Fig. 10.3b). Once a layer of the polymer is completed, the printing platform is lowered to allow for photopolymerization of a new layer. An advantage of SLA printing is its high fabrication accuracy and low printing time [66]. The resolution and cell via-

bility are $>50\ \mu\text{m}$ and $>85\%$, respectively [65]. The materials that are used for SLA consist of photocrosslinkable hydrogels such as those containing an acryloyl or alkenyl functional group, or a photoinitiator such as lithium phenyl-2,4,6-trimethylbenzoylphosphinate (LAP) or the benzophenone/tertiary amine system [67]. A major cell viability consideration for SLA bioprinting is the exposure to laser energy, which can be harmful to cells [65, 66]. Regardless, the specific material requirements of being photocrosslinkable are a disadvantage of the SLA methodology due to a lack of compatible materials, and the potential cytotoxicity to cells due to the photoinitiators that are added to the hydrogels [63].

LIFT consists of three main components: a light source, a ribbon (transparent glass, metal, and bioink), and a collection plate. The light source vaporizes the metal layer and creates a high-pressure bubble resulting in the production of bioink droplets that are deposited onto the collection plate (Fig. 10.3c). As with inkjet printing, LIFT is droplet-based and has similar considerations for cell viability such as the mechanical impact of the bioink hitting the collector surface, and the less accurate positioning of cells [31]. An advantage of LIFT is high precision and resolution ($>20\ \mu\text{m}$) with high cell viability ($>95\%$); however, LIFT is often costly and time-consuming due to the use of high viscosity materials which are required to obtain a highly precise shape [64, 66, 68]. The materials that have been used with LIFT include polymers, ceramics, proteins, and cells of varying viscosities (in contrast to the low viscosity requirement of inkjet printing) [69].

10.4.3 Extrusion 3D Bioprinting

Extrusion 3D printing is the most commonly used 3D bioprinting technique and is a pressure-driven system. The bioink is continuously extruded (in contrast to the droplet-based system in inkjet and LIFT) through a nozzle due to pneumatic or mechanical (piston/screw driven) pres-

sure. A more complex construct can be created by using multiple nozzles, each carrying different a bioink [70]. Fused deposition modeling is a type of extrusion printing that heats and melts the material as it is extruded through the nozzle. It can be used to create scaffolds for tissue engineering. However, this technique is unable to bioprint cells due to high temperatures reached during the printing process.

The considerations for cell viability when choosing to use extrusion-based bioprinters include dispensing pressure and shear stress. While the pressure-assisted system in extrusion printing allows for the printing of very high cell densities, higher viscosity fluids, and more homogenous cell distributions, shear stress is a factor that can affect cell viability and is increased as the viscosity of the fluid is increased [31]. Furthermore, as the dispensing pressure increases, there is greater cellular distortion, all of which can result in low cell viability ($>40\%$) [66]. In addition, the absence of droplet control (compared to inkjet and LIFT) results in a lower resolution ($>100\ \mu\text{m}$) [65]. The higher viscosity bioinks used in extrusion printing can include natural polymers such as collagen, gelatin, alginate, hyaluronic acid, as well as synthetic polymers such as polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and polyethylene glycol (PEG) [71].

The types of 3D bioprinting technologies are summarized in Table 10.2.

10.5 3D Bioprinting Clinical Applications

Although various 3D printing methods are widely applied to the manufacturing of biocompatible scaffolds and constructs to support complex functional living tissue in clinical trials, the use of 3D bioprinting to generate functional craniofacial tissues remains at an experimental stage. This section reviews key areas for clinical application of 3D bioprinting at the tooth level, periodontal support tissue level, craniofacial, and maxillofacial tissue level.

Table 10.2 Types of 3D bioprinting technologies

	Inkjet [72]	Light-assisted [65, 68]		Extrusion [31, 73]
		Stereolithography (SLA)	Laser-induced forward transfer (LIFT)	
Description	Uses thermal or piezoelectric processes in the nozzle head to dispense droplets of bioink	A light source is directed layer by layer over a photopolymerizable fluid	A light source is directed over a ribbon to create a high-pressure bubble resulting in bioink droplets that are received onto the collection plate	The bioink is extruded through a nozzle due to pneumatic or mechanical (piston/screw driven) pressure
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low viscosity hydrogels, ceramics, proteins, and cells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photocrosslinkable hydrogels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying viscosities of hydrogels, ceramics, proteins, and cells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher viscosity hydrogels, polymers, ceramics, proteins, and cells
Considerations for cell viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical impact of bioink hitting surface • Heat energy (thermal) • Vibrating frequencies (piezoelectric) • Less accurate positioning of cells • Higher possibility of cell aggregate formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential cytotoxicity of photoinitiators • Laser energy exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical impact of bioink hitting surface • Less accurate positioning of cells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shear stress • Dispensing pressure
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High print speeds • Low cost • Wide availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nozzle-free • Highest fabrication accuracy • Low print time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nozzle-free • High precision • High resolution • High cell viabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homogeneous distribution of cells • Can print high cell density • Can use high viscosity fluid
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor precision in droplet placement • Low viscosity bioink requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of compatible materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly • Ribbon preparation is time-consuming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low resolution • Low cell viability
Resolution/cell viability	>50 μm >90%	>50 μm >85%	>20 μm >95%	>100 μm >40%

