

Nanoparticles for The Reduction in Frictional Resistance During Sliding Mechanics in Fixed Orthodontic Therapy

¹Dr. Sudha R. Halkai, Reader, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K. E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

²Dr. Muhammed Faseehuddin, Post graduate student, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K.E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

³Dr. Vishwanath Patil, Professor, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K.E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

⁴Dr. Basanagouda C. Patil, Professor & HOD, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K.E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

⁵Dr. Anamika Jha, Post graduate student, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K.E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

⁶Dr. Bhavani Aspalli, Post graduate student, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K.E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

Corresponding Author: Dr. Muhammed Faseehuddin, Post graduate student, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, H.K.E's S. N Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

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Abstract

Aim: The aim of this study is to estimate the extent of frictional resistance of Zinc Oxide (ZnO) nanoparticles coating on the orthodontic wires and ceramic brackets with metal inserts using in vitro method.

Objectives of the study: 1. To coat the stainless-steel arch wires and ceramic brackets with metal slots with ZnO nanoparticles.

2. To check the presence of ZnO nanoparticles coating on the surface of stainless-steel wires and ceramic brackets with metal inserts using SEM analysis. 3. To subject the coated arch wires and brackets to frictional resistance test using a universal testing machine.

Materials & Methods: 0.22 slot MBT Ceramic brackets with metal slots and 19x25 SS wires were coated with ZnO nanoparticles using an ultrasonicator. Coated and uncoated wires and brackets were evaluated under SEM

for confirming the deposition of nanoparticles. Coated wires and brackets were subjected to frictional test using a UTM to compare the frictional resistance of different groups. Statistical tests were done to evaluate the results.

Results: Mean friction resistance in Group A1 was found to be 2.18 ± 0.76 N, in Group A2 it was found to be 1.86 ± 0.53 N, in Group B1 it was found to be 1.79 ± 0.85 N and in Group B2 it was found to be 1.76 ± 0.79 N.

Conclusion: The frictional resistance was found to be the lowest for the coated stainless-steel wires and coated brackets. Uncoated wires and brackets appeared to be the smoothest among the test samples. Nanoparticle coating makes the surface irregular. The material used for nanoparticle coating has a high impact on the frictional properties of the coated arch wires. Zinc oxide nanoparticle coating is an effective method to reduce friction.

Keywords: Arch wires, Ceramic brackets with metal slots, Friction, Nanoparticles.

Introduction

Orthodontists have to contend with mechanical problems that resist every procedure used to move teeth. This resistance that influences the force that's transmitted to the tooth is called Resistance to sliding. When straight wire mechanics are utilized in orthodontics, the resistance to sliding generated at the wire-bracket interface greatly influences the character of the force transmitted to teeth. This resistance is believed to reduce the effectiveness of orthodontic appliances and hence affect in slower tooth movement.²

Friction is the force that retards or resists the relative motion of two objects in contact. As two surfaces in touch slide against one another, two factors of total force arise the frictional force factor (F) and the normal force factor (N) perpendicular to the contacting surfaces and to the frictional force factor. (Fig 1)

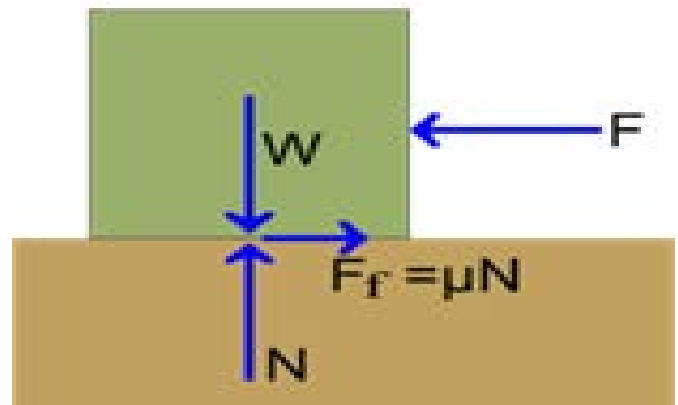


Fig 1: Different components of frictional force.

Among the various factors that affect friction, bracket and arch wire material is an important one. Tooth movement using sliding mechanics involves a dynamic relationship among the archwires, brackets and ligation type.

Frictional characteristics of sliding mechanics and the role of the orthodontic wire alloys in it has been extensively studied, and it has been reported that when compared to the other orthodontic alloys, stainless steel offers the least frictional resistance.³

At present the use of ceramic brackets which are more aesthetic than steel brackets is on the increase but these brackets exhibit significantly higher frictional resistance compared to stainless-steel brackets.⁴

Until now, various techniques have been introduced to overcome such a problem, including the use of wires with different sizes and shapes or different chemical compositions and also the use of temporary implants and extraoral forces.⁵

Use of spherical structured nanoparticles as solid lubricants was introduced in 1990s. This technological advancement is considered to decrease friction between metallic surfaces.

The present study was carried out to investigate the effect of depositing ZnO nanoparticles upon ceramic brackets with metal inserts and stainless-steel

orthodontic wires on frictional forces between the wires and brackets.

Methodology

We used 19x25” stainless steel straight wires (American Orthodontics) and ceramic brackets with metal slots (Garmy Orthodontics) for the present study.

For evaluating the frictional resistance, samples were divided into groups as follows - GROUP A₁: Uncoated stainless-steel arch wires and brackets, GROUP A₂: Coated stainless-steel arch wires and uncoated ceramic bracket with metal inserts, GROUP B₁: Uncoated stainless-steel arch wires and coated ceramic bracket with metal inserts, GROUP B₂: Coated stainless-steel arch wires and ceramic bracket with metal inserts.

ZnO nanoparticles were immersed in ethanol for 30 minutes in an ultrasonic bath at 30°C then transferred into a water bath at 80°C (Fig 2). The ceramic brackets with metal slots were used as it is from the manufactured packing, whereas the stainless-steel wires were cut into 3” pieces. The nanoparticles were completely dispersed within ethanol then wires and brackets were placed in this solution one by one and kept in the solution for 30mins.

Scanning electron microscope was used to assess the micro morphological characteristics of the archwires and brackets. The average Surface Roughness of the wires was evaluated on the basis of a visual evaluation of the surface irregularities.



Fig 2: Preparation of ZnO nanoparticle bath in ethanol and ultrasonicator

For frictional resistance test the brackets were fixed on a glass plate (3” × 6”) using cyanoacrylate adhesive. The wires were ligated on the brackets with elastomeric modules, Universal testing machine was used for pulling wires and creating sliding movements between the wires and brackets under a 150-g weight. To simulate the oral conditions, artificial saliva was poured on the wire bracket assembly every 3 seconds by a dropper. (Fig 3)



Fig 3: Frictional resistance test setup

Results

Mean friction resistance in Group A₁ was found to be $2.18 \pm 0.76\text{N}$, in Group A₂ it was found to be $1.86 \pm 0.53\text{ N}$, in Group B₁ it was found to be $1.79 \pm 0.85\text{ N}$ and in Group B₂ it was found to be $1.76 \pm 0.79\text{ N}$ (Table 1). Differences were seen in the friction resistance when Group A₁ was compared with Group A₂, B₂ and B₁, also when Group A₂ was compared with B₂ and B₁,

when group B2 was compared with B1 as $p > 0.05$ when

compared Tukey's test (Fig 4).

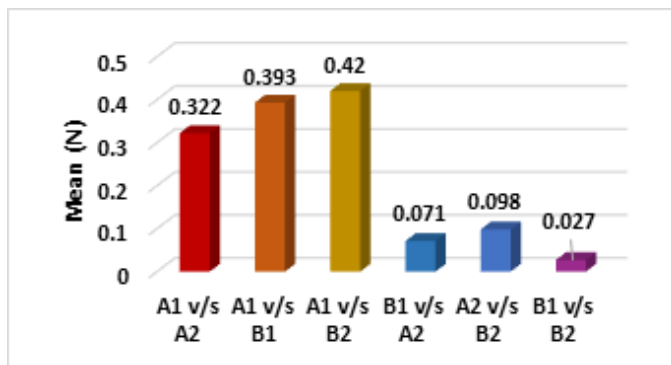


Fig 4: Pairwise comparison of friction resistance.

| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error | 95% Confidence Interval for Mean | | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------|----|--------|----------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | | |
| Group A1 | 20 | 2.1850 | .76519 | .17110 | 1.8269 | 2.5431 | 1.05 | 3.34 |
| Group A2 | 20 | 1.8630 | .53186 | .11893 | 1.6141 | 2.1119 | .90 | 2.63 |
| Group B1 | 20 | 1.7920 | .85597 | .19140 | 1.3914 | 2.1926 | .60 | 3.46 |
| Group B2 | 20 | 1.7650 | .79399 | .17754 | 1.3934 | 2.1366 | .60 | 3.23 |

Table 1: Mean Friction resistance among study groups.

Discussion

Tooth movement is a critical part of orthodontic treatment. Sliding the tooth on an orthodontic wire is one of the ways in this context, with advantages including a reduction in chair time, patient comfort and 3-dimensional control of tooth movements. On the other hand, one of the major disadvantages of this approach is the wire- bracket friction, needing application of high forces to overcome it, which endangers the anchorage.1 To overcome such a problem, the applied force should increase up to 40–60% of the initial force. On the other hand, any increase in the amount of applied force increases the risk of anchorage loss, which is an unfavorable event in orthodontic treatment.

ZnO has been used as a biocompatible material in many areas of dentistry. Studies have shown that ZnO

After application of forces on the tooth, tipping movements commence, creating an angle between the bracket and the wire. When such an angle reaches a verge, a contact is created between the wire and bracket interface, causing adherence between metallic surfaces. Also, the wire little by little undergoes notching and plastic de-formation. All these phenomena, in turn, avert continuous tooth movements, leading to recurrent halts in tooth movement. 6

nanoparticles coating on stainless steel wires and brackets reduced the friction during sliding mechanics.⁸ The SEM results in our study showed that the surface of Group A1 (uncoated) generally appeared smooth (Fig 5-7) and this uncoated arch wire's SEM images looks comparable to the previous studies. Though all samples appear smooth at 100 X magnification, the coated samples generally had a coarse granular, patchy and

irregular at 500 X and 2000 X (Fig 6,7). Appearance of coated arch wires look similar to previous studies where nano coating has been done^{1, 5, 9, 10}.

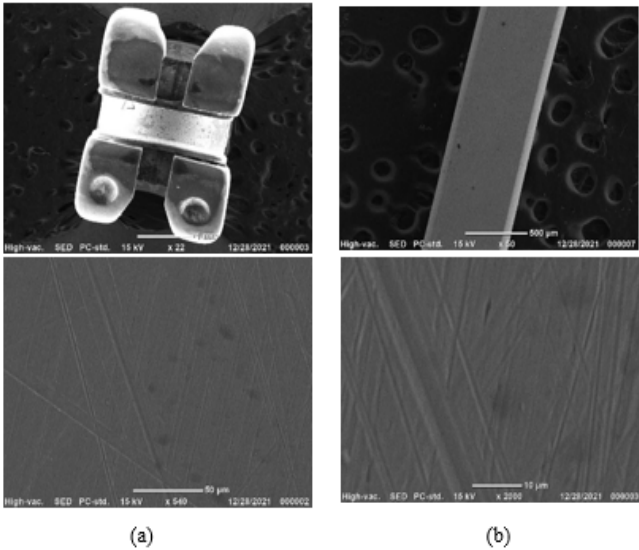


Fig 5: SEM images of uncoated (a) brackets and (b) wires.

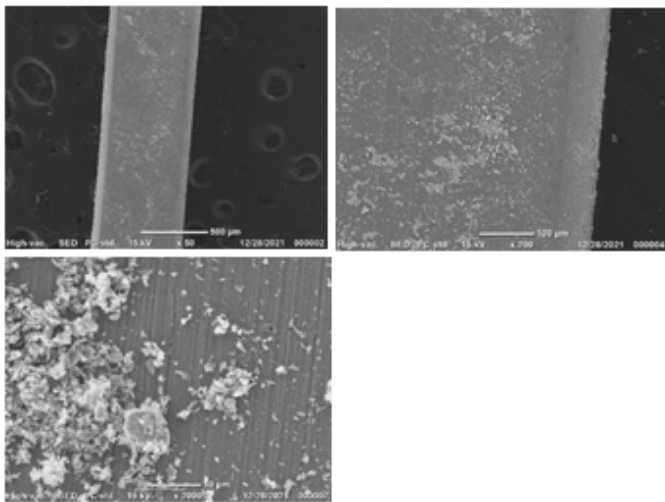


Fig 6: SEM images coated wires.

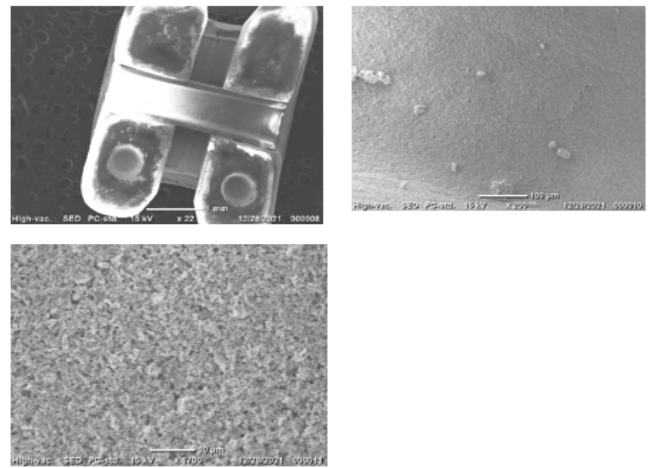


Fig 7: SEM images coated brackets.

We should note that SEM is a qualitative study and a true surface roughness cannot be studied by SEM, and the true surface roughness can be studied quantitatively by means of profilometer, hence we must indeed conclude that surface roughness is not directly related to frictional properties of the wire and the material property affects friction more importantly than the surface roughness. But it must also be kept in mind that a smooth surface is preferred clinically, as a rough surface leads to plaque accumulation and poor performance. Considering that ZnO nano particle has shown less friction than the uncoated wires, a thin uniform Zinc oxide nano particle coating may be beneficial for the orthodontist. Because orthodontic treatment is a long-term procedure, it is necessary to evaluate the effects of coated wires over a longer period of time.

The mean static friction is an important parameter of friction, which is the resistance to initiate tooth movement. So, overcoming the static friction is important to initiate the tooth movement during sliding¹¹⁻¹³.

On examination of friction during sliding in our study, the results obtained on mean static friction was showed that there was reduction in friction of coated wires compared to uncoated wires.

The result of our study shows that nanoparticle coated wires Group A2 showed a reduction in frictional resistance when compared with uncoated wire and brackets Group A1. Coated brackets Group B1 showed a better reduction in frictional resistance than coated wires Group A2. The Group B2 had the least of all frictional resistance and was statistically significant from Group A1. So, it could be safely said that ZnO nanoparticle coating of the archwire and brackets lowered the frictional forces encountered during sliding. The results of this study are in agreement with the studies done by Behroozian A et al.¹ and Kachoei M et al.^{14,15}

The Group B1 had lesser frictional resistance than Group A2. So, it can be said that coating the brackets gives a better reduction in frictional forces when compared with only coating the wires.

The Group B2 had the least frictional resistance of all the groups. So, it can be said that coating both the wires and the brackets gives the best results and can be used in the future to make better orthodontic appliances which could benefit in sliding mechanics by reducing the frictional forces.

Conclusion

Friction is a function of multiple factors, and is not necessarily dependent on surface roughness. Sometimes, despite surface coating providing a smoother surface, it narrows the gap between the bracket and arch wire, and thus increases friction. This is why the topic is controversial, and while some studies have found positive correlations between friction and surface quality,¹⁷⁻²⁰ others have failed to do so.²¹⁻²⁴

Based on the data from this study it can be concluded that Zinc oxide nano particle coating is an effective method to reduce friction. The study adds up valuable information regarding the importance of choosing an appropriate material for nanoparticle coating.

Nanoparticle coatings also have antimicrobial effect. The clinical applications of this study are numerous, like selective coating of arch wires and brackets can be taken up to differentially reinforce anchorage or reduce friction as required in a particular area. Future studies on these aspects can maximize the efficiency of orthodontic treatment.

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