

Effect of etching time and light sources on the shear bond strength of metal brackets to ceramic cylinders

Efeito do tempo de condicionamento e de fontes de luz na resistência ao cisalhamento de braquetes metálicos colados ao cilindro de cerâmica

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ABSTRACT

Objective

To evaluate the shear bond strength of brackets bonded to ceramic with Transbond XT resin, etching time intervals (1 and 2 minutes) and three Light sources (Xenon Plasma Arc, LED and Halogen Light), with and without silane.

Methods

In total, 12 feldspathic ceramic cylinders (15 mm x 20 mm), etched with 10% hydrofluoric acid were used. For light activation, the brackets were divided according to the light source to be used (n=15): LED UltraLume 5 (L); Apollo 95E plasma arc (AP) and Halogen light XL 2500 (H). After 24 h the samples were submitted to shear bond strength testing at crosshead speed of 0.5 mm/minute.

Results

The data were submitted to the analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the Tukey test (5%). Bond Strength: UltraLume 5 (11.4 ± 3.56 MPa) was superior to XL 2500 (9.12 ± 2.83 MPa) and Plasma Arc (5.11 ± 2.93 MPa) ($p < 0.05$). No difference was found between ceramic with silane (8.31 ± 4.17 MPa) and without silane (8.68 ± 3.86 MPa). Etching time of 2 minutes (9.13 ± 3.98 MPa) was superior to time of 1 minute (7.86 ± 3.96 MPa).

Conclusion

The results showed that LED was shown to be more efficient for polymerizing the material for Transbond XT bonding. The use of silane did not influence the bond strength values. The acid etching time of 2 minutes was more effective than that of 1 minute.

Indexing terms: Orthodontic brackets. Orthodontics. Shear strength.

RESUMO

Objetivo

Avaliar a resistência de união ao cisalhamento de braquetes colados à cerâmica com a resina Transbond XT nos tempos de condicionamento (1 e 2 minutos) e três fontes de Luz (Arco de Plasma e Xenônio, LED e Luz de lâmpada halógena), com e sem silano.

Métodos

Foram utilizados 12 cilindros de cerâmica feldspática (15 mm x 20 mm), condicionados com ácido fluorídrico 10%. Para a fotoativação, os braquetes foram separados de acordo com a fonte de luz a ser utilizada (n = 15): LED UltraLume 5 (L), arco de plasma Apollo 95E (AP) e luz de lâmpada halógena XL 2500 (H). Após 24 h, as amostras foram submetidas ao ensaio de resistência de união ao cisalhamento a velocidade de 0,5 mm/minuto.

Resultados

Os dados foram submetidos à Análise de Variância e ao teste de Tukey (5%). Resistência de união: Ultralume 5 ($11,24 \pm 3,56$ MPa) foi superior ao XL 2500 ($9,12 \pm 2,83$ MPa) e Arco de Plasma ($5,11 \pm 2,93$ MPa) ($p < 0,05$). Nenhuma diferença foi encontrada entre a cerâmica com silano ($8,31 \pm 4,17$ MPa) e sem silano ($8,68 \pm 3,86$ MPa). O tempo de condicionamento de 2 minutos ($9,13 \pm 3,98$ MPa) foi superior ao tempo de 1 minuto ($7,86 \pm 3,96$ MPa).

Conclusão

Os resultados mostraram que o LED mostrou-se mais eficiente para polimerizar o material para colagem Transbond XT. O uso do silano não influenciou os valores de resistência de união. O tempo de condicionamento ácido de 2 minutos foi mais efetivo que 1 minuto.

Termos de indexação: Braquetes ortodônticos. Ortodontia. Resistência ao cisalhamento.

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last few years, in addition to bonding to tooth enamel, there has been an increase in bonding to dental ceramics due to the high number of patients who have ceramic restorations. This has led to demanding that orthodontist have the capacity and knowledge of some methods for adequate bonding of brackets to this substrate¹.

Materials are bonded to ceramic surfaces after etching with hydrofluoric acid²⁻⁴. The use of hydrofluoric acid has not been shown to be efficient for creating retentions for bonding to Dental ceramics^{2-3,5}. However, with the aim of simplifying the techniques for the purpose of reducing the time necessary for the procedures, some professionals have varied the time of hydrofluoric acid application during the clinical procedure. For bracket bonding, little is known about the influence of etching time on the bond strength to ceramic. The literature has shown conflicting results, such as those of Barghi et al.⁶ and Shimada et al.⁷, who have shown that an increase in exposure time could reduce the bond strength. Whereas, Chen et al.⁸ and Güller et al.⁹ observed that by increasing the etching time, higher bond strength values to ceramic have been found.

