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Effects of modelling liquid resin & polishing on the colour change of composite resin: An in vitro study

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Abstract

Objective: The present study evaluated the effects of modelling liquid between the layers of composite and the finishing/polishing state of the material on the change in colour overtime.

Methodology: A total of 40 specimens were prepared by plating four increments of composite (filtekZ350; 3M ESPE),half of which were prepared by applying modelling

liquid (Scotchbond adhesive, 3M ESPE) between the layers of composite, whereas the other half were prepared without the modelling liquid, following which the specimens were light activated for 20s. These two groups were further subdivided into two groups each, based on the polishing criteria. Initial baseline measurements were made using a spectrophotometer. Half the specimens were stored in coffee and the remaining half in artificial saliva for 48 hrs and colour measurements were re-assessed and the data was statistically analysed.

Results: All materials showed significant colour change after 30 days of immersion in liquids. The presence of modelling liquid resulted in lower overall colour change. The non-polished specimens showed higher colour changed than the polished specimens.

Conclusion: The use of modelling liquid between layers of composite showed potential for application to delay the staining process over time. Moreover, polishing is essential to provide increased colour stability of the composite restoration.

Keywords: Composite resin, colour measurement, modelling liquid, colour alteration, surface polishing.

Introduction

Since the mid 1960's, resin composites have been the most used dental restorative materials.¹ Composite resins are mostly used in direct/indirect restorations and also for the intraoral repair of porcelain restorations to enhance the tooth contour and colour.² Consistency of the color and the color stability of the material are the primary basis for the success of an esthetic restorartion.³The properties of a dental composite are highly dependent upon the extent of curing reaction and care taken in placement, but are also heavily influenced by the material's formulation as defined by the clinician.⁴

The polymerisation shrinkage and the esthetics of the light cured restoration, were found to be the limitations of curing which lead to the introduction of alternative build up procedures such as curing the material incrementally until the entire restoration is placed. The bond developed between adjacent layers is the main basis of this technique.⁵The application of several layers of material is therefore a common clinical step during the sculpting process of composite restorations.⁶ However, despite of all

satisfactory properties expected when using current composites,⁷ some materials are comprised of viscous resin monomers that make it difficult to sculpt and model the composite resin material in the anatomical shape of the tooth. Practitioners have suggested the use of low viscous materials as modeller liquids of resin composites (eg. Dental adhesives), as the surface tension of composite material is reduced by this approach and also enhancing the handling and placement of the restorative material in the preparation.⁸ However, the effect of these wetting resins on the physical and mechanical properties of composites is not known.¹

To serve as a long term esthetic restorative material, composite resin should retain the colour and polish over a long period. Colour stability is defined as the ability of any dental material to be able to retain its original colour. The oral cavity has a dynamic environment with the continuous presence of saliva, micro flora and frequent intake of coloured foods, the colour stability of an esthetic material may be compromised. However, while making a choice over other physical and mechanical properties, the property of colour stability of esthetic dental materials is often ignored.⁹ The quality of esthetic restorations greatly depends on finishing and polishing techniques used.¹⁰ Plaque accumulation, secondary caries and gingival irritation serve as a major influence on surface roughness. A roughened surface a resin composite restoration is also likely to be stained by exogenous sources, such as tea, coffee, red wine, leading to discoloration of the material.¹Meanwhile, accurate finishing and polishing procedures could be used to overcome this problem.⁶

While considering the above mentions factors, the present study evaluated the effects of modelling liquid/resin & polishing on the colour change of composite resin.

Methodology

Specimen Preparation: A total of 40 specimens (6mm diameter x 3mm thickness) were prepared by plating four increments of composite (filtekZ350; 3M ESPE). These specimens were divided into two different groups where, one group of the specimens were prepared by applying modelling liquid (Scotchbond adhesive, 3M ESPE) between the layers of composite (0.5mm thick), whereas the other group of specimens were prepared without the modelling liquid, resulting in a total application of four increments of composite and three layers of modelling liquid simulating an incremental restoration similar to that usually performed in a clinical scenario. Following which the specimens were light activated for 20s using an LED (light emitting diode) Light curing unit. These two groups were further subdivided into two groups each, based on the polishing criteria. Here one subgroup of each group underwent undergo polishing of the surface using a diamond polishing paste and a complete sequence of the polishing kit (shofu) for 15 seconds each by holding the specimens with the help of tweezers.

