

## MICROLEAKAGE OF A SELF-ADHESIVE RESIN CEMENT AFTER POST CEMENTATION

Veridiana Camilotti, Admilton Fritsche Consalter, Max Dobrovolsk, Virginia Bosquirolli, Priscila R.D. Busato, Marcio J. Mendonça

Operative Dentistry and Prosthodontics Area, Dental School, Western Paraná State University, Brazil

### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to evaluate the microleakage a self-adhesive cement recently marketed Rely X U100 (3M ESPE). Thirty roots of bovine teeth with 14 mm long were restored with self-adhesive cement and Glassix fiber post DC3 (FGM). Roots were randomly divided into three groups (n=10) according to the technique of placement of the cementing agent: G1 – Centrix syringe; G2 – Lentulo drill and G3 – Manual technical. After cementation, provisional restorations were fabricated with composite resin (Opallis/FGM) without the use adhesive system. After they were finished, polished and thermo cycled by 1000 cycles, in water at temperature of 5°C and 55°C, 30 seconds in each bath. For microleakage test each group of roots was immersed in recip-

ients with Rodhamine B dye solution buffered at 2%, during 24 hours. After this time, the samples were washed in tap water, sectioned and evaluation of dye leakage. The values of infiltration were obtained by the qualitative method (scoring) and statistical analysis using Kruskal-Wallis test and also by the quantitative method (Image Tool) and statistical analysis using ANOVA one way. For both tests, no significant difference between the techniques of placement of the self-adhesive cement. Based on these findings, micro-infiltration was present in all groups, and the placement technique did not influence the degree of micro-leakage, both for the qualitative analysis as to the quantitative.

Key words: Dental cements, tooth root, dental leakage.

## MICRO-INFILTRAÇÃO MARGINAL DE UM CIMENTO RESINOSO AUTO-ADESIVO

### RESUMO

O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar a capacidade de selamento marginal do cimento resinoso auto-adesivo Rely X U100 / 3M ESPE, recentemente introduzido no mercado. Trinta raízes de dentes bovinos com 14 mm de comprimento foram restauradas com cimento resinoso auto-adesivo e pinos pré-fabricados de fibra de vidro DC3 (Fiber post/ FGM). As raízes foram aleatoriamente divididas em três grupos (n=10) de acordo com a técnica de inserção do agente de cimentação: G1 - Broca lentulo; G2 - Seringa Centrix e G3 - Técnica Manual. Após a cimentação, foram confeccionadas restaurações provisórias com resina composta (Opallis DA2/FGM) sem utilização de sistema adesivo. As raízes foram impermeabilizadas com esmalte de unha azul, deixando exposta a linha de união resina/dente. Em seguida, foram submetidas à ciclagem térmica com 1000 ciclos entre 50 e 55°C. Para o teste de

micro-infiltração, as raízes foram armazenadas em solução de corante Rodhamina B por 24 horas. Após este período, as raízes foram limpas e seccionadas no sentido longitudinal para avaliação da infiltração do corante. Os valores da infiltração foram obtidos pelo método qualitativo (escores) e a análise estatística foi realizada através do teste Kruskal-Wallis e também pelo método quantitativo (Image Tool®) e a análise estatística realizada pelo teste ANOVA (one-way). Para ambas as análises, não houve diferença significativa entre as técnicas de inserção do cimento resinoso auto-adesivo. Com base nos achados, a micro-infiltração esteve presente em todos os grupos avaliados, e a técnica de inserção não influenciou o grau de micro-infiltração marginal, tanto para a análise qualitativa como para a quantitativa.

Palavras-chaves: Cimento resinoso, raiz dental, Micro-infiltração.

### INTRODUCTION

At present, aesthetic restorations of endodontically treated teeth has been a great challenge in odontological clinical practices. Great coronary destructions frequently require the use of intraradicular dowels for better fixation of restoring material, as well as for a better dissipation of forces during mastication<sup>1</sup>.

