

Original Article

Microleakage of Glass Ionomer based Restorative Materials in Primary Teeth: An *In vitro* Study

B Ayna, S Çelenk, O Atas¹, EC Tümen, E Uysal², IR Toptanci

Department of Pedodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Dicle University, ²Department of Technique, Vocational High School, Dicle University, Diyarbakir, ¹Department of Pedodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey

ABSTRACT

Aim: Using AutoCAD, we examined the microleakage of dye at the edges of primary-teeth restorations using three glass ionomer-based restorative materials. **Materials and Methods:** A total of 30 extracted noncarious primary molars were used. Class V cavities were adjusted on the buccal surfaces. The teeth were randomly divided into three groups of 10 teeth each as follows: Group A (Ketac Molar), Group B (Photac Fil), and Group C (Dyract XP). All specimens were stored for 24 h at 37°C in distilled water. The teeth were thermocycled 1000 times between 5°C ± 2°C and 55°C ± 2°C before immersion in 0.5% basic fuchsin for 24 h. Two mesiodistal cuts of each tooth were photographed under a stereomicroscope equipped with a digital camera. The dye-infiltrated surface area was measured. Statistical evaluations were performed by the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, Levene test, one-way analysis of variance, and Tukey’s honestly significant difference test. **Results:** The mean microleakage ratio differed significantly among the groups ($P < 0.05$). Group C exhibited a significantly smaller area ($P < 0.001$) than the other groups. Group A had a nonsignificantly higher mean microleakage value than Group B ($P > 0.05$). **Conclusions:** Polyacid-modified composite resin may be a useful restorative material in primary teeth in terms of minimizing microleakage.

KEYWORDS: Glass ionomer-based restorative materials, microleakage, primary teeth

Date of Acceptance:

04-Apr-2018

INTRODUCTION

To eliminate tissue loss and meet esthetic requirements, diverse restorative materials have been produced. For primary and permanent teeth, the most important issue with restorative materials is microleakage, which cannot be prevented.^[1-3] Many microleakage studies are still being made from the past to the present day.^[1-5]

Microleakage involves the ingress of bacteria, ions, and fluids from the oral cavity between the wall of the cavity and the restoration and results in failure of the restoration.^[6,7] Therefore, adhesion of restorative materials to dental tissue is important. The ideal restorative material should have similar physical characteristics to dental tissues, should adhere well to dentin and enamel, and should not undergo structural changes in the oral environment.^[8,9] Although no restorative material with all of these features is available, the production of

restoration materials that can adhere chemically to dentin and enamel and release fluoride is at an important stage. The glass ionomer cements (GICs) developed toward the end of the 20th century by McLean and Wilson and Kent are now in use.^[10]

However, the early conventional GICs have limitations in their use in areas exposed to intense chewing forces due to their low resistance to breaking and abrasion, as well as their sensitivity to dryness and moisture.

To reduce their susceptibility to humidity, increase their stiffness and resistance to abrasion, and enable their use in areas exposed to intense chewing forces, GICs

Address for correspondence: Dr. B Ayna,

Department of Pedodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Dicle University, Diyarbakir, Turkey.

E-mail: buketayna@hotmail.com

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How to cite this article: Ayna B, Çelenk S, Atas O, Tümen EC, Uysal E, Toptanci IR. Microleakage of glass ionomer based restorative materials in primary teeth: An *In vitro* study. *Niger J Clin Pract* 2018;21:1034-7.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.njcponline.com
	DOI: 10.4103/njcp.njcp_143_17

were strengthened by changing the powder: liquid ratio, particle size, and distribution.^[11,12] Moreover, high-viscosity GICs are now available.^[13,14]

Resin-modified GIC (RMGIC) and polyacid-modified composite resin (PMCR) contain resins in different proportions and are commonly used in primary teeth.^[15,16] However, there is no consensus regarding the potential for microleakage using these restorative materials.

Microleakage studies typically use subjective analysis ratings.^[17] However, microleakage can be measured quantitatively by volume addition with AutoCAD, which outputs a mathematical total area.^[18,19]

Therefore, we investigated microleakage at the edges of primary-teeth restorations using three different glass ionomer-based restorative materials.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was approved by the Local Ethics Committee of the Dicle University Faculty of Dentistry (dated March 6, 2013; number 2013-2). A total of 30 noncarious primary molars extracted for orthodontic purposes or because of overretention were used. Superficial debris was removed using a hand scaling apparatus. The teeth were stored in balanced salt solution at 22°C–24°C. Classical class V cavities (3 mm width, 2 mm height, and 2 mm depth) were adjusted using a high-speed handpiece with water cooling at the cement–enamel junction on the buccal mucosa. The teeth were randomly divided into three groups of 10 teeth each: Group A (Ketac Molar), Group B (Photac Fil), and Group C (Dyract XP) [Table 1].