Staining of Specimens

After 24hr incubation, half of the composite resin specimens (n=10) were immersed in coffee and the remaining half in artificial saliva for 48hrs in an incubator to mimic human oral conditions. The procedure was repeated for 30 days and the solutions were renewed each day. The artificial saliva was prepared in the biochemistry department using the formula given by Shannon¹¹. The composition of artificial saliva was 4.2mg/L NaF, 1280 mg/L NaCl, 166.49 mg/L CaCl2 ,125 mg/L MgCl2, 6H2O, 44.74 mg/L CH3COOK, 386mg/L K3PO4.3H2O, 0.05 mg/L H3PO4 (85%) (pH 7).

Color Measurement : Before the immersion of composite specimens in the liquids, the initial colour measurements were made using a spectrophotometer (Vita

Easyhade Advance, VITA Zahnfabrik, Bad Sackingen, Germany), and subsequent colour measurements were taken after 30 days of immersion in the liquids.

Before the measurements, the spectrophotometer was calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Each of the specimens were removed from the immersed liquids and rinsed in distilled water and dried with an absorbent paper. Three measurements were conducted at the centre of each specimen against a white background and the mean value was calculated. Colour alterations were determined using the Commission Internationale d'Eclairge L*a*b* colour system (CIE L*a*b*). The CIE L*a*b* system is a three-dimensional colour measurement system where L* is the lightness coordinate, and a* and b* is the chromacity coordinates in the red-green axis and the yellow-blue axis, respectively. Colour alteration values between initial and at the end of 30 days were computed from the mean ?L, ?a and ?b values for each sample with the formula;

E = [(2L)2 + (2a)2 + (2b)2]

According to this formula, ?L, ?a and ?b are the variation of the L, a and b values, respectively at baseline and after immersion at the end of 30 days.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was done using in the SPSS software version 22.0. All data were analysed by the Kruskal Wallis test followed by Mann Whitney post hoc analysis. Mann Whitney test was used to compare the mean delta E values between coffee and artificial saliva in each group. The level of significance (p value) was set at p<0.05.

Results

Comparison Of Mean Delta E Values Between Different Groups Under The								
Influence Of Two Different Solutions Using Kruskal Wallis Test								
Solution	Groups	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max	P-Value	
Coffee	Group 1	5	4.03	3.14	0.5	7.6		
	Group 2	5	25.36	5.57	18.0	33.3	0.001*	
	Group 3	5	4.32	2.48	2.0	7.2		

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	Group 4	5	42.82	6.65	31.5	48.0	
Art.	Group 1	5	2.12	1.36	0.5	4.2	
Saliva	Group 2	5	5.16	3.15	3.1	10.7	0.09
	Group 3	5	2.90	1.62	1.5	5.6	
	Group 4	5	4.24	1.42	2.1	5.5	

Comparison Of Mean Delta E Values Between Coffee and Artificial saliva in each Group Using Mann Whitney Test

Subgroup	Group	Ν	Mean	SD	Mean	Z	P-
					diff		Value
Group 1	Coffee	5	4.03	3.14	1.91	-	0.40
	Art.Saliva	5	2.12	1.36		0.841	
Group 2	Coffee	5	25.36	5.57	20.20	-	0.009*
	Art.Saliva	5	5.16	3.15		2.611	
Group 3	Coffee	5	4.32	2.48	1.42	-	0.21
	Art.Saliva	5	2.90	1.62		1.257	
Group 4	Coffee	5	42.82	6.65	38.58	-	0.009*
	Art.Saliva	5	4.24	1.42		2.611	

Comparison Of Mean Delta E Values Between Groups in Coffee Solution								
Using Mann Whitney Post hoc Analysis								
Groups	G1 Vs	G1	G1 Vs	G2 Vs	G2 Vs	G3 Vs		
	G2	Vs	G4	G3	G4	G4		
		G3						
p-Value	0.008*	0.75	0.009*	0.009*	0.02*	0.009*		







The delta E values between coffee and artificial saliva in each group showed statistically significant difference in group 2 (with modelling liquid) (graph 1) and group 4(control group) (p<0.001). There was a statistically significant difference in the mean delta E values between different groups under the influence of coffee (p<0.001) as compared to artificial saliva(p=0.09)(graph 2).

