



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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The Effect of Different Polishing Methods on the Surface Roughness of Resin Composites

(An In-Vitro Study)

Thesis

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Dedication

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	Page
List of Tables.....	i
List of Figures.....	ii
Introduction.....	1
Review of Literature.....	3
Aim of the Study.....	29
Materials and Methods.....	30
Results.....	45
Discussion.....	58
Summary and Conclusion.....	68
References.....	70
Arabic summary	

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page
1	Composition of the resin composite used	31
2	Composition and list of the polishing systems used	32
3	Experimental variables investigated	34
4	Interactions between experimental variables	34
5	Effect of different variables and their interactions on surface roughness (<i>Ra</i>)	45
6	Mean \pm standard deviation (SD) of surface roughness (<i>Ra</i>) for different resin composites	46
7	Mean \pm standard deviation (SD) of surface roughness (<i>Ra</i>) for different polishing systems	47
8	Mean \pm standard deviation (SD) of surface roughness (<i>Ra</i>) for different resin composites and polishing systems	49
9	Mean \pm standard deviation (SD) of surface roughness (<i>Ra</i>) for different resin composites and polishing systems	51

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
1.1	The composite materials used a. Nanofill Filtek™ Z350 XT Universal Restorative (3M ESