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Comparative Evaluation of the Microtensile Bond strength of composite resin to Bleached Enamel: An *In vitro* Experimental Study

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Abstract

Aim: Comparative evaluation of the effectiveness of 10% sodium ascorbate solution and delayed treatment on the microtensile bond strength of nanocomposite to bleached enamel using two step etch and rinse and self-etch adhesive technique.

Materials and methods: Forty extracted human maxillary central incisors were decoronated, and the crown portion was embedded in acrylic resin with the buccal surface facing upwards. The specimens were randomly allocated to four groups which were further sub-divided into two groups according to the adhesion protocol.

Group I- (control group): No bleaching followed by restoration.

Group II: Bleaching followed by immediate restoration.

Group III: Bleaching followed by surface treatment with 10 % sodium ascorbate for 30 mins followed by restoration

Group IV: Bleaching followed by restoration after 14 days.

Result: Statistically significant differences were found between microtensile bond strength of bleached enamel with surface treatment with 10% sodium ascorbate solution and no surface treatment group.

Conclusion: Bleaching followed by surface treatment with 10 % sodium ascorbate for 30 mins followed by restoration showed similar strength as compared the control group.

Keywords: Sodium ascorbate, Bleaching, Microtensile bond strength

1. Introduction

Smile is considered as a person's ability to express a range of emotions with the structure and movement of the teeth and lips ^[1]. One of the most common clinical issues related to aesthetics is pigmentation of dental structures. Mankind has always tried to improve the facial features, for looking appealing, since the appearance and alignment of teeth influence the personality of a person. With increasing understanding of aesthetic dentistry, bleaching has become a very common procedure ^[2].

Tooth whitening systems was first introduced by Haywood and Heymann in 1989. Vital tooth bleaching can be accomplished by carbamide or hydrogen peroxide (HP) bleaching agents at different concentrations in esthetic Dentistry ^[3]. As vital and non-vital bleaching has become widely known, clinician should have a thorough knowledge of the outcome of the bleaching treatment and their interactions with further dental procedures, especially in terms of adhesive restorations. There have been reports of a relationship between bleaching agents and the strength with which composite materials bond to enamel and dentin. ^[4] Tooth sensitivity and gingival irritation, may occur following whitening procedures performed at the clinic or in the office, although it is regarded as a safe option.

It has been proposed that residual oxygen from the bleaching process remains within the tooth structure for up to 2 weeks and is believed to interfere with polymerization of the dentin adhesives ^[5]. Although the immediate negative effect of bleaching on bond strength have been known through multiple studies, it is reported that waiting for at least 7 days, dentin bond strength values return to baseline ^[6-8]. Although bleaching effects on dentin aren't long-term, antioxidants like sodium ascorbate is used to counteract the adverse effects of bleaching to

permit immediate placement of a restoration [9-11].

More than 5 decades ago, Buonocore introduced the concept of bonding to tooth structure when he introduced bonding resin to acid-etched enamel. Since then, the acid-etch technique has become the gold standard procedure for restoration with resin composites to enamel. The introduction of self-etching adhesives eliminated the utilization of a separate acid-etching step and significantly reduced post-operative sensitivity related to composite restorations due to incorporation of the smear layer into the bonding interface. Sano and others permitted measurement of the tensile strength of small specimens (0.5 mm2 in cross section) by measuring the microtensile bond strength (μ TBS) test ^[12].

Thus, the aim of this study was to comparatively evaluate the effectiveness of 10% sodium ascorbate solution and delayed treatment on the microtensile bond strength of nanocomposite to bleached enamel using total etch and self-etch adhesive technique.

2. Methodology

Forty extracted maxillary central incisors were selected for the study. The teeth were screened radiographically to include the teeth without caries in the crown. The external surfaces were scaled with ultrasonic instruments to remove any soft tissue or calculus. The specimens were decoronated (Fig.1) to obtain the crown portion of the tooth and was embedded in acrylic resin with the buccal surface of the specimen facing upwards (Fig.2). The specimens were then divided into four groups of 10 teeth each according to the treatment protocol i.e.

Group I- (control group): No bleaching followed by restoration

Group II: Bleaching followed by immediate restoration.

Group III: Bleaching followed by surface treatment with 10 % sodium ascorbate for 30 mins followed by restoration.

Group IV: Bleaching followed by restoration after 14 days. The specimens were further sub-divided into two groups according to the adhesion protocol for composite restoration which was total etch and self-etch technique.

2.1 Bleaching Procedure

Bleaching was done on the buccal surface of incisors with 35% hydrogen peroxide according to the manufacturer's instructions, a 1 mm thick layer was applied for 20 min on the enamel surfaces of all groups (Fig.3), except for Group I. After this period, the gel was removed, and a new layer of gel was applied for an additional 20 min. Next, the specimens were washed and immersed in distilled water for 5 min.

2.2 Application of Antioxidant

10% sodium ascorbate solution was applied with a microbrush on the enamel surfaces of the previously bleached Group III specimens (Fig. 4). The application of sodium ascorbate was performed for 30 mins according to the study by Tostes $et\ al.$ [14]

2.3 Restorative Procedure

5 specimens from each of the four group were etched with 37% phosphoric acid for 15 seconds (Fig. 5), washed with saline and air dried. Bonding agent was applied on the tooth surface and cured for 20 seconds (Fig.6); the other 5 specimens were bonded using the self-etch adhesive (Fig.7). After that the nanocomposite resin was placed in three increments of 2mm each on the buccal surface and light cured using LED light curing unit for 20 seconds each (Fig.8).

2.4 Microtensile Bond Strength Testing

The prepared specimens were then sectioned using a micromotor attached to a diamond disk with copious saline irrigation (Fig.9) to obtain beam shaped samples of 2mm thickness made from the mesial to the distal surface and from the cervical to the incisal surface containing enamel, dentin and the composite resin, obtaining an average of 5 sticks from each specimen (Fig.10). Thus, each group had a sample size of 25 samples each. The beam specimens were subjected to tensile forces at a crosshead speed of 1 mm/min (Fig.11). Microtensile bond strength (MPa) was calculated based on the force at debond in Newtons (Fig.12) divided by the beam interface cross-sectional area (mm2).

3. Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were expressed as means and standard deviation. The intergroup comparative evaluation of the microtensile bond strength of bleached enamel to composite resin using two adhesive systems was analyzed using Unpaired t test. Within group comparison was done using One way ANOVA test followed by post hoc Bonferroni test. In the above tests, p value of less than or equal to 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. All analyses were performed using SPSS software version 20.

4. Results

The mean and standard deviation of the microtensile bond strength of composite resin to bleached enamel are presented in Table no 1 and Table no 2. Bleaching followed by immediate composite resin restoration (group 2) showed the lowest microtensile bond of 16.7 Mpa strength. The microtensile bond strength of bleaching followed by 10% sodium ascorbate solution treatment (group 3) of 26.94 MPa and bleaching followed by restoration after 14 days (group 4) of 25.54 MPa was comparable to that of no bleaching followed by restoration (group 1: positive control) of 30.64 MPa.

5. Discussion

Since the inception of the first bleaching treatment methods (Haywood and Heymann, 1989), various bleaching systems have been introduced using 10%, 15–16% or 20–22% Carbamide peroxide, 35% hydrogen peroxide as the active bleaching agent ^[13]. Matis *et al.* (1998) stated that bleaching of vital teeth notably has been shown to be a safe and acceptable procedure for removing stains. The reason being that bleaching is a economic procedure for patients who do not easily accept additional esthetic dental procedures. Christensen *et al.* 1997 also proposed that, after bleaching the patients often show a greater interest in veneers, closure of diastemas and other esthetic procedures.

Although bleaching has proved to be meritorious in different ways, de Lima et al. (2009) and Dias Ribeiro et al. (2009), in their studies stated that it may present certain undesirable side effects such as pulp toxicity, microleakage, external root resorption, changes in the structure of tooth, decrease in microhardness as well as the bond strength reduction of composite resin to tooth structures. After the bleaching treatment, patients usually desire for a more esthetic procedures such as laminate veneers or composite resin restoration for restoring deficiencies [14]. The residual oxygen remaining on tooth surfaces after bleaching as stated by Rueggeberg and Margeson, (1990) can interfere with adhesion of the adhesive system applied for restorative procedures. All in all, the decrease in bond strength may

evoke several other factors which include an increase in microleakage, changes in fracture resistance as given by Khoroushi and Fardashtaki, (2009) [15] and increase in tooth surface porosity stated by Titley *et al.* (1991) [16].

However, Titley *et al.* (1991), showed that the bleaching process may result in residual peroxide, which has an immediate adverse effect on bond strength of adhesive restorations to tooth structures. In a systematic review by Feiz A *et al.* (2017) ^[17], the results obtained showed that the use of antioxidant agents, regardless of their type, form, concentration and duration of application, can improve the shear bond strength after bleaching. However, to ensure an adequate bond strength using two different bonding strategies i.e total etch technique and self-etch technique can be evaluated by testing the microtensile bond strength.

Therefore, the present study aims at comparatively evaluating the effectiveness of 10% sodium ascorbate solution and delayed treatment on the microtensile bond strength of nanocomposite to bleached enamel using total etch and self-etch adhesive technique.

Consequently, different treatment methods to overcome the compromised bond strength have been suggested for solving clinical problems related to post-bleaching side effects. As early as 1991 kalili et al, [18] suggested use of alcohol for treating bleached enamel. Later, Barghi and Godwin (1994) [19] proposed removal of the superficial enamel layer. In this context, Sung et al. (1999) [20] have similarly pointed to the use of adhesives which contain organic solvents. However, Kaya and Turkun (2003) [8] Torres et al. (2006) [21] have offered other techniques for solving the problem including the application of antioxidant agents such as sodium ascorbate, ascorbic acid, catalase, acetone, butylated hydroxyanisole, and alpha-tocopherol via the 2,2-diphenyl-1-picryl hydrazylhydrate free radical method or certain mouthrinses with an antioxidant activity like sodium fluoride, chlorhexidine and essential oils as well as photopolymerization [22].

Also, one of the methods to mitigate the reduced bond strength as given by Cavalli *et al.* (2005) [23] is to delay any restorative procedure for a certain amount of. Since it has been shown that the decrease in bond strength is temporary, clinicians usually postpone bonding procedures for a week after bleaching procedures. This waiting period can differ from 1 week to 3 weeks according to Cavalli *et al.* (2005).^[23] Also, in the present study the microtensile bond strength of Group 4 (bleaching followed by restoration after 2 weeks) of 25.45 MPa showed comparable bond strength to the positive control Group 1(no bleaching followed by restoration) of 30.64 MPa. These results were in accordance with study by van der Vyver *et al.* (1997) [24], Unlu *et al.* (2008) [25] and Freire *et al.* (2011) [26].

It has been demonstrated by Kaya *et al.* (2008) ^[27], and Freire *et al.* (2011) ^[26] that the decrease in adhesive bond strength of resin to enamel and dentin after bleaching process depends on concentration and application time of bleaching materials. Reduction in bond strength caused by hydrogen peroxide can be reversed with sodium ascorbate as an antioxidant as stated by Lai *et al.* (2001) ^[28]. Türkün and Kaya (2004) ^[8] in their

enough to reverse the reduced bond strength, but in a study by Kaya et al. (2008) [27] claimed that the antioxidant should be applied for at least 30 minutes for maximum effectiveness and an increase in the application time of sodium ascorbate (SA) can lead to a greater increase in microtensile bond strength. The microtensile bond strength after 35% hydrogen peroxide bleaching of tooth followed by surface treatment with 10% sodium ascorbate solution and then restoration in the present study showed 26.94 MPa in the present study. There was no statistically significant difference seen between group 4 and group 1. These results were in accordance with study by Kaya et al. (2008) [27], Freire et al. (2011) [26], Kimyai et al. (2010) ^[29], Turkun et al. (2009) ^[30], Dabas et al. (2011) ^[31], Lima et al. (2011) [32] and Thapa et al. (2013) [33]. These results were attributed to the neutralizing effect of sodium ascorbate on the residual oxygen on the tooth. Residual oxygen released from the bleaching material at the enamel surface has been considered to be the main reason for decreased bond strength, which inhibits resin polymerization or interferes with the resin infiltration into the etched enamel. However, study by M. Stephen Harrison et al. (2019) [37] showed that alpha tocopherol was a better antioxidant as compared to sodium

ascorbate. The reason being antioxidants sodium ascorbate

when used for clinically extended periods, the reversal of

dentin bond strength reductions was not found successful.

study showed that use of sodium ascorbate even for 10 min is

Additionally, biological alterations happening in bleaching processes can result in a considerable reduction in microtensile bond strength which might be due to the modifications occurring in enamel structure, increased porosity manifested by loss of enamel prisms, and an overetched appearance. The use of the adhesive system also has a significant effect on the bond strength of resin to bleached enamel and dentin. In the present study, all the four major groups were subdivided into 2 sub-groups according to the bonding procedure using two step etch and rinse or one step self-etching adhesive. The results of the etch and rinse group for all the four groups was statistically higher than self-etch group. These results were in accordance with the study by Khoroushi and Aghelinejad, (2011) [15]. However, studies by Abraham et al. (2013) [34], Ozoe et al. (2012) [35] and Yoon et al. (2014) [36] demonstrated that regardless of the type of adhesive system used, application of antioxidants before restorative procedures reverses the negative effect of bleaching on the bond strength.

Also, it is important to mention that the present values are measured under ideal laboratory conditions, i.e., higher irradiance, longer curing time and direct contact of the light curing tip on the sample, which may not necessarily be expected in general practice. Both intrinsic and extrinsic factors are known to affect the physical properties of the resin based composites. The shortcoming of the present study could be that under in-vivo conditions various variables such as, thermo-chemical factors, variations of magnitude, speed and directions of masticatory forces that are peculiar to individuals' oral environment, occlusion, wear-ability, long term durability affect resin based restorations.

Table 1: Intragroup comparison of the microtensile bond strength of bleached enamel to composite resin using two adhesive systems.

	Group 1 (Mean ± SD)	Group 2 (Mean ± SD)	Group 3 (Mean ± SD)	Group 4 (Mean ± SD)
Etch and rinse	30.26 ± 3.43^{a}	16.70 ± 2.00^{b}	26.94 ± 2.90^{a}	25.45 ± 4.96^{a}
P value (One Way ANOVA test)	<0.001*			
	Group 1 (Mean ± SD)	Group 2 (Mean ± SD)	Group 3 (Mean ± SD)	Group 4 (Mean ± SD)
Self-etch	20.59 ± 2.39^{a}	9.12 ± 1.21^{b}	19.50 ± 3.12^{a}	18.74 ± 3.58^{a}
P value (One Way ANOVA test)	<0.001*			

[†] Post hoc Bonferroni test: Similar superscript letters denote no statistical significant difference (p>0.05) and dissimilar letters exhibit a statistically significant difference (p \leq 0.05)

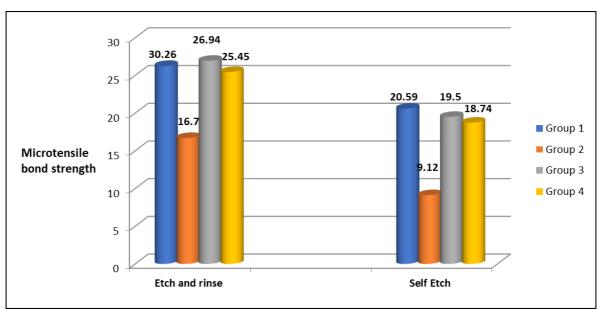


Fig 1: Intragroup comparison of the microtensile bond strength of bleached enamel to composite resin using two adhesive systems.

Table 2: Intergroup comparison of the microtensile bond strength of bleached enamel to composite resin using two adhesive systems.

	Etch and rinse	Self-etch	P Value (Unpaired t test)
Group 1	30.26 ± 3.43	20.59 ± 2.39	<0.001*
Group 2	16.70 ± 2.00	9.12 ± 1.21	<0.001*
Group 3	26.94 ± 2.90	19.50 ± 3.12	<0.001*
Group 4	25.45 ± 4.96	18.74 ± 3.58	<0.001*

 $P \le 0.05$ is statistically significant

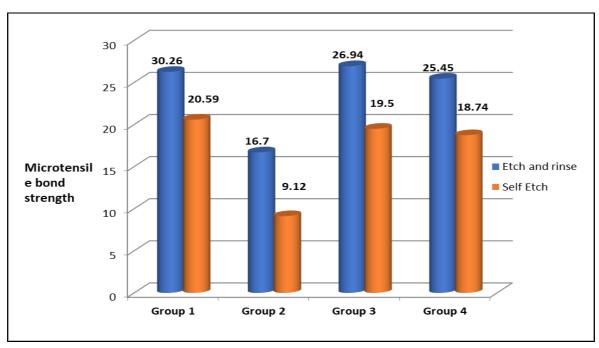


Fig 2: Intergroup comparison of the microtensile bond strength of bleached enamel to composite resin using two adhesive systems.



Fig 1: Decoronation of tooth



Fig 2: Tooth embedded in acrylic resin with buccal surface facing upwards



Fig 3: Bleaching with 35% hydrogen peroxide gel



Fig 4: Application of 10% sodium ascorbate



Fig 5: Post bleaching application of 37% phosphoric acid for total etch group



Fig 6: Application of bonding agent for total etch group



Fig 7: Application of only bonding agent for self-etch group



 $\textbf{Fig 8:} \ \textbf{Incremental build up of composite resin}$



Fig 9: Specimens cut with diamond disk



Fig 10: Prepared specimen



Fig 11: Specimen under microtensile bond strength testing



Fig 12: Debonding of the sample

6. Conclusion

- Original microtensile bond strength of tooth to composite resin was not achieved by any of the treatment protocol after bleaching.
- Application of 10% sodium ascorbate solution proves to be a promising material for reversing the action of bleaching agent. Therefore, antioxidant treatment can be considered a proper technique for enhancing the bond strength of bleached teeth.
- Different adhesive systems can affect the amount of bond strength after antioxidant treatments.
- Delaying the bonding process for at least one week after bleaching can result in almost the same bond strength as that achieved after antioxidant treatment.

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