

THE INFLUENCE OF SALIVA CONTAMINATION ON UNIVERSAL ADHESIVE BONDING TO ENAMEL AND DENTIN

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ABSTRACT

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Introduction: The aims of the study were to investigate the enamel and dentin marginal seal of a universal adhesive system applied with etch and rinse and self-etch strategy and to evaluate the enamel and dentin marginal microleakage in case of saliva contamination on different steps of the adhesive application by dye penetration assessment.

Methodology: Thirty class V cavities were prepared on the buccal face (group I- etch and rinse application of universal adhesive system) and the lingual face (group II- self-etch application of universal adhesive system) of molars and bicuspid. In each group 3 subgroups were created according to the moment of the saliva contamination: subgroup 1- no contamination, subgroup 2- contamination before light curing the adhesive, subgroup 3- contamination after light curing the adhesive. The dye penetration at the adhesive interface was evaluated according to a 4-score scale.

Results: In both groups increased enamel and dentin microleakage was recorded in subgroups 2 and 3 when comparing to subgroup 1. In group I saliva contamination before and after light curing the adhesive resin led to similar mean value of dentin microleakage. Increased values of microleakage were recorded in group II when comparing to group I in the subgroups where contamination with saliva was done before light curing the adhesive resin.

Conclusions: Saliva contamination of the adhesive system after light curing increased enamel microleakage only when the adhesive system was applied with etch and rinse strategy. Increased dentin microleakage after contamination was recorded with both strategies of universal adhesive system application.

Keywords: Universal Adhesive System; Adhesion; Saliva Contamination; Etch and Rinse; Self-Etch.

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1. Introduction

Adhesion is the attraction of two different surfaces placed into direct tight contact determined by intermolecular forces that act at a relatively low distance [1]. The name adhesive indicates a material, most frequently a viscous fluid that joins (bonds) together two substrates and favours the transfer of forces from one surface to another [2]. There are many mechanisms implicated in the bonding process, four mechanisms being implicated in bonding to the tooth structure: 1. mechanical adhesion (resin penetration into the dental structure and resin tags formation); 2. adhesion by sorption (chemical adhesion to the inorganic part of the tooth structure – hydroxyapatite – or to the organic part – mostly to type I collagen by Van der Waals or

dipol-dipol forces, by hydrogen or covalent bonds); 3. adhesion by diffusion (substances precipitation on the tooth surface to which resin monomers can bond mechanically or chemically); 4. combination of the three mechanisms mentioned above [3,4]. The adhesion mechanism of bonding systems represents the replacement of removed tooth minerals with resin monomers in order that the polymers could be micromechanically integrated into the dental structure [5,6]. There are some conditions to obtain a good adhesion: the surface substrate should be clean, the adhesive should perfectly wet the substrate, there should be a good intimal adaptation of the adhesive to the adherent, and the bond strength should be high enough to resist to debonding forces [7]. Acid etching was recommended more than sixty

Table 1. Details regarding the restoration protocol in sugroups 1-5 of groups I and II.

Group I	
Subgroup 1 (control)	Phosphoric acid application for 15 seconds on enamel and dentin; washing with water; drying with a brush applicator; scrubbing the surface with adhesive resin for 20 seconds, air drying for 5 seconds, lightcure for 20 seconds; composite resin restoration
Subgroup 2	Phosphoric acid application for 15 seconds on enamel and dentin; washing with water; drying with a brush applicator; scrubbing the surface with adhesive resin for 20 seconds; saliva contamination for 5 seconds, air drying for 5 seconds, lightcure for 20 seconds; composite resin restoration
Subgroup 3	Phosphoric acid application for 15 seconds on enamel and dentin; washing with water; drying with a brush applicator; scrubbing the surface with adhesive resin for 20 seconds; air drying for 5 seconds; lightcure for 20 seconds; saliva contamination for 5 seconds; air drying for 5 seconds, composite resin restoration
Group II	
Subgroup 1	Scrubbing the surface with the adhesive resin for 20 seconds; air drying for 5 seconds; lightcure for 20 seconds; composite resin restoration
Subgroup 2	Scrubbing the surface with the adhesive resin for 20 seconds; saliva contamination for 5 seconds; air drying for 5 seconds; lightcure for 20 seconds; composite resin restoration
Subgroup 3	Scrubbing the surface with the adhesive resin for 20 seconds; air drying for 5 seconds; lightcure for 20 seconds; saliva contamination for 5 seconds; air drying for 5 seconds; composite resin restoration