Cementation procedures represent an important step for the use of intraradicular dowels in clinical practice. Different resinous cement agents are available on the marketplace. They have recently been classi-

fied into two groups, according to the mode of preparation of dentin, prior to cementation<sup>2</sup>. A (conventional) group uses acid etching and an adhesive system for the preparation of both enamel and dentin. The other group is made up of cementation agents recently introduced in the odontological market and are known as self-adhesive resinous cements. These materials were designed for making up for some deficiencies in conventional resinous cements and glass-ionomer cements, as well as for adding some positive features to these different cements to combine them into one single product.

The formulation of self-adhesive resinous cements includes a combination of components of glass-ionomer and of conventional resinous cement<sup>3</sup>. Consequently, it is possible to obtain a chemical bonding in the dental substrate without previously having to resort to the hybridization technique with an adhesive system. Adhesion of self-adhesive cements is based on an acid monomer (methacrylate esters of phosphoric acid) capable of demineralizing and seeping into dentin, resulting in mechanical retention. There may also be a chemical reaction of the phosphate radical with the hydroxyapatite of tooth tissues with the vitreous particles of fluorine-aluminosilicate<sup>4</sup>. During chemical reactions, water is formed, which helps in the neutralization of the reaction itself, increasing pH from 1.0 to 6.0. The polymerization reaction of the material takes place via free radicals and can be triggered off by exposing it to visible light or via the oxy-reduction mechanism<sup>3</sup>. It is important to underscore that the process of non-internal adhesion of the radicular canal involves great technical sensitivity and that the radicular morphology has differences regarding the coronary dentin. This makes adhesion become a differentiated process on many occasions. All these considerations are relevant considering the large number of problems that may bring about failure of the final restoration. Thus, due to the short number of steps required, self-adhesive cements are an alternative for dowel cementation practices<sup>2,5</sup>.

Besides the type of resinous cement, marginal sealing between radicular walls, dowel and cement agent has also been the focus of multiple research studies as failures in marginal sealing might jeopardize the marginal integrity and the durability of the Odontological clinical procedure<sup>5-7</sup>. In this regard, it is important to watch the forms of placement of the resinous cement, as they can affect the sealing of dowel-cement-radicular dentin, and cause marginal leakage all over the adhesive interface<sup>8</sup>. The most common forms of transferring cementation into the radicular canal are by using a lentulo bur, with a centrix syringe or applying the cement onto the post surface<sup>9</sup>.

Thus, the purpose of this *in vitro* research is to make a qualitative and a quantitative comparison of the degree of marginal microleakage between the walls of the radicular canal, the cement and the dowel, by using placement techniques of a self-adhesive resinous cement.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Teeth Preparation

Thirty bovine incisors were selected. The inclusion criteria for each tooth were as follows: having a minimum length of 14 mm. No curves and cracks on the surface. After the teeth were selected, they were kept in saline solution at room temperature. The crown of each tooth was separated from the root through a perpendicular section along the long axis of the tooth at the cement enamel junction by means of a j. dandy disk mounted on the micromotor assembly under abundant refrigeration conditions. With the removal of the coronary portion, direct access to the radicular canal was obtained. The biomechanical preparation of the radicular canal was done by manual technique, and by using Kerr & Hedstron files. As irrigation agents, sodium hypochlorite solution at 5% and EDTA at 17% were used. After preparation, the canal was stopped by means of lateral condensation with gutta-percha and cement filler Sealer 26 (Dentsply).