10.5.1 Dental Pulp and Whole-Tooth Regeneration

The dental pulp is a highly vascularized and innervated tissue enclosed within the root canal that plays a crucial role in providing sensation, nutrition, and innervation to the tooth [74]. After trauma, dental caries, and iatrogenic exposure of the pulp, there is an unmet clinical need to regenerate the pulp and reestablish innervation and vascularization. The ultimate goal of dental pulp

regeneration is the formation of reparative dentin, vascular supply, and pulp neurotization [75].

Current strategies in pulp regeneration have been largely unsuccessful, although researchers are exploring the use of hydrogels to support dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs), mimic the native pulp chamber microenvironment, and recapitulate cell proliferation and differentiation into functional tissue [76]. However, the main limitation of this strategy, consisting of simple scaffolds loaded with cells and growth factors, is the

inability to control multicellular spatial orientation, and subsequent cellular interactions and function [77].

With 3D bioprinting, researchers can achieve enhanced spatial control by printing cells to specific locations in the tissue-engineered construct to achieve desired cellular interactions. In addition, the use of bioink with tunable mechanical properties, optimized rheological properties to enhance printability, and inclusion of growth factors may further potentiate cell function. For the generation of vascularized constructs mimicking the human dental pulp, extrusion-based bioprinting is the preferred method. In these methods, sacrificial template material composed of dissolvable or removal material can be extruded and subsequently replaced with a cell-laden hydrogel or aggregate of cells to create vascular channels [74].

Currently, there is a lack of evidence supporting the use of 3D bioprinting for regenerative endodontics in patients [75]. Several *in vitro* studies have made progress toward developing biomaterials and bioinks that allow for control of stem cells and endothelial cells to promote pulp regeneration. For instance, Khayat et al. (2017) developed a photocrosslinkable GelMA hydrogel to encapsulate hDPSCs/HUVECs to promote revascularization and regenerate human dental pulp tissue [78]. Similarly, Yu et al. (2019) demonstrated that alginate/gelatin scaffold hydrogel is suitable for growth of hDPSCs [79]. Researchers have also combined extracellular matrix-derived scaffolds with natural polymers to develop a novel bioink with cytocompatibility and natural odontogenic capacity. The hydrogel consisting of alginate and dentin matrix was shown to have the ability to enhance odontogenic differentiation of stem cells from the apical papilla. In addition, 3D bioprinting was used to induce odontoblast at specific positions by localizing growth factors between the pulp tissue and wall of the pulp cavity [80]. To further enhance cell differentiation, growth factors can be conjugated to the biomaterial scaffold. Park et al. (2020) demonstrate that a bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) peptide-tethered GelMA-based bioink formulation can accelerate the differentiation of hDPSCs in a 3D bioprinted dental construct

[81]. Together, development of 3D bioprinting technology and its main components, including the bioprinters and bioinks, will enable predictable dental pulp regeneration and accelerate its clinical translation to ultimately help treating patients [74].

When it comes to whole-tooth regeneration, two strategies have been proposed: (1) reconstruction of tooth germ and autologous transplantation and (2) 3D printing of tooth mimicking tissue-engineered constructs [75]. 3D printing has been applied to fabricating anatomically mimicking human molar and rat incisal scaffolds with PCL and HA with interconnecting microchannels. Upon stimulation with stromal-derived factor 1 (SDF-1) and bone morphogenetic protein 7 (BMP-7), PDL and new bone regeneration were demonstrated in the rat model [82]. In the future, 3D bioprinting technology will boost the precise and controlled manufacturing of bioengineered teeth to one day benefit patients in the clinical arena as a biomimetic dental implant.

10.5.2 Periodontal Regeneration

Periodontal regeneration is the regeneration of tooth supporting structures including periodontal ligament (PDL), cementum, and alveolar bone, lost due to periodontal disease. Notably, key advances in the field of periodontal tissue engineering in developing biomaterial scaffolds, enhancing growth factor delivery systems, and optimizing cell delivery systems paved the road for these elements to be integrated with 3D bioprinting [75, 82–84].