Group A: Ketac Conditioner (3M ESPE AG, Seefeld, Germany) was applied to the cavities using a disposable brush for 30 s and rinsed three times with a moist cotton pellet. A stainless-steel band was adapted to the teeth. The Ketac Molar capsule was activated (Aplicap System, Activator; 3M ESPE AG) and mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions. GIC was inserted directly into the cavities through the capsule adapted to a metallic applicator (Aplicap System, Applier (73050); 3M ESPE AG).

Group B: The conditioning procedures and the stainless-steel band adaptation were performed as in Group A. The Photac Fil capsule was activated (Aplicap System, Activator; 3M ESPE AG) and mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions. RMGIC was inserted into the cavities directly through the capsule adapted to a metallic applicator (Aplicap System, Applier; 3M ESPE AG). Next, the restoration was condensed, contoured using a plastic filling instrument, and cured for 40 s. The cavities were restored and light cured for 40 s using a visible light curing device (HS LED 1500;

Henry Schein Inc., Melville, NY, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Group C: The prepared cavities were engraved with 37.5% phosphoric acid (Ultra-Etch; Ultradent Products Inc., South Jordan, UT, USA) for 30 s (enamel) or 15 s (dentin), thoroughly soaked in water for 30 s, and lightly dried with compressed air, leaving the surface moist. Prime and Bond NT (Dentsply Sirona, Konstanz, Germany) was applied to the enamel and dentin. The solvent was detached with air, and the adhesive was light cured for 10 s. The PMCR restorative material was placed over the cured Prime and Bond NT and cured for 40 s.

Final finishing and polishing of the restorations were performed using Sof-Lex discs (3M ESPE AG) in a slow-speed handpiece on a micromotor. The samples were stored for 24 h at 37°C in distilled water. The teeth were thermocycled 1000 times between 5°C ± 2°C and 55°C ± 2°C, with a dwell time of 30 s and transfer time of 3 s.

The apices of all teeth were sealed with composite resin, and all external surfaces were isolated with two layers of nail varnish, except up to 1 mm from the restoration margin. The specimens were immersed in 0.5% basic fuchsin for 24 h. The samples were washed thoroughly with pumice slurry to remove residual dye. The specimens were embedded in autopolymerizing acrylic resin (Temdent; Schütz Dental, Rosbach vor der Höhe, Germany) and longitudinally sectioned in the occlusogingival direction at the center of each restoration using a precision cutting machine (IsoMet; Buehler Ltd., Lake Bluff, IL, USA). A total of 20 sections were obtained from 10 teeth. Two mesial distal cuts of each tooth were photographed for microleakage at ×40 magnification under a Leica S8 APO stereomicroscope (Leica Microsystems, Sijhih, Taiwan) equipped with a digital camera (Olympus DP25; Olympus Corp., Tokyo, Japan). The images were transferred to a personal computer and stored in TIFF format. The dye-infiltrated surface area was measured using AutoCAD 2014 software (Autodesk Inc., San Rafael, CA, USA). The data were tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis (Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, Levene test, one-way analysis of variance [ANOVA], and Tukey's honestly significant difference [HSD] test). $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Microleakage differed significantly among the three groups, as determined by a one-way ANOVA [$P < 0.05$; Table 2].

