

Effect of Various Veneering Techniques on Bond Strength and Colour Stability of Zirconia / Veneering Ceramic after Hydrothermal Aging

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this in-vitro study was to compare the colour stability and bond strength of zirconia-based ceramic restorations after hydrothermal aging using conventional layering, heat-pressing, and multilayer veneering techniques.

METHODS

One hundred twenty specimens' core (15 x 10 x 0.7) was fabricated from A2-shade zirconia CAD-CAM blocks (IPS e.max ZirCAD). Specimens were divided into 4 groups for veneering (N = 30): [(layering group (L), IPS e.max ceram), (heat – pressing group (P), IPS press), and multilayer group, IPS e max Cad for 2 different types of cement (cemented with RelyX U200 (M1) and PANAVIA SA (M2))]. Aging was performed for (5 - 55°C, 5000). Colour coordinates before and after aging were measured to calculate colour differences (ΔE_{00}). The shear bond strength test was performed with a universal test unit. The data were analysed using the analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's Honest Significant Difference test ($\alpha = 0.05$).

RESULTS

Significant differences were found between the groups in bond strength ($P < 0.001$). Group M1 had the highest bond strength while Group L had the lowest bond strength. In terms of ΔE_{00} values, there were significant variations between the groups ($P < 0.001$). Group M1 had the highest colour stability, while Group M2 had the lowest colour stability.

CONCLUSIONS

The method of fabrication had an impact on the power of the bond between veneering ceramic and zirconia, as well as its colour stability. The restoration fabricated by a multilayer technique was cemented by resin cement (Rely X U200 Automix) which was found to be more resistant and colour stable.

KEY WORDS

Veneers, Heat-Press Technique, Bond Strength, Colour Different, Hydrothermal Aging.

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BACKGROUND

The production of many dental ceramics based on CAD / CAM technology¹ has resulted from an increase in aesthetic demand and long-term restoration prospects. For CAD / CAM restorations, dental ceramics are becoming increasingly popular.^{2,3,4} particularly, yttria partially stabilized tetragonal zirconia polycrystalline (Y - TZP), because of its metastatic phase transition, which can improve fracture durability and strength.^{4,5} Y - TZP is opaque and can be veneered with feldspathic ceramic to look like natural teeth.^{6,7} However, the major problems of these types of ceramic restorations are chipping and delamination.³

Zirconia blocks are chalk white with limited translucency. To improve colour match, zirconia cores can be veneered and coloured with feldspathic ceramic. The typical failure of a veneer restoration is known as chipping of the zirconia veneer interface. This fracture pattern is associated with different veneering techniques, repeated firing, inhomogeneous ceramic layers⁷, mismatch in the coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE).⁷⁻¹¹

The veneering restoration has been layered according to the conventional fabrication process of the zirconia-ceramic technique.¹¹ Recently heat-pressing techniques and CAD-on or multilayer techniques^{12,13} by CAD / CAM technology¹⁹ have advanced for fabricated veneer ceramic restorations.¹¹ These techniques are advantageous than the layering technique because it offers high speed, accuracy, and colour stability.¹⁰⁻¹³ Furthermore, shrinkage-related issues are eliminated, as are the effects of future sintering procedures.^{11,14-16}

The optical properties of zirconia do not have desired aesthetics.^{17,18} To improve the optical behaviour of zirconia, additive, and colouring techniques have been proposed.¹⁹ Colouring of ceramics or glazes is common due to the dispersion of mineral pigments formed from crystalline phases. As a result, these crystal levels require structural and chemical stability, but they do dissolve during firing at high temperatures above 1200° C and hydrothermal, colour stability pigments may change.¹⁹⁻²⁴

On the other hand, white zirconia, retains its colour properties after accelerated aging protocols, whereas in case of coloured zirconia's, colour properties may be altered due to hydrothermal degradation, causing it to become darker, redder, more yellow, and more opaque.²⁵⁻³¹

Previous studies have reported that the effect of thermocycling can occur as a result of the repetitive contraction and expansion stresses caused by the different thermal coefficients of the restorative materials, that reduces the bond strength of the restoration.²⁴⁻²⁹ Also, the properties in ceramic materials may be altered due to hydrothermal degradation and cause a change in colour stability.^{25,26}

Macro tensile and micro tensile tests have been used to measure bond strength.²⁸ The micro tensile test has been preferred for offering a more uniform stress distribution at the bonded surface.²⁸ The strength of the macro-SBS bond The test is simple and quick, and there is no need to prepare additional specimens after transplantation. However, macro -SBS has drawbacks, such as uneven stress distribution across the interface.³¹ Knowledge about the efficiency of the multilayer technique aided by the CAD / CAM technology bonded, and with the resin cement is limited.

Objectives

The purpose of this in-vitro study was to compare the colour stability and bond strength of zirconia-based ceramic restorations after hydrothermal aging using conventional layering, heat-pressing, and multilayer veneering techniques. The null hypothesis stated that different veneering techniques did not affect the colour stability and bond strength of zirconia-based ceramic restorations.

METHODS

The study was conducted in the Department of Prosthodontics, University of Ondokuz mayis, Samsun, Turkey. It was an experimental randomized control trial. Study period was from 17 Jan 2019 to 23 May 2019. The study was approved by the institutional Ethical board of the Department of Prosthodontics, Samsun, Turkey.

One hundred twenty specimens (18 x 12 x 0.85 mm) of zirconia blocks according to in ~20 % shrinkage was sliced from pre-sintered CAD - CAM blocks (IPS e.max ZirCAD) using a slow-speed diamond saw (ISOMET, Buehler Ltd, Lake Bluff, IL USA) under running water. The final measurement was (15 x 12 x 0.7 mm). A digital caliper was used to measure the thickness of each specimen (Model Absolute Digimatic Caliper; Mitutoyo Corp, Japan). Following sintering, all specimens were abraded with airborne particles (Korox 50, BEGO, and Bremen, Germany) for 15 seconds from a distance of approximately 10 mm, using 50 µm aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) particles at 2.5 bar. The specimens were then ultrasonically cleaned in distilled water for 10 minutes before being air-dried.

The zirconia specimens were divided into 3 groups for various veneering techniques. layering technique group (L, N = 30), heat-press technique group (P, N = 30), and multi-layered technique Group (M, N = 60). The colour for all veneer ceramics was A2 according to VITA - shade scala . A thin layer (0.1 mm) of ceramic liner (ZL1 IPS e.max Ceram ZirLiner; Ivoclar, Vivadent) was applied to the veneering surface of 60 zirconia specimens and sintered according to the manufacturer's instructions for groups L and P.

In Group L, A vinylpolysiloxane putty mold (Elite HD +, Zhermack SpA, Badia Polesine, Italy) (8 x 6 x 1mm) was used, which was veneered using the conventional layering technique. Ceramic powder (A2 / TI1 IPS e.max Ceram) and the build-up liquid was mixed and applied to the hole on the ceramic liner's surface, which was ~0.5 mm in thickness. The excess moisture was removed with absorbent paper to reduce porosity after the vibration for condensation, and the silicone mold was carefully removed. Then, the ceramic was sintered (Programat P310; Ivoclar, Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein) at 750° C for 1 min. To compensate for the peripheral shrinkage of the porcelain, the veneering ceramic was applied in two layers. After the second application of porcelain, the second firing was carried out in the same manner as the first.

In Group P, A vinylpolysiloxane putty mold was used to create thirty wax patterns (8 x 6 x 1mm) on the ceramic liner sheet that were invested with a proprietary investment material (IPS PressVEST Speed Investment; Ivoclar, Vivadent) and hot-pressed with ceramic ingots (LT A2 IPS e.max Press Refill Ingots; Ivoclar, Vivadent) at 925 °C for 20 min under a

pressure of 4.5 bar in the furnace (Empress EP500; Ivoclar, Vivadent).

For all specimens of L and P group the upper side of the veneering ceramics were ground with aluminum oxide papers (#240,400,600). Finally, glaze (Initial Glaze Powder; GC) was applied and was fired for 12 minutes at 710 °C in a furnace (Programat P310; Ivoclar, Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein).

In M1 and M2 Groups, sixty rectangular lithium disilicate ceramic (IPS e.max CAD Refill; Ivoclar, Vivadent) superstructure with a final dimension of (8 x 6 x 1mm) were prepared by using a slow-speed diamond saw (ISOMET, Buehler Ltd, Lake Bluff, IL USA) and were sintered in a high-temperature sintering furnace (In Fire HTC Speed; Sirona) at 1581 °C for 86 min by the manufacturer's instructions. Then, the glazing procedure was performed.

The inner surfaces of the lithium disilicate ceramic superstructures were etched with 9.5 % hydrofluoric acid (Porcelain Etchant Gel, Bisco, Schaumburg, USA) for 20 s, then rinsed with water for 60 s and air-dried. After the etching procedure, a silane coupling agent (Pre-Hydrolyzed Silane Primer; Bisco, Schaumburg, USA) was applied to the treated surfaces and then dried. On the other hand, the inner surface of the 60 zirconia specimens which were roughened by the airborne particle abrasion, were treated with zirconium-oxide ceramic primer (Z-primer; Bisco, Schaumburg, USA).

In groups, M1 and M2 the ceramic superstructures were cemented with different resin cement (M1: RelyX U200 Automix; 3M ESPE M2: PANA VIA SA; Cement Plus Automix Kuraray, Japan). Resin cement was dispensed from the Automix syringe and the desired amount was applied directly onto the treated surface of the superstructures. The lower and upper structures were fixed under a manual dynamometer with a constant force of 50 Newtons for 10 min and were polymerized with a light-curing unit (ELIPAR S10, 3M ESPE, Seefeld, Germany) with an output of 1200 mW / cm² for 3 s. After cleaning the excess resin cement carefully, the specimens were polymerized for 20 s on all surfaces.

Under a regular illuminant (D65) (Master TL-D Super 80 18W / 865 1SL; Philips), the colour coordinates of all specimens were determined using the CIE Lab colour scale on a neutral gray background³⁵ by making use of a spectroradiometer³⁶ (SpectraScan PR - 704; Photo Research). A saturated sucrose solution with an approximate refractive index of 1.5 was used between the specimens and the background and the colour data were recorded (L1*, a1*, b1*).³⁵

The aging process of all specimens was performed by thermocycling in a distilled water for 5000 cycles between 5°C and 55 ± 2°C on a thermal cycler (Dentester Solubris Technica). The dwelling time of each temperature was 30 s, and the transfer time was 10 s.

The colour differences after thermal aging were calculated by using CIEDE2000 (ΔE_{00}) colour difference formula.³⁷

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta L'}{K_L S_L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta C'}{K_C S_C}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta H'}{K_H S_H}\right)^2 + R_T \left(\frac{\Delta C'}{K_C S_C}\right) \left(\frac{\Delta H'}{K_H S_H}\right)}$$

The CIEDE2000 colour difference formula's parametric factors were set to 1.³⁷ $\Delta E_{00} \leq 1.30$ was considered as the perceptibility, and $\Delta E_{00} > 2.25$ as the acceptability threshold.³⁸

Acrylic resin (3 x 3 cm) (Meliodent; Kulzer, Hanau, Germany) was used to embed all the specimens. The macro-SBS test was then performed on a universal testing machine (M500 – 25 KN; Testometric) at a crosshead speed of 1 mm / min until fracture occurred.

The failure mode of all specimens after the macro-SBS test was examined by using a field emission scanning electron microscopy (SEM; JSM-840A 6335 F, Jeol, Japan) at a magnification of ×50.

Statistical Analysis

The data were statistically analysed using IBM SPSS V23 (IBM Corp.). The mean SBS values were analysed by Variance (ANOVA) and sample t-test (for all tests).

RESULTS

One-way ANOVA indicated that veneering technique affected the bond strength and colour change within the ceramic veneer to zirconia ($P < 0.001$) (Table 1 and 2). Two-way ANOVA indicated that hydrothermal aging affected the colour change within the ceramic veneer to zirconia ($P < 0.001$) (Table 3). The higher bond strength values were obtained for Group M1 (26.45) and the lower bond strength values for L Group (22.59). No significant differences were found between the groups L and P, also for the M1 and M2 Groups.

The lower ΔE_{00} values were found for M1 Group (0.65) and the higher ΔE_{00} values were found for Group L (1.35). No significant differences were found between the P, M1, and M2 Groups. The ΔE_{00} values of all groups were below clinically acceptable thresholds ($\Delta E_{00} \leq 2.25$). The ΔE_{00} values of Group M1, M2, and P were imperceptible and clinically acceptable ($\Delta E_{00} \geq 1.30$).

The failure mode of all specimens after the macro-SBS test was adhesive failures.

Group	Mean ± SD	Test statistics	P
Group L	20.59 ± 1.11 ^a	T = 153.244	< 0.001
Group P	24.98 ± 0.90 ^a		
Group M1	26.45 ± 1.25 ^b		
Group M2	25.52 ± 0.85 ^b		

Table 1. One-Way ANOVA for the Effect of Veneering Technique on Bond Strength

Same superscript letters indicate no significant difference

Group	Mean ± SD	Test Statistics	P
Group L	1.35 ± 0.54 ^a	T = 42.461	< 0.001
Group P	1.10 ± 0.98 ^b		
Group M1	1 ± 1.4 ^b		
Group M2	0.60 ± 1.21 ^b		

Table 2. One-Way ANOVA for the Effect of Veneering Technique on ΔE_{00}

Same superscript letters indicated no significant difference

Parameter	df	F	P
Veneering technique	3	65.91	< 0.001
Aging	3	6.89	< 0.001
Veneering techniques x aging	3	13.59	< 0.001

Table 3. Two-Way ANOVA after Hydrothermal Aging on Colour Stability

DISCUSSION

In the present study, because different veneering techniques had effects on the bond strength and colour change of ceramic veneer to zirconia after hydrothermal aging, the null hypotheses were rejected ($P < 0.001$). In a previous study, it was recently reported that the heat-pressing group showed higher bond strength than the layering group, and this result was explained by the differences in the substructure and superstructure combination.¹⁵ Also, Lopez Molla et al. compared bond strength after layering and -pressing veneering ceramics to the zirconia core, and they stated that the heat-pressing group showed higher bond strength than layering group.³⁰ In Group L and P, the thickness of the ceramic liner was ~ 0.1 mm, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Another research invested into the impact of the thickness of the ceramic liner on the bond strength of zirconia and veneering ceramic, concluding that 0.1 mm thickness of ceramic liner application decreased the bond strength when compared to 0.2 mm thickness of ceramic liner application group and to the control group which had no treatment.¹⁷ Also, Ereifej et al.³⁹ reported that layering the veneering ceramic on zirconia cores resulted in lower bond strength due to the liner material's inadequate wettability on the zirconia surface.

In another study, the fracture resistance of all-ceramic first molar crowns with Y - TZP infrastructures was compared using three different veneering techniques (layering, press-on, and multi-layered). Multi-layered restorations made from CAD / CAM blocks also had significantly higher fracture strength values, according to the report.³¹

Previous studies reported that CAD / CAM veneers cemented to zirconia showed lower fracture strength than the layering technique.^{3,10} Additionally, in another study the bond strength between the zirconia core and veneers fabricated by different techniques, were compared. Furthermore, it was reported that the lower bond strength values were obtained with the CAD / CAM veneers cemented to zirconia specimens without any surface treatment when compared to the layering technique and the groups treated with different surface treatment and fused with fusion porcelain.¹⁵ The variations in the physical properties of the bi-layered and multi-layered ceramics under mechanical load were used to explain this result. The crack propagation and mechanical behaviour of the layered structure are influenced by interfacial properties and variations in the elastic modulus of the materials.¹² The rigid zirconia's supportive impact on the brittle veneering ceramic may have been reduced due to the resin cement's lower elastic modulus.³⁹ However, for the porcelain-based crowns, it is well known that using resin cement to blunt the defects of ceramic restorations can improve fracture resistance.⁴⁰ Additionally, resin cement type can affect the bond strength of the two different surfaces or materials. There is no universal resin cement presented yet, which can be applied in all restorative procedures, therefore clinicians should know the applied resin cement properties, such as water sorption, bond strength, polymerization shrinkage, and application procedures, etc. For this reason, these properties were investigated by the previous study, and they can affect the bond strength of veneering ceramic to zirconia core.⁴¹ Previous studies investigated the effect of various veneering techniques on the bond strengths of zirconia-based ceramic restorations.^{11,15,21,39}

It has been reported that the multilayer technique, in which the zirconia core and the veneering ceramic were bonded using a fusion glass-ceramic, showed higher strength values than layering and heat-pressing techniques.¹² Especially, previous studies have used a fusion glass-ceramic as a bonding agent for the multilayer technique.^{12,13}

The number and size of flaws in a ceramic restoration are linked to the materials and fabrication process. The CAD-CAM veneering method was expected to have the fewest defects due to its straightforward process and low number of firings.^{21,41} In this study also the higher bond strength was obtained with Group M1 that had a minimal firing procedure. However, when the two multilayer groups' bond strength was evaluated, no significant difference was found between them. The bond strength of M1 (Rely X U200) and M2 (Panavia SA) cement groups were 26.45 ± 1.25 MPa and 25.52 ± 0.85 MPa respectively. Therefore, this result showed that the self-adhesive resin cement used for bonding veneering ceramic to zirconia may affect the bond strength.

The colour stability of dental ceramic materials is also significant. Metal oxide pigments and a small amount of zirconia core materials are applied to the porcelain. Pigment sedimentation alters the material's optical properties, resulting in colour shifts and variations. These adjustments can make achieving the desired colour stability more difficult.²² Previous studies in which the effects of thermocycling and accelerated aging on the colour of ceramic restorations were investigated, states that thermocycling affects the final colour of the restorations, similar to the results of the present study.²⁴⁻²⁷ The automatic transformation of the tetragonal to ZrO₂ process to monoclinic caused by hydrothermal aging modified the optical and chemistry of grain boundaries.³⁴ Additionally, the authors reported that the effect of pore population and pore size as low as 0.05 % may decrease tolerance to LTD by facilitating the diffusion of water cause of light scattering in zirconia and colour stability.²⁰

In the present study, after thermocycling, significant differences were found between the groups ($P < .001$). The lower ΔE_{00} values were obtained with Group M1 (0.65 ± 1.21) and the higher ΔE_{00} values were obtained with Group L (1.35 ± 0.54). The colour and translucency of the substance changes as the sintering progresses.²⁰ When the Y-TZP is fired under controlled conditions or sintering is done in a low-reaction setting, oxygen vacancies form.²⁰

This difference may be because of the pores on the surface of the ceramic, which may decrease the amount of light returned.

CONCLUSIONS

Within the limitations of this in vitro study, the following conclusions were drawn -

1. The veneering technique affected the colour change and bond strength of veneering ceramic to zirconia after thermocycling.
2. Layering technique which requires multiple applications and firing cycles showed lower bond strength and colour stability values.
3. Multilayer technique groups, in which the two components of the restoration are bonded by a resin

cement, showed higher bond strength and colour stability values.

Data sharing statement provided by the authors is available with the full text of this article at jemds.com.

Financial or other competing interests: None.

Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available with the full text of this article at jemds.com.

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