years ago by Buonocore to facilitate the adhesion of composite resin to the tooth structure [8]. By etching the smooth surface of enamel is changed into an irregular surface and the surface energy increases. The resin will penetrate the rough surface by capillary action and resin tags will result. This is the fundamental mechanism of bonding to enamel [9]. Bonding to dentin relies mostly on monomers penetration within the collagen fibers exposed after acid etching. The dentin fluid presence on the cut dentin surface and the smear layer formation by fragments of hydroxyapatite crystals and denatured collagen might complicate the adhesion to dentin [10]. Optimal adhesion is obtained by completely removing the smear layer (etch and rinse strategy) or incorporating it into the adhesive layer (self-etch strategy) [11]. The technique of restoration using composite resins is very sensitive to moist, so good isolation of the operating field is mandatory to obtain a good adhesion. The clean and high energy state of the surface is mandatory to obtain strong bonding. In some particular clinical situation ideal isolation cannot be achieved and oral biofilms, saliva, other oral fluids, and organic debris might contaminate the tooth surface prepared for adhesion [12].

An acid conditioned enamel surface rapidly absorbs salivary components, which decreases the surface energy and impairs the surface for adhesion [13]. A review of the literature regarding the influence of saliva contamination on adhesive dentistry has shown that 77% of the three-step adhesive systems, 46% of the two-step adhesive systems, 81.5% of the

two-step self-etch adhesives and 73.3% of the one-step self-etch adhesives adversely influence their bond quality [14]. Universal adhesive systems are the latest category of bonding agents released on the market. Here are some of their characteristics: they can be used for direct and indirect restorations, they can react with different substrates, they can be used on etch and rinse, self-etch or selective etch strategy according to the clinical situation and the personal preference of the practitioner [15]. They should be hydrophilic in order to wet the dentin surface well, they should be hydrophobic not to allow water sorption and hydrolysis after polymerization, they should be acid enough to etch well, but not so acid in order not to destroy some of the initiators [7]. There are only few data in the literature regarding the bonding of universal adhesive systems in case of substrate contamination [16,17]. The aims of the study were to investigate the enamel and dentin marginal seal of a universal adhesive system applied in etch and rinse and self-etch strategy, to evaluate the enamel and dentin marginal microleakage in case of saliva contamination on different steps of adhesive application by dye penetration assessment.

2. Materials and methods

Thirty molars and bicuspid having buccal and lingual cervical third of the crown with no caries lesions, no wear lesions or other defects after the extraction were chosen for this study. Class V cavities having a depth of 3 mm and the cervical margin placed 2 mm apically to the enamel-cementum junction

Table 2. Microleakage scores on enamel and dentin margins in group I.

	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Mean scores value
Grup I - enamel					
Subgroup 1	10	-	-	-	0
Subgroup 2	8	2	-	-	0.2
Subgroup 3	6	4	-	-	0.4
Grup I - dentin					
Subgroup 1	10	-	-	-	0
Subgroup 2	6	2	2	-	0.6
Subgroup 3	6	2	2	-	0.6

were prepared on these areas. The buccal cavities were included in group I and the lingual cavities in group II. All the cavities were restored using the same composite resin (Ceram X sphere TEC one, Dentsply Sirona – batch number 0894) and a universal adhesive system (Prime and Bond Active, Dentsply Sirona – batch number 1810000151) applied in two different strategies: etch and rinse (group I) and self-etch (group II). In each group 3 subgroups were created according to the moment of saliva contamination during the adhesive system application (table 1). Human stimulated saliva was used for contamination. The saliva was collected from a single person in two different days, at the same hour, after a diet break of 5 hours. The same quantity of saliva (0.1 mL) was applied in contamination session using a syringe. The composite resin used for restoration was applied in two layers of 1.5 mm, each one being polymerized using a LED lamp (LED B, Guilin Woodpecker Medical Instrument Co., Ltd., Guilin, China) with a light intensity of 850-1000mW/cm² and a wavelength of 420-480 nm. A constant light intensity of 1000mW/cm² was used during the experiment and the light intensity was tested before the beginning of the test using Demetron® LED radiometer (Kerr Dental, Bioggio, Switzerland). After restoration the teeth were submersed in distilled water for 24 hours, then the external surfaces of the buccal and lingual tooth faces were covered with water resistant varnish, except a 1 mm area around the restorations, then they were submersed in methylene blue solution 2% (pH=7) for 24 hours. The teeth were sectioned in a buccal-lingual direction using diamond disks at low speed, under water cooling (Komet Dental, Brasseler GmbH & Co., Lemgo, Germany). The tooth sections were evaluated using an optic microscope (Carl-Zeiss AXIO Imager A1m) at 10X magnification and the dye penetration at the enamel (occlusal) and dentin (cervical) margins of the cavity was assessed using a 4-score scale: 0 – no dye penetration; 1 –

dye penetration less than half of the wall; 2 – dye penetration more than half but less than the entire wall; 3 – complete dye penetration on the wall until the axial wall of the cavity.

3. Results

The scores of dye penetration in subgroups 1-3 of groups I and II are presented in tables 2 and 3. In both groups increased enamel microleakage was recorded in groups 2 and 3 when comparing to subgroup 1. Contamination with saliva after polymerization of the adhesive resin led to the highest microleakage mean value. In group II increased values of microleakage were recorded in all subgroups when comparing to group I and the highest microleakage mean value was obtained when saliva contamination was made after light curing the adhesive resin. At the dentin margins increased values of microleakage were recorded in groups 2 and 3 when comparing to control in both groups. In group I saliva contamination before and after light curing the adhesive resin led to similar mean values of microleakage. Increased values of microleakage were recorded in group II when comparing to group I in the subgroups where contamination with saliva of the adhesive resin was done before light curing. The Mann-Whitney statistical test was used to compare the results in groups and subgroups. No statistic significant results were obtained when comparing enamel microleakage in subgroups 1 and 2 from group I (p=0.145>0.05) and subgroups 2 and 3 with subgroup 1 from group II (p=0.075>0.05 and p=0.056>0.05, respectively). A significant statistical result was obtained when comparing enamel microleakage subgroups 1 and 3 from group I (p=0.029<0.05). At the dentin margins statistically significant results were obtained when comparing subgroups 2 and 3 with subgroups 1 in groups I and II (p=0.030<0.05, p=0.030<0.05, p=0.004<0.05, and p=0.005<0.05 respectively). Irrespective of the

Table 3. Microleakage scores on enamel and dentin margins in group II.

	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Mean scores value
Grup II- enamel					
Subgroup 1	8	2	-	-	0.2
Subgroup 2	4	6	-	-	0.6
Subgroup 3	4	4	2	-	0.8
Grup II - dentin					
Subgroup 1	10	0	-	-	0
Subgroup 2	4	6	-	-	0.6
Subgroup 3	4	4	2	-	0.8

moment of saliva contamination, the microleakage values at the dentin margins in etch and rinse strategy of adhesive application were not higher than those at enamel margins (subgroup 2 $p=0.260>0.05$, subgroup 3 $p=0.342>0.05$, subgroup 4 $p=0.728>0.05$, and subgroup 5 $p=1.00>0.05$). In the self-etch strategy of the adhesive application similar values of microleakage were recorded at enamel and dentin margins. (in all subgroups p value was $1.00>0.05$)