### Cementation of Prefabricated Dowels

Twenty-four hours after stopping of the canals, the radicular canal was prepared with burs Length # 2 and 3 (Maillefer/Caulk/Dentsply<sup>®</sup>) with a depth of 10 mm, and a remaining 4 mm apical sealant with gutta-percha. The length of each dowel measured 10 mm inside the radicular canal and was cut at 3 mm above the cement enamel junction. The jutting portion of the dowel was sectioned with a diamond instrument # 1014 (KG Sorensen) prior to the cementation procedure. All the dowels were cemented with Rely X U100/3M ESPE as cementation agent, as per manufacturer's instructions. The teeth were rinsed with saline solution and dried with absorbent paper. Immediately after this, a portion of the cement was set on a glass dish and was left to agglutinate for 10 seconds. Then, the teeth were randomly assigned to three groups, according to the placement technique to be used: G1 – Lentulo Bur; G2 – Centrix Syringe, and G3 – Manual Technique. After placement of self-adhesive resinous cement, the fiberglass dowel was set into the radicular canal. The excess of cement was removed with a disposable brush. The cement was photo activated for 40 seconds. (LED Freelight 2/3M ESPE with 800 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) directly on the root cervical face. All the cementation procedures were undertaken by the same operator. Immediately afterwards, the teeth were temporarily restored with com-

posite resin (Opallis A2/FGM) with no adhesive procedure and were photo activated for 40 seconds. Thirty minutes after the cementation procedure, the roots were kept in saline solution at 37°C, for seven days. Teeth were thermocycled for 1,000 cycles between 5 and 55°C (MSCT/São Carlos), and a dwelling time of 30 seconds.

### Marginal Microleakage Tests

All the roots had their apexes sealed with sticky wax and were externally waterproofed with a layer of fluid resin (Araldite) and two layers of regular nail enamel (Blue) up to 1 mm from the edge of the restoration. Immediately after this, they were immersed in a solution of Rodhamine B at 2% at room temperature for 24 hours. After the dye was removed, the teeth were sectioned with parallel sectioning along their long axis, and their halves were analyzed by qualitative and quantitative methods.

### Qualitative Analysis of the Marginal Microleakage

The qualitative analysis of leakage of the dye was undertaken by means of three gauged testers. For the assessment, the portion of the root with a highest degree of infiltration was selected. The penetration of the dye throughout the tooth-cement-dowel interface was measured by means of a scoring method (Table 1). The microleakage was analyzed in the cervical third, the middle third and the apical third of each root.

After sectioning of all the roots, a picture of each root was taken with a digital camera, Canon Rebel XT, on a tripod, with a 3 X optical zoom, 100 macro lens, to decrease the distance between lens/object. All the images were taken under the same lighting conditions

and with a ruler in mm close to the apical portion of the roots. These images were transferred to a digital archive and the leakages were measured using the Image Tool® program. This software enables magnifying an image by 2X, 4X, and 8X. After magnifying an image by 4 X, pixels (units or points that make up an image) become too obvious and thus jeopardize the quality of the image. Hence, magnifying images by 8X is limited to situations where there may be doubts regarding the dye markings and when gauging the program. The gauging of the program was undertaken to determine an equivalence between a given amount of pixels and a given distance, thus enabling the conversion of a stroke seen on a screen into a definite metric unit. For this, images were zoomed in to the maximum level and marked with lines with the help of the software. One line was equivalent to the space between two lines in the ruler, that is, one millimeter. Thus, all measures that were taken were given in millimeters. For this procedure, the portion of the root with the highest degree of infiltration was selected.

## RESULTS

### Qualitative Analysis

The values of the scores that were obtained (Table 2 and Fig. 1) were subjected to the Kruskal-Wallis statistical analysis test ( $p < 0.05$ ). It was possible to determine that there were no statistical differences between the cement placement techniques under analysis.

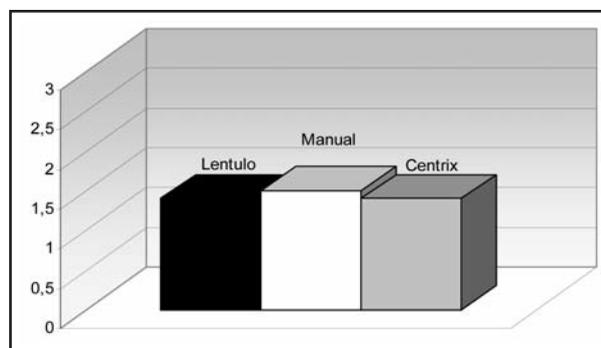
Marginal microleakage measures obtained via Image Tool® were statistically analyzed by ANOVA test (one-way), with a 95% degree of confidence. Such values are detailed in Table 3 and Fig. 2. It was possible to find out that there had been no statistically significant differences among the manners of placement of the self-adhesive resinous cement.

**Table 1: Description of the Scores.**

Score	Description
0	Absence of Microleakage
1	Leakage smaller than the middle third
2	Leakage beyond the middle third
3	Dye leakage in the entire root

**Table 2: Microleakage U100 Scores.**

Score	0	1	2	3	Total
G1	0	6	4	0	10
G2	1	5	2	2	10
G3	1	5	3	1	10



*Fig. 1: Graphic representation of resulting scores ( $p < 0.1659$ ).*

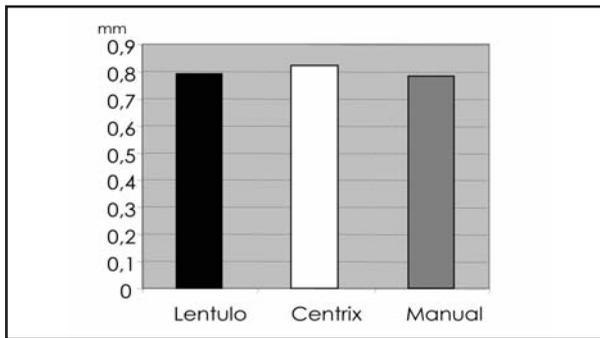


Fig. 2: Graphic representation of Microleakage Values (mm).

## DISCUSSION

Knowledge about materials prescribed for aesthetic dowel cementation is crucial for avoiding problems related to incompatibility and for increasing the clinical life of this type of adhesive restorations. All cements currently available on the marketplace have limitations, which must be taken into account at the moment of picking one cement<sup>10</sup>. The higher the number of steps required for a cementation procedure, the higher the chances of error during the relevant procedure. Thus, for this study, a self-adhesive resinous cement was selected due to the small number of steps required for the procedure, which significantly decreases the percentage of clinical failure<sup>11</sup>. Aiming at decreasing the presence of marginal microleakage, the use of adhesive materials is becoming increasingly frequent<sup>12</sup>. Microleakage may be defined as the passage of bacteria, fluids, molecules and ions from the wall of the cavity to the material used for restoration<sup>13, 14</sup>. There are several ways of demonstrating that there is presence of marginal microleakage by using radiation-marked microorganisms, chemical tracers, compressed air, SEM markers and, the most common one, organic dyes<sup>15, 16</sup>.

Apart from their low cost, organic dyes, like the one used in this study, are the oldest methods for spotting marginal infiltration *in vitro* without need of chemical reaction or radiation, as is the case with chemical tracers. Yet, among their disadvantages, there is subjectivity in the quantification of penetration of dyes<sup>13</sup> and the need to destroy the specimen used for the assessment<sup>17, 18</sup>. The organic dye known as Rhodamine B was selected because of its good penetrating capacity, its lower coefficient of variability and its molecular dimensions of around a few nanometers. Although microorganisms have greater magnitudes, enzymes and toxins, metabolized by them, have dimensions similar to those of the dye solution<sup>19, 20</sup>.

Table 3: Average of Microleakage Values (mm) and Standard Deviation.

Lentulo	Centrix	Manual
0.79 ( $\pm 0.417$ )a	0.82 ( $\pm 0.461$ )a	0.78 ( $\pm 0.658$ )a

Identical letters indicate that the values do not statistically differ among the groups.