Group C showed a significantly smaller microleakage area than the other two groups ($P < 0.001$). Group A

Table 1: Descriptions of, and manufacturer information for, the materials evaluated

Group	Restorative material	Commercial name	Manufacturer
Group A	Conventional glass ionomer cement	Ketac Molar	3M ESPE AG, Germany
Group B	Resin-modified glass ionomer cement	Photac Fil	3M ESPE AG, Germany
Group C	Polyacid-modified composite resin	Dyract XP	Dentsply Sirona, Germany

Table 2: Microleakage values

Group	Number of samples	Mean microleakage area±SD
Group A (Ketac Molar)	20	6543.82±2744.79
Group B (Photac Fil)	20	5655.24±1344.40
Group C (Dyract XP)	20	2442.14±2702.31

SD=Standard deviation

Table 3: Microleakage ratios

	Group A (Ketac Molar) A	Group B (Photac Fil) B	Group C (Dyract XP) C
Microleakage ratio	6543.82	5655.24	2442.14

A–B= $P > 0.05$; A–C= $P < 0.001$; B–C= $P < 0.001$. $F = 15.946$

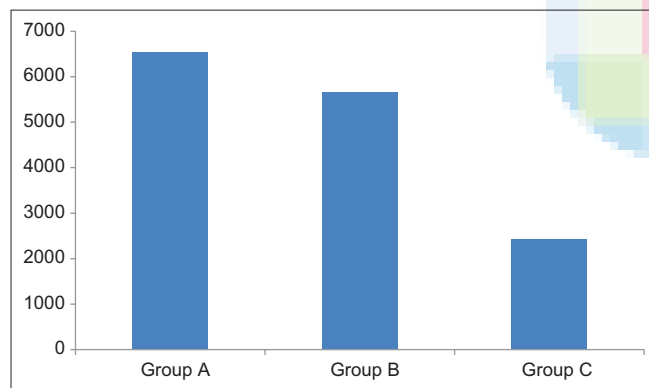


Figure 1: Mean microleakage values. Group A, Ketac Molar; Group B, Photac Fil; Group C, Dyract XP

had a nonsignificantly ($P < 0.05$) larger mean microleakage area than Group B (Tukey’s HSD test); [Table 3 and Figure 1].

DISCUSSION

Microleakage is an important determinant of the clinical life of a restorative material. *In vitro* microleakage detection tests are important for providing information about microleakage of restorative materials and the coverage of the material.^[1,20] Therefore, the microleakage properties of materials were investigated *in vitro* by the dye penetration method in this study. The

microleakage area of PMCR was significantly smaller than that of conventional GIC and RMGIC.

There is no consensus on the microleakage of PMCR, RMGIC, and conventional GIC.^[20-24] Microleakage resulting from shrinkage of the resins added to the structure in RMGIC and PMCR during polymerization is problematic.^[20,25] The bonding of RMGICs and conventional GICs to dental tissues through ion exchange may reduce microleakage.^[26,27]

In the comparative microleakage study performed by Balgi *et al.* with rhodamine B staining method between RMGIC and conventional GIC, no difference was observed.^[28] Furthermore, in our study, we did not observe any difference in microleakage between RMGIC and conventional GIC.

RMGIC exhibits less microleakage than PMCR.^[21,22] Similarly, PMCR exhibits greater microleakage than RMGIC and PMCR, likely due to the nonapplication of acid to the edges of the enamel and to shrinkage of the PMCR during polymerization.^[29]

However, other studies do not support the finding that RMGICs bind more strongly, in particular to dentin tissue, than PMCR. For example, Morabito and Defabianis^[23] reported that PMCR had superior edge fitting, esthetic, and mechanical properties than RMGIC. Similarly, Florita *et al.*^[30] found the least microleakage in the PMCR group in which acid and primer were applied together and the most microleakage in the RMGIC group. Xie *et al.*^[31] compared the microleakage values of flowable composite resin, PMCR, and conventional GIC in class V cavities in permanent premolar teeth. They reported that microleakage was greatest in the conventional GIC group.

The finding that PMCR exhibited less-than-expected microleakage despite its high resin content may be due to the strength of the micromechanical bond formed by acidification and adhesive agents.

The porous structure and microcracked surface of RMGIC enhance microleakage.^[7] In addition, air cavities remain in the restoration due to the lack of condensation of RMGICs, which are difficult to manipulate.^[23,26] Our data support the notion that the porous structure of RMGIC increases microleakage.

The materials applied in this study are frequently used in dentistry. However, we used a quantitative method rather than the more typical qualitative analysis.^[17] AutoCAD allows quantitative evaluation by volume addition^[18,19,32] and is a powerful tool.^[18,32,33]

In this study, primary teeth restorations using PMCR exhibited less microleakage than RMGIC and high-viscosity GIC restorations. In conclusion, PMCR

may be a useful restorative material for primary teeth in terms of minimizing microleakage.

Financial support and sponsorship

This study was supported by Dicle University Scientific Research Projects (project no. 13DH-19).

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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