

Effect of two application protocols of two remineralizing agents on the shear bond strength of resin composite to artificially caries affected dentin.

Thesis Submitted to Operative Dentistry Department, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University in partial fulfillment of the requirements of Master degree in operative dentistry.

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2018

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First, I would like to express my greatest gratitude to the Almighty **ALLAH**, the one and only, who has given me the opportunity, strength, courage and blessing to pursue this work.

I am greatly honored to express my deepest gratitude to, **Dr: Omaina Hassan Ghallab**, professor of operative dentistry department, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University for her continuous encouragement, humanity, patience, time, endless support and guidance.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to **Dr. Mohammed Nasser Mohammed Anwar**, Lecturer of operative dentistry, Faculty of dentistry Ain Shams University, for his valuable unlimited guidance, and mentor attitude. I benefited greatly from his experience and knowledge throughout the research work.

I wish to dedicate to this work to

To my mother who always inspires me with her love and prayers

To my father who taught me that hard work is the essential for a
successful life.

To my sisters and brothers, without their love, and encouragement,
this thesis would not have been possible.

To my lovely friends especially Dr. Passant Sonosy, Dr. Marwah
Tahtawy, Dr. Menah Ahmad and Dr. Nesma Ahmad and Dr. Doaa
Farag for their help and support

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Caries affected dentin (CAD) is a structure of dentin that is affected by acids, but not contaminated by bacteria. It differs in its chemical, mechanical, biological and physical properties from the intact dentin. Its inter-tubular dentin is porous, has low mineral contents, and low surface energy. CAD has a low micro-hardness value, low cohesive strength, in addition to thick smear layer and high intrinsic wetness. All these factors may have a dramatic effect on the bond strength of the composite restoration to CAD, **(Vaseenon et al., 2011)**⁽¹³⁸⁾. The response of CAD to the adhesive system is different from that of the normal dentin. In CAD, etching increases the depth of demineralization leaving unprotected, exposed collagen fibrils which are not totally infiltrated by resin. Matrix metalloproteinase disintegrates these unprotected collagen fibrils, leading to decrease in the durability of the resin-dentin bond, which further decreases the life of bonding restoration. All the previous factors lead to an urgent for improving the quality of the CAD layer in order to overcome the lowering of the bond strength, **(Banasal et al., 2014)**⁽⁸⁾.

The adhesion of the tooth structure is one of the influencing factors that are required for the clinical success of esthetic restoration. It decreases the marginal leakage, prevents secondary caries, improves the marginal seal, and enhances the mechanical retention of esthetic restoration. So, the treatment of CAD layer through remineralization is very important to improve its bond strength and restore the decrease in the mineral content, **(Vaseenon, et al., 2011)**⁽¹³⁸⁾. Many types of research were carried out to remineralize the CAD layer by using external remineralizing agents or by

applying an adhesive system or a temporary filling that contains a remineralizing agent, (**Kamozaki et al., 2015**)⁽⁵⁵⁾.

Today, companies compete to produce remineralizing agents which release Ca, PO₄, and fluoride in order to enhance the remineralization of tooth structure and treat the early dental carious lesions. Casein phosphopeptide stabilizes amorphous calcium phosphate (CPP-ACP) (Recaldent), allowing the stabilization of high concentrations of calcium and phosphate ions with fluoride at the tooth surface, thus enhancing remineralization. Another new product is known as Remin Pro (VOCO, Germany) which is supplied as a remineralizing tooth paste that contains hydroxyapatite, fluoride, and xylitol. Fluoride and hydroxyapatite can be effective in hypersensitivity treatment, decreasing the demineralization process, and stimulating remineralization. Xylitol acts as an antibacterial agent, (**Kamash et al., 2013**)⁽⁵⁵⁾ and (**Voco et al., 2010**)⁽¹⁴⁰⁾.

There is no sufficient data in the literature about the effect of Reminpro and MI paste plus on the bond strength and the microhardness of the CAD and also whether the time of application has a synergistic effect on their action or has no significant effect. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the effect of these remineralizing agents (MI paste plus and Remin Pro), the duration of application, and the application techniques on the bond strength of CAD to the composite resin restoration.

Caries Affected dentin (CAD):

Dental caries is a cyclic process, including demineralization and remineralization that occurs alternatively depending on the condition of the oral environment. The demineralization process occurs in the two steps. First, the cariogenic bacteria metabolize the carbohydrates, leading to organic acid production that can attack the tooth surface. Second, the organic acid disintegrates the mineral crystal causing calcium and phosphate ions release into the oral cavity. The demineralization process is delayed by remineralization which can prevent the occurrence of a cavity. Natural Remineralization is a repairing process in which there is a mineral ion retaking to the decalcified or demineralized region. It includes the precipitation of the ions of calcium and phosphate that are found in saliva. In the presence of fluoride in the tooth surface the precipitated minerals go deeper into the surfaces, and then into the subsurface, leading to the regrowth of the hydroxyapatite from the remnants of the preexisting crystal. The substitution of hydroxyl ions by fluoride ions in hydroxyapatite results in the formation of fluoroapatite (FAP) crystal that is identified by the formula $(\text{Ca}_5 (\text{PO}_4)_3 \text{F})$, **(Featherstone, 2008)**⁽³⁴⁾ and **(Pitts et al., 2016)**⁽⁹⁷⁾.

Dentin caries was classified into two different layers, caries-infected dentin (CID) and caries-affected dentin (CAD). CID is a superficial layer where there is a disintegration of the mineral matrix or crystal. This layer is full of pathogenic bacteria and bacterial by-products. Due to the high