The correlation between clinical success and *in vitro* study of microleakage tests was made by Torabinejad *et al.*<sup>21</sup> who mention that *in vitro* test experiments have brought about incorrect results because simulation of *in vivo* conditions is limited. The exact significance of the degree of infiltration remains unknown. The same applies to how much of the infiltration is significant. Hence, it would be wise to use materials and techniques that promote a more effective sealing. The greatest difficulty encountered in *in vitro* studies, as is the case in this study, is the need for reproducing the clinical conditions such materials are subjected to in laboratories. One of these conditions is related to intraoral thermal shifts, which take place and bring about volumetric alterations, thus enabling the infiltration of bacteria and of other elements in the tooth-restoration interface. In specific literature, it is observed that most studies try undertaking thermal cycling, where specimens alternatively pass through solutions containing dyes, saliva or water at different temperatures and, thus, reproduce the shifts taking place at clinical level, as it was done in this study<sup>22, 23</sup>. Nevertheless, literature shows absence of standardization as to the number of cycles specimens should be subjected to for better replicating clinical conditions. This can be clarified by the study undertaken by Veronezi *et al.*<sup>24</sup> in which it was observed that there are no statistically significant differences among the values in marginal microleakage when specimens are subjected to different numbers of thermal cycles. The authors state that the major cause of cracks and, consequently, of micro-infiltration, is contraction by polymerization of resinous materials and that thermal shifts can affect the marginal adaptation of such resinous materials to the cavity walls, and can thus have some effect on the span of the micro-space that is formed. We should bear in mind that microleakage tests assess the initial capability of cavity sealing, but that they do not predict microleakage patterns through time.

For microleakage analysis, the sectioning technique of specimens was used as this technique is useful for

measuring the degree of dye penetration down the dowel length<sup>17, 18</sup>. In this study, after the sectioning procedure, the portion of the root having the greatest degree of dye infiltration was selected for both qualitative and quantitative analyses. Qualitative methods are the most widely used because they are easy to carry out and because only a few pieces of equipment are needed, such as, slide projectors, magnifying glasses or low power microscopes. In case of discrepancies, our assessment may be carried out to reach consensus<sup>25</sup>. On the other hand, for the quantitative method, it is necessary to use a computer software<sup>26</sup> and devices for copying images, so that infiltration is measured in metric units or in percentages. In this study, both methods were used, with no differences in their results whatsoever. This may be clarified by the small infiltration of dye for the different forms of cement placement being tested.

Results did not show statistically significant differences between the placement techniques of cement, irrespective of the microleakage analysis method used. Placement of cement by means of centrix syringes may be the most appropriate one. This is because this technique might promote a decrease in the number of bubbles and cracks in the layer of cement<sup>27</sup>. Bubbles can cause flaws in the bonding of the dowel and the cement. Besides, as mentioned by D'Arcangelo *et al*<sup>9</sup>, the use of centrix syringes or lentulo burs will promote the highest values of resistance of the bonding.

The use of lentulo burs as per manufacturers' instructions is discouraged because it accelerates the hardening process of cement. Based on the results of this research, the lentulo bur technique did not bring about any benefit to the material as to its capability for preventing marginal microleakage. Thus, no rea-

son was found for not following manufacturers' instructions of use of this material.

Results found in this study may be ascribed to the bonding quality promoted in the cervical third, which was always similar, irrespective of the placement technique used. As the cervical region has an easy access and a greater number of dentinal tubules, this region is more prone to having better sealing results<sup>28</sup>. In previous studies, it has already been mentioned that self-adhesive resinous cement (Rely X U100/ 3 M ESPE) brings about low levels of marginal microleakage compared to other resinous cements<sup>5,29</sup>. This might explain the results found in this study as marginal microleakage was so low that there were no statistically significant differences between the method of assessment and the forms of placement of the cement.

Although with low values, microleakage was observed in all the groups, irrespective of the placement technique and of the type of analysis used. Nevertheless, the longitudinal behavior must not be determined only by means of this test. Hence, more studies must be carried out involving mechanical tests for better reproducing intraoral conditions.

## CONCLUSIONS

According to the results of this research, the following facts were observed:

- Microleakage was present in all the placement techniques;
- The degree of marginal microleakage was not altered by the resinous cement placement technique;
- There were no differences in the microleakage results, both for the qualitative and for the qualitative analyses that were undertaken.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

Professor Ms. Veridiana Camilotti  
Unioeste - Colegiado de Odontologia  
R. Universitária, 2069 – Jd Universitário  
Cascavel-PR- 85.819-110 Brazil  
e-mail: vericamilotti@hotmail.com

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