4. Discussion

Composite resins are the most frequently used materials for direct restoration due to their mechanical and optical properties and to the conservative preparation of the teeth needed [18]. A lot of factors can contribute to the marginal leakage of composite resins into the oral cavity: the size and the shape of the cavity, the type of the dental substrate, the type and the placement of the prepared cavity margins, and the technique of restoration [19]. Marginal adaptation of the adhesive system to the tooth structure should prevent the microleakage onset and future caries lesion adjacent to the restoration, saliva infiltration, pulp irritation or fracture of the restoration [20,21]. Progress was made in time to improve the composite resins bonding to enamel and dentin. Phosphoric acid was the first acid used for tooth etching, but the newer generations of bonding agents contain acidic primers that etch and prime simultaneously. Simplifying the clinical steps of bonding application led to the release of all-in-one adhesive systems that can etch, prime and bond in just one step. Unfortunately, one-step self-adhesive systems do not etch the enamel as efficiently as etch and rinse systems and as a consequence the marginal seal might be incomplete. For multiple steps etch and rinse adhesive systems increased risk for dentin dehydration after drying might occur and also the subsequent collapse of the collagen fibers. Also, residual unremoved acid after an incorrect washing might lead to prolonged demineralization of the

dentin and a possible closure of the spaces between the collagen fibers with reactive products [22]. The bond strength of the newer adhesive systems has been permanently improved, so the mild two-step self-etching systems are a viable alternative to the three or two-step etch and rinse systems [23]. This performance relies on their pH of 2, acidic monomers being capable to create enough microretention in enamel. Regarding dentin, the self-etch adhesive systems have also demonstrated similar adhesion to the total etch systems [24]. Unfortunately one-step self-etch adhesive systems did not show the same good adhesion to enamel when comparing to total etch adhesive systems and additional step of selective etching is needed to improve enamel bonding [25-27]. One of the advantages of universal bonding systems is their possibility of application in etch and rinse and self-etch strategies, but the major goal of their released on the practice was the one-step self-etch application. Functional monomers, like 10-MDP (10-methacryloyl oxide decyl hydrogenphosphate) molecule that chemically bond to hydroxyapatite simultaneously with the etching and adhesive resin penetration into the tooth structure are responsible for this particular behavior [25,27-29]. Studies have shown a similar bonding performance of universal adhesives when comparing to the self-etch adhesives and etch and rinse adhesives [16]. Previous studies that investigated the adhesion of a universal bonding system used in class V cavities restoration showed similar values of bond strength irrespective the strategy of application [27]. In the present study, the universal adhesive system application led to similar microleakage at enamel and dentin margins irrespective of the strategy of application. Some previous studies have shown increased dentin microleakage when comparing to enamel for etch and rinse and self-etch adhesive systems [30,31]. Due to increased mineral content and to a more homogenous structure, a better adhesion and a lower marginal leakage to enamel are achieved

when comparing to dentin. Dentin has a significantly lower mineral content and is mainly composed of a dense network of type I collagen fibers and it has dentin tubules. Branches of these tubules are denser on root dentin than on crown dentin. Etching with phosphoric acid or with acidic primers changes the surface morphology and chemical composition. Moreover, the tubules orientation can change the hybrid layer formation [32]. The results of some other studies also showed that the enamel marginal leakage when universal bonding systems were used in the etch and rinse or self-etch strategy was similar, which led to the conclusion that an additional step of selective enamel etching is not necessary [16]. The same study showed similar bonding to dentin for the universal bonding systems applied in both strategies. That might be explained by the particular chemical composition of the bonding agent that was tested in the study (Scotchbond Universal Adhesive, 3M, St. Paul, MN, USA). 10-MDP molecule creates stable chemical bond and VitreBond copolymer ensures the long-term adhesion on wet or dry dentin [25,28]. Studies that investigated the adhesion of a universal bonding system used in class V cavities restoration showed similar values of bond strength irrespective of the strategy of application [27]. One of the advantages of universal bonding systems is the possibility of application in both strategies, but the major goal of their release on the practice was the one-step self-etch application. Functional monomers, like MDP molecule, that chemically bond to hydroxyapatite simultaneously with the etching and adhesive resin penetration into the tooth structure are responsible of this particular behavior [25,27-29]. In class V restorations when the gingival margin is located apically as to the enamel-dentin junction the moisture control is difficult to achieve. Sulcular fluid and saliva (when a proper isolation is not possible) can contaminate the surface. The multiple step adhesive systems are more prone to failure due to high risk of substrate contamination when comparing to simplified adhesive systems. The adhesion of some self-etch bonding systems seems to be less efficient in dentin due to moisture that blocks the complete diffusion of the adhesive resin in the collagen network. Water sorption also leads to phase separation between hydrophobic resins and hydrophilic primers in the chemical composition of the bonding agent. Saliva glycoproteins adsorbed into the unpolymerized adhesive layer may act as a barrier that lowers the humectant character of the

