



<b>Title</b>	<b>Telechelic macromer-based polymer-matrix reinforced with E-glass fibers</b>
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<b>Citation</b>	<b>The 92nd General Session &amp; Exhibition of the IADR and IADR Africa/Middle East Regional Meeting. Cape Town, South Africa, 25-28 June 2014.</b>
<b>Issued Date</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>URL</b>	<b><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10722/209872">http://hdl.handle.net/10722/209872</a></b>
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## **TELECHELIC MACROMER-BASED POLYMER-MATRIX REINFORCED WITH E-GLASS FIBERS**

**OBJECTIVE:** Water sorption and flexural properties of fiber reinforced composites (FRC) prepared from extended urethane dimethacrylate (PEG-400-EUEDMA), hydroxypropyl methacrylate (HPMA) and E-glass fibers were investigated.

**METHOD:** The resins contained 72, 50, or 28 wt% PEG-400-E-UEDMA (Esstech Inc., USA) and 28, 50, or 72 wt% HPMA (Esstech Inc., USA), respectively, and camphorquinone (1 wt%)/N,N-cyanoethyl methylaniline (1 wt%) (Accu-Chem Industries Inc., USA). Resin preimpregnated E-glass fibers were placed unidirectionally in a rectangular mold (2×2×20mm<sup>3</sup>) incorporating ~42 vol% of fibers. The specimens were light-cured ( $\lambda=400-500$  nm) for 20s with a light curing unit (Elipar™ 2500, 3M ESPE, Germany). In the water sorption tests (based on ISO 3696:1987E), the specimens (N=6) were stored in deionized Milli-Q water (15ml) at +37°C for 4, 12 or 24w. In the 3pt bending tests, the specimens (N=6/group) were measured using a universal testing machine (ElectroPuls™E3000, Instron Industrial Products, USA), where the l=20mm (span) and v=1.0 mm/min (crosshead speed utilizing a load cell of 500 N).

**RESULT:** During the first days, all the groups increased with a rapid water sorption (weight uptakes 4.8-6.2 wt%). During the first week, the water uptake decreased (4.5-5.2 wt%). In dry conditions, the highest flexural strength was ca. 275 MPa for the composite containing 28wt%/72wt% of PEG-400-E-UEDMA/HPMA. In wet conditions, the highest flexural strength (~50MPa) was for the specimens containing most PEG-400-E-UEDMA. In terms of increased HPMA concentration, water molecules seem to penetrate easier into hydrophilic networks causing an obvious plasticizing and deterioration of biomechanics.

**CONCLUSION:** The flexural properties of telechelic macromer based hydrophilic PEG polymer matrices decreased considerably after being stored in water.