Previously, 3D printing has been demonstrated to be an effective approach in periodontal tissue engineering due to its ability to manufacture scaffolds with precision. Polyphasic biomaterial scaffolds composed of three distinct compartments were developed using 3D printing to guide various periodontal ligament fiber orientations to mimic native periodontal attachment apparatus [85–89]. In addition, growth factors release from polymeric scaffolds can be tuned spatially and temporally to promote the optimal growth of cementum, PDL, and bone [90].

When it comes to clinical application, Rasperini et al. (2015) pioneered the first in human use of a 3D-printed bioresorbable polycaprolactone (PCL) scaffold adapted to the patient's periodontal defect in combination with human platelet growth-derived growth factor (rh-PDGF-BB) to stimulate periodontal regeneration. Although the long-term follow-up showed graft failure, this study contributed significantly toward the clinical translation of 3D printing for periodontal tissue engineering. The authors proposed areas of improvement including the use of fast resorbing material with highly porous structure, which may contribute to improved tissue ingrowth and vascularization [91].

The main drawback of 3D printing is that it only allows control over the external properties of the scaffolds, and macroarchitecture of the printer construct, but does not allow precise distribution of individual cells. More specifically, stem and progenitor cells may be seeded onto the scaffold but cannot penetrate the scaffold uniformly [75].

Although 3D bioprinting technology is not currently used clinically for periodontal regeneration, it offers several advantages worth investigating. 3D bioprinting allows deposition of single cells or multicellular constructs to precise locations and enables the use of a wide range of biomaterial and bioinks that can be functionalized with growth factors.

Recent progress has been made to utilize 3D bioprinting for periodontal tissue engineering. Notably, several bioinks were optimized for 3D bioprinting of constructs with PDLSCs including gelatin-methacryloyl (GelMA), GelMA/PEG, and sodium alginate (SA)/gelatin (Gel)/nano-hydroxyapatite (na-HA) to ensure cell viability, proliferation, and differentiation [92–94]. In addition, the influence of bioprinting parameters including photoinitiator concentration, UV exposure, pressure, and dispensing needle diameter were fine-tuned [93]. The next step in periodontal tissue engineering research would be to explore the use of 3D bioprinting to fabricate biomimetic polyphasic scaffolds with various cells deposited precisely into each compartment and stimulated with specific growth factors [95, 96].

10.5.3 Craniofacial and Maxillofacial Regeneration

10.5.3.1 Craniomaxillofacial Bone

Craniomaxillofacial bone defects are common and result from trauma, tumor resection, infection, or congenital malformation. In addition, alveolar bone resorption after tooth loss may result in atrophic maxillary and mandibular ridge and maxillary sinus pneumatization that require reconstructive surgery [97]. Regeneration of craniofacial bone defect is challenging due to the complexity of the anatomical structures, bone biomechanics, and microenvironment. 3D bioprinting has been used to generate heterogeneous tissue-engineered bone constructs with customized architecture, cellular composition, and growth factor incorporation [98, 99].

Currently, the implementation of personalized scaffolding technologies for craniofacial bone regeneration shows promise for clinical translation. With advances in 3D bioprinting to allow for fabrication of personalized biomaterial matrices functionalized with biologics or genes with precise and spatially controlled delivery of cells, patients with debilitating bone defects will benefit from this transformative technology. Additional preclinical animal studies and human clinical trials with long-term results are needed to ensure safety and efficacy of this technology for routine use in clinical practice [100].

10.5.3.2 Cartilage

Cartilaginous tissues in the craniofacial area primarily consist of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disc, the auricular cartilage, and the nasal cartilage [101]. 3D printing has been used to mimic the 3D architecture of these cartilages. Previous studies have used extrusion 3D printing to fabricate cell-laden hydrogels using various natural and synthetic polymers to encapsulate chondrocytes and MSCs capable of synthesizing native cartilaginous ECM [102].

Several biomaterials have been studied as bioink to regenerate cartilaginous tissue including GelMA, alginate, collagen, and PCL [103–106]. For instance, GelMA in combination with hyal-

uronic acid and co-deposition with thermoplastics such as PCL may allow engineered constructs to match native human cartilage mechanical and geometrical properties [103].

Although 3D printing technology is not currently used clinically, it has been applied to regenerate TMJ discs in animal models. Using a micro-precise spatiotemporal delivery system with heterogeneous fibrocartilaginous matrix and region-dependent viscoelastic properties, Taradfer et al. (2016) have demonstrated significant healing of perforated TMJ discs in a rabbit model [107, 108]. In addition, 3D printing and sacrificial layer technology were applied to regenerate both the auricular cartilage and adipose tissue using PCL and cell-laden hydrogel. This study showcases that the aforementioned technique can be used to regenerate tissues and organs with complex morphology and multiple types of cells in addition to enhancing cartilage growth with chondrocyte adipose-derived stem cell co-culture [70, 109].

Several key challenges remain in the field of cartilage regeneration, which may be addressed using 3D bioprinting. Future research aimed at mimicking structural and biomechanical properties of cartilage combined with precise deposition of bioink, and cells will enhance integration of native cartilage to the tissue engineered cartilage.