resin [27]. Also, water incorporation in incompletely polymerized resin might interfere with future copolymerization with the next resin layer. In a literature review of the adverse effects of contamination in adhesive dentistry the authors reported that contamination had a deleterious effect on 73.3% of the 30 evaluated one-step self-etch adhesive systems. The negative effects occurred either when contamination was simulated before and after adhesive polymerization; it always affected the enamel and in 66.6% of the cases it affected the dentin [17]. Nair et al. reported different results than our study, but in their paper both 7th generation of adhesives and the universal adhesives were included in the category of one-step self-etch adhesives, so we do not know for sure how many of the investigated adhesive systems were really universal adhesive systems. The limitations of this study are represented by the low number of the samples, the microleakage evaluation immediately after restoration, and the standardized time for contamination (which is relevant only in fewer clinical situations). The present study simulated clinical conditions that are likely to rarely appear. Probably that is the reason why the producers do not include in the indication for use a procedure to improve the adhesion in critical condition of adhesive application.

5. Conclusions

Given the conditions of this study, saliva contamination after the adhesive system light cure increased the enamel microleakage only when the adhesive system was applied in etch and rinse strategy, but increased the microleakage in dentin in etch and rinse and self-etch strategies. Contamination with saliva before the adhesive system light cure did not change the enamel microleakage irrespective of the strategy of adhesive application, but increased the dentin microleakage in both strategies.

Author Contributions

SS: concept, experimental design, data gathering and analysis, manuscript writing, GI: concept, analysis and interpretation of the results, IN: protocol, data collection, analysis and interpretation of the results, PG: experimental design, data gathering and analysis, SA: interpretation of the results, manuscript proofreading.

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Questions

1. The mechanisms implicated in bonding to the tooth structure include three mechanisms, with ONE EXCEPTION:

- a. Mechanical adhesion;
- b. Adhesion by sorption;
- c. Electrostatic bonding;
- d. Adhesion by diffusion.

2. A review of the literature regarding the influence of saliva contamination on adhesive dentistry has shown that:

- a. 17% of three-step adhesive systems adversely influence their bond quality;
- b. 26% of two-step adhesive systems adversely influence their bond quality;
- c. 81.5% of two-step self-etch adhesives adversely influence their bond quality;
- d. 3.3% of one-step self-etch adhesives adversely influence their bond quality.

3. The results of the present study demonstrated that:

- a. Saliva contamination after adhesive system lightcure increased enamel microleakage only when the adhesive system was applied in etch and rinse strategy;
- b. Saliva contamination after adhesive system lightcure increased enamel microleakage only when the adhesive system was applied in self-etch strategy;
- c. Saliva contamination after adhesive system lightcure increased enamel microleakage only when the adhesive system was applied in selective etch strategy;
- d. Saliva contamination after adhesive system lightcure increased enamel microleakage both etch and rinse and self-etch strategies.

4. Irrespective of the strategy of universal bonding application saliva contamination significantly increased the microleakage in:

- a. Enamel;
- b. Dentin;
- c. Enamel and dentin;
- d. None of the answers are correct.

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