Furthermore, it is important to consider the application of silane, a monomeric substance composed of reactive organic radicals and hydrolyzable monovalent groups on the ceramic surface. This procedure has made it possible to bond ceramic artificial teeth to the acrylic resin denture base of complete dental prostheses¹⁰⁻¹¹. Rosentiel et al.¹² have shown that silane increased the bond between glass ionomer cement and dental ceramic.

Another factor to be taken into consideration are the light activating appliances used for polymerizing the bonding material. In spite of quartz and tungsten halogen lamps having been the first to be used in Dentistry¹³, the light obtained with these appliances present a broad spectrum of emission, so that filters are needed to limit the emission spectrum between 400 and 500 nm. Recently, light emitting diode appliances (LED) have become popular, particularly due to their long useful life. They have a narrow light emission spectrum in comparison with the halogen lamp, ranging between 450 and 500 nm¹³.

In addition to the above-mentioned light sources, there are other appliances available for light activation, with different characteristics from those previously

mentioned, such as the plasma arc that emits light from a gaseous mixture of ionized molecules and electrons at high temperatures¹⁴⁻¹⁶. The light emitted by this appliance has high irradiance, and may reduce the time necessary for light activation of resin materials.

As the literature is inconclusive with regard to the time necessary for the arcs to be installed, or tied to the brackets, the aim of this study was to evaluate the shear bond strength of metal brackets bonded to dental ceramic with Transbond XT resin, after etching with hydrofluoric acid for 1 and 2 minutes, and light activated with Xenon Plasma Arc, LED and Halogen lamp light, either with or without silane application. After removal of the brackets, the Adhesive Remnant Index (ARI) was evaluated.

METHODS

Twelve feldspathic ceramic cylinders (Certec Advanced Ceramics, Barueri, Brazil), measuring 15 mm in diameter by 20 mm high were used in this study. The surfaces of all the cylinders were cleaned with pumice stone and water before the test. Six cylinders were etched with 10% hydrofluoric acid for 1 minute and six for 2 minutes (Dentsply Caulk, Milford, DE, USA). After etching, the surface was washed for 20 seconds and dried for 20 seconds. On half of the cylinders, 2 layers of the silanization agent RelyX Ceramic Primer (3M, ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA) were applied and dried for 10 seconds. The stainless steel Edgewise Standard brackets, slot 0,022" (Dental Morelli, Sorocaba, Brazil) were bonded to the ceramic cylinder surfaces using Transbond XT (3M Unitek, Monrovia, CA, USA), in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations (Chart 1).

The brackets were firmly placed on the ceramic surface. Excess resin cement was removed with a clinical probe, and irradiation was performed using one of the three light sources (Table 1). The irradiance emitted by each light source was checked with a power meter (Ophir Optronics Inc., Danvers, MA, USA) and the emission spectrum was obtained with the light spectrometer controlled by computer (USB 2000; Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA). After bracket bonding, the test specimens were stored in deionized water at 37°C for 24 hours. A total of 15 test specimens were fabricated for each type of light activating appliance, etching time and specimens with or without silane application, totaling 180 brackets bonded.

Chart 1. Division of the twelve groups (n=15) studied, according to light activating appliances, etching time and with or without silane application.

Groups	Light activating appliances	Etching time	Silane	Groups Abbrev.
1	XL 2500	1 minute	With	S1H
2	XL 2500	1 minute	Without	NS1H
3	LED - UltraLume 5	1 minute	With	S1L
4	LED - UltraLume 5	1 minute	Without	NS1L
5	Apollo 95E	1 minute	With	S1A
6	Apollo 95E	1 minute	Without	NS1A
7	XL 2500	2 minutes	With	S2H
8	XL 2500	2 minutes	Without	NS2H
9	LED - UltraLume 5	2 minutes	With	S2L
10	LED - UltraLume 5	2 minutes	Without	NS2L
11	Apollo 95E	2 minutes	With	S2H
12	Apollo 95E	2 minutes	Without	NS2H

Table 1. Characteristics of light activating appliances used in study

Appliance	Light Source	Irradiance	Energy Density	Manufacturer
XL 2500	Halogen Lamp	800 mW/cm ²	20 J/cm ²	3M ESPE
UltraLume 5	LED	1500 mW/cm ²	48 J/cm ²	Ultradent
Apollo 95E	Plasma arc	1200 mW/cm ²	12.4 J/cm ²	DMD

After the storage period, the ceramic cylinder was fixed to the bottom vise of the Instron universal mechanical test machine (Corp. Model 4411, Mass. (USA) The chisel-shaped active tip was adapted to the ceramic/bracket interface, fixed to the top mobile vise, and the shear bond strength test was performed at a compression speed of 0.5 mm/minute. The position of the set in the vises allowed the compression movement to be performed parallel to the ceramic cylinder, impressing the shear force on the ceramic/bracket interface, in an endeavor to simulate the force that normally occurs in the oral medium during the mechanical forces for tooth movement. The bond strength values were calculated in Mpa. The numerical bond strength values were submitted to two-way Analysis of Variance and Tukey tests ($P < 0.05$).

The adhesive remnant index (ARI) was evaluated at 40x magnification under a stereoscopic loupe (Carl Zeiss). The base of each bracket and the ceramic cylinder surface were observed, and the failure patterns classified in accordance with the scores of Pignatta et al.¹⁷: 1) all the adhesive on the tooth; 2) over 90% of the adhesive on the tooth; 3) over 10% and less than 90% of the adhesive on the tooth; 4) less than 10% of the adhesive on the tooth; and, 5) none of the adhesive on the tooth.

RESULTS

Statistical analysis showed that the factor light source was significant ($p < 0.001$), showing that the bond strength for UltraLume 5 (11.24 MPa) was significantly higher than it was for the XL 2500 (9.12 MPa) and Plasma Arc (5.11 MPa) appliances. The XL2500 appliance was significantly superior to the Plasma Arc appliance (Table 2). Figure 1 shows the emission spectrum of the 3 light sources. The XL 2500 and Plasma Arc light appliances showed a broad spectrum of light, while the UltraLume 5 (LED) showed a narrow peak of emission. The factor etching was significant ($p = 0.004$), with the samples etched for 2 minutes (9.13 MPa) presenting significantly higher values to those etched for 1 minute (7.86 MPa) (Table 3). The factor silane was not significant ($p = 0.344$). No statistical difference was observed between the surfaces that received silane application (8.31 MPa) and those without application (8.68 MPa) (Table 4). The results of the Adhesive Remnant Index (ARI) showed that there was a predominance of Score 5 (no residual resin on ceramic) for all the groups, except for Groups S1A, in which there was predominance of Score 1.

Table 2. Mean bond strength values (MPa) of brackets bonded to feldspathic ceramic, considering light source, irrespective of surface treatment and etching time.

Light Source	Bond Strength (MPa)	
UltraLume 5 (LED)	11.24 (3.56)	a
XL 2500 (Halogen light)	9.12 (2.83)	b
Plasma arc	5.11 (2.93)	c

Note: Different letters indicate statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$).
() Standard Deviation

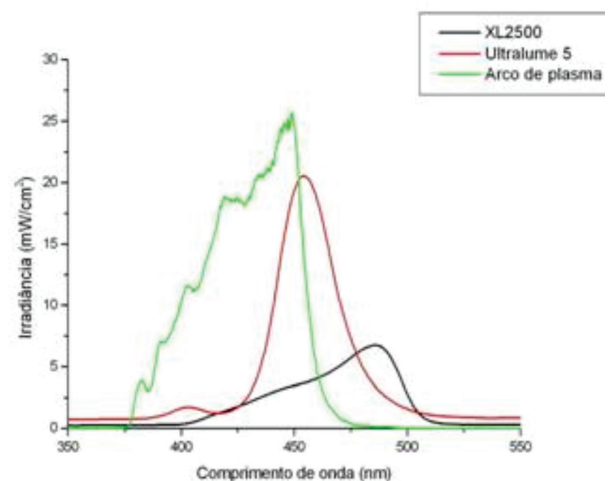
**Figure 1.** Emission spectra of different Light Sources

Table 3. Mean bond strength values (MPa) of brackets bonded to feldspathic ceramic, considering etching time, irrespective of use of silane or without silane, and light source (MPa).

Etching time	Bond Strength (MPa)	
1 minute	7.86 (3.96)	b
2 minutes	9.13 (3.98)	a

Note: Different letters indicate statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$). () Standard Deviation

Table 4. Mean bond strength values (MPa) of brackets bonded to feldspathic ceramic, considering use of silane and without silane use, irrespective of light source and acid etching time.