10.5.3.3 Salivary Gland

Salivary gland hypofunction with subjective xerostomia is a clinical condition caused by radiotherapy for head and neck cancers and other systemic conditions such as Sjogren's syndrome. Consequently, saliva output is greatly reduced putting patients at risk of rampant dental caries, impaired speech, mastication, and swallowing. Despite various therapeutic strategies to repair and regeneration salivary glands and regain salivary flow, this remains an unmet clinical need. Recently, 3D bioprinting has been used to fabricate an innervated salivary gland (SG) like organoid from hDPSC and implanted into an ex vivo model. After implantation, the SG-like organoid significantly stimulated epithelial and neuronal growth in the damaged SG. This is an important

step toward the regeneration of salivary gland to treat patients with radiotherapy-induced and Sjogren syndrome-induced xerostomia [25].

10.5.3.4 Nerve

Peripheral facial nerve injuries lead to dysfunction of facial muscles, impaired sensation, and painful neuropathies. Reconstruction of these nerve defects has been commonly performed using autologous nerve graft, which may be hindered by donor site morbidity and limited availability of donor nerves [110]. Recently, a novel scaffold-free 3D bioprinting approach was successfully used to fabricate nerve constructs by using GMSC spheroids, which were implanted and promoted the repair and regeneration of rat facial nerve defects [26]. This is a promising step toward using an easily accessible, minimally invasive source of stem cells that can be used in conjunction with 3D bioprinting to address the increasing clinical demand for nerve repair and regeneration.

10.6 Limitations and Areas of Research

Despite considerable advances in the recent years, the field of 3D bioprinting remains in the early stages of development. Most studies have been performed in vitro followed by a limited amount of in vivo animal studies. Significant work remains before 3D bioprinting technology can be predictably applied to address unmet clinical needs in craniofacial regenerative medicine and enter the clinical arena.

Several key areas of improvement and future research are critical at the level of the bioprinters, bioinks, and cell sources to ensure the scalability and clinical application of 3D bioprinting (Table 10.3). First, faster printing speed must be achieved in order to manufacture tissues and organs of clinically relevant size in a time efficient manner. Second, printing resolution must be enhanced to better biomimic the native tissue microarchitecture, which promotes the functionality of the printed tissue. Third, the ability to predictably print microvasculature must be devel-

Table 10.3 Areas of future research for 3D bioprinting

Areas of research [6]	Focus and priorities [6]
Bioprinter technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase compatibility with physiologically and clinically relevant biomaterials and cells • Enhance printing resolution and speed • Scale up for commercial and industrial manufacturing
Biomaterials and bioink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance mechanical properties of materials to support tissue constructs of clinically relevant sizes • Development of smart and programmable materials to allow for spatiotemporal control
Cell sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve understanding of required cell types to mimic native heterogeneous tissue • Minimally invasive, reproducible, and viable cell sources • Enhance control over cell proliferation and differentiation with biologics and small molecules
Tissue vascularization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance resolution to print microvasculature that withstands physiological hydrostatic and osmotic pressures • Develop new methods to print vascular networks with structural integrity to allow surgical anastomosis
Tissue innervation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to print heterogeneous tissues with integrated innervation • Generate inducible innervation after transplantation with biologics signaling
Tissue maturation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create bioreactors that allow for rapid tissue maturation • Develop quality control assessment protocol preimplantation

oped in order to maintain high cell viability of printed tissues over a long period of time allowing the construct to be integrated in vivo. Finally, new generations of bioinks with tunable mechanical, rheological, and biological properties must be formulated in order to achieve a fine balance between tissue printability, structure, and function to support larger 3D printer organs for clinical use [6, 111].

However, significant progress must be made in preclinical animal studies and human clinical trials before widespread adoption to address

unmet medical needs in the clinical arena. For 3D bioprinting to be approved by regulatory authorities (i.e., FDA), large animal preclinical studies demonstrating safety and efficacy combined with human clinical studies with long-term follow-up are required.

10.7 Future Perspectives and Summary

With rapid advances in 3D bioprinting, interdisciplinary collaboration between biologists, engineers, and clinicians is crucial to spearhead this powerful technology to overcome clinical challenges and resolve unmet clinical needs in craniofacial regeneration.

In summary, 3D bioprinting has the potential to limit the use of animals in drug discovery and testing; reduce the need to harvest autologous tissues to repair and regenerate craniofacial, oral, and dental defects; decrease the risk of rejection; and enhance the generation of artificial craniofacial tissues and organs such as salivary glands. With the emergence of novel techniques including 4D bioprinting using smart and programmable materials to guide tissue regeneration, the future of craniofacial regenerative medicine is promising for both patients and clinicians.

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