On intergroup comparison, results were not statistically significant between Group I (both) and Group III (polishing only).(p=0.75).

Discussion

The ease of handling of resin composite restorations resulting from the use of modelling liquids has led to several dental professionals using this technique⁶. This technique is reported as a way of achieving good clinical results with an adequate insertion and especially

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modelling of resin composite increments, but scientific evidence that supports this use is lacking.⁸ The findings of this study showed favourable results when compared with the conventional technique (without the use of modeller liquid), showing similar or superior physical and mechanical properties and colour variations.⁸

Firstly, it is important to note that the incremental technique used here was carefully performed, playing a crucial role on the preparation of defect-free specimens⁸. A chemical bonding between increments is ensured by the use of an air-inhibited surface layer¹². An incremental or layering technique has been reported to produce clinically acceptable bond strength, in that it exceeds or is at least comparable to the cohesive strength of the material.¹⁶ Wetting or moistening the composite instrument with a lubricating agent is required to facilitate the insertion and condensation of the composite. Alcohols, bonding resin, and dentin adhesive have been recommended for use to prevent adherence of the composite¹⁴⁻¹⁷.

The layering technique used in this study simulated the clinical application of horizontal composite increments from the apical surface toward the occlusal surface. This technique presents some axial defects due to polymerization shrinkage compared with the flow relaxation method¹⁸, but provided controlled handling for the testing and reliable curing conditions.⁵ All of the tested double-layer treatments resulted in clinically acceptable strength values because according to finite element analysis the maximum shear strength a composite would be subjected to is approximately 9 MPa¹⁹. Even if this is the clinical situation, improvement of interlayer bonding provides a more coherent structure with less geometric variation.5

During the build-up process of resin composites, some defects (e.g., air voids, un-packed zones) may remain in the bulk of the material²⁰, leading to accelerated hydrolytic

matrix²¹ degradation of the resin or crack initiation/propagation while the material is undergoing a stress event²². It can be suggested that the low viscous resin adhesive applied within the composite increments avoided the occurrence of defects/voids during the modelling of the material, making the composite more cohesive and densely-packed and more resistant to degradation^{23.} Despite no clear structural and morphological differences could be detected among specimens prepared with or without modeller liquid, specimens prepared with SBMP exhibited considerably higher mechanical stability when compared to the other groups.⁸

Discoloration can be evaluated with various equipments. Since measurements eliminate the subjective interpretation of visual-colour comparison, spectrophotometers and colorimeters have been used to measure colour change in dental materials 24 . In this study, coffee was used as a colorant agent because of its frequent consumption in daily life. Staining of composite resin surface is a complex phenomenon that can involve several mechanisms.

The specimens prepared with the modelling liquid exhibited considerably less discoloration, compared with the specimens prepared without modelling liquid, and this may be explained by the fact that the modelling liquid used, a hydrophobic resin, might have enhanced the cohesion between the composite increments, thus improving the chemo-physical stability of the material; this has been confirmed in a recent study.⁸

Consequently, the hydrolysis of the material was limited, leading to lower surface staining.⁸

Finishing and polishing procedures may influence surface smoothness, which is related to early discoloration and rough surfaces mechanically retain surface stains more than smooth surfaces. Güler, et al. reported that the groups

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in which the diamond paste was used were more color stable than the others, which is in concordance with the results from the present study.²⁵

Conclusion

The use of modelling liquid between the layers of composite showed potential for application to delay the staining process over time. Moreover, polishing is essential to provide increased colour stability of the composite restoration.

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