Treatment	Bond Strength (MPa)	
Silane	8.31 (4.17)	a
Without Silane	8.68 (3.86)	a

Note: Similar letters present no statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$). () Standard Deviation

DISCUSSION

The results of the study showed that the light source had a significant influence on the bond strength. Some studies have shown that for adequate polymerization of composites the supply of sufficient energy density is necessary¹⁸. Energy density is the product of irradiance by the time of exposure to light. The irradiances and emission spectra of light sources are described in Table 1 and Figure 1. The light activation time for LED and Halogen Lamp was 40 seconds, distributed into fractions of 10 seconds for each surface (mesial, distal, incisal and cervical). For the Xenon Plasma arc, the exposure time was 12 seconds, being divided into 3 seconds for each surface.

According to Thind et al.¹⁹ there was no significant difference in light activation of composites for bracket bonding using different light sources. However, among the appliances used in this study, the samples light activated with LED presented significantly higher bond strength values than those light activated with Halogen lamp and plasma arc (Table 2). The energy density values supplied by the Halogen lamp, LED and plasma arc were: 20J/cm², 48J/cm² and 14.4J/cm² respectively. Therefore, the best bond strength values may be related to the more effective polymerization of the samples light activated with LED, due to the higher energy density supplied by these appliances, followed by the Halogen lamp and plasma arc. The lower values of the plasma arc may be related to the lower energy density emitted by these appliances, producing composites with insufficient polymerization¹⁸. These results corroborate those from the study of Peutzfeldt et al.¹⁶ who found significant differences in light activation among different

light sources, with these results being related to the lower energy density of this light source. It has been suggested that minimum bond strength values to guarantee clinical success in bracket bonding should be between 6 and 8 MPa²⁰. In accordance with these requisites, the bond strength values obtained with plasma arc were below the recommended minimum. However, these values must not be taken as absolute reference, because they are not based on evidence, in spite of being frequently cited.

The use of silane before the cementation of indirect restorations^{4,21} or bracket bonding⁵ to ceramic surfaces is recommended as an essential factor to guarantee greater interaction between the ceramic and resin materials. The results of this study showed that there was no significant difference between the samples with and without silane application (Table 4) corroborating the results obtained by Peumans et al.,³ in which the application of silane and the hydrophobic adhesive had no significant effect on the bond strength. However, the bond strength results obtained after silanization must be interpreted with caution, because differences in composition, form of presentation and storage of silane may significantly influence the ceramic/composite bond²²⁻²³. Therefore, the conclusions with regard to the use of silane must not be generalized for all types of silane. Nevertheless, they must be a questionable part during the treatment of ceramics before being bonded to composites³.

Whereas, the etching time with hydrofluoric acid had a significant influence on bond strength. The results showed that the etching time of 2 minutes was significantly superior to that of 1 minute (Table 3). In 1998, Chen et. al.⁸ verified that the increase in acid etching time in ceramics from 0 to 2 minutes, increased the bond strength values between resin and ceramic. This increase in bond strength values corresponds to the microstructural changes in the ceramic surface promoted by the longer time of acid etching⁸. According to Yen et al.²³, the hydrofluoric acid reacts preferentially with the silica of feldspathic ceramic, forming hexafluorosilicates, promoting demineralization of the ceramic surface and the formation of microretentions. In addition to the reaction with the silica of feldspathic ceramic, the acid attacks the vitreous phase of the material, exposing areas of crystals and creating micropores²³. The increase in etching time, within a certain limit, promotes greater contact surface between the adhesive and ceramic material, improving the interlocking between the materials. Moreover, it is worth emphasizing that acid etching of ceramic depends on the leucite content of the ceramic, as well as the

type of etching used. According to Barghi et al.⁶, the acid etching time of ceramic depends on the presence of additional leucite crystals. However, very long etching times with hydrofluoric acid may promote the formation of deep channels, pores and precipitates on the ceramic surface, reducing the cohesive strength of the ceramic and harming the interaction with other materials²⁴.

Thus, as observed in this study, the use of LED with higher irradiance must be recommended to guarantee greater effectiveness of polymerization of resin materials, in addition to etching with hydrofluoric acid for 2 minutes, because it is more effective. On the other hand, these results did not take into consideration the effect of storage time and thermal alterations in the bonding of resin materials to ceramic. Therefore, additional clinical and laboratory studies are necessary to complement the results of this study.

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CONCLUSION

Within the limitations of this study, analysis of the results allowed one to conclude that LED was shown to be more efficient for polymerizing the material for bonding with Transbond XT. The use of silane did not influence the bond strength values, and the acid etching time of 2 minutes was more effective than that of 1 minute. Analysis of the Adhesive Remnant Index showed predominance of Score 5.

Collaborators

MR PIAIA, AR COSTA, AB CORRER, L CORRER-SOBRINHO, IU GARBUI and PRA NOUER participated in all the stages of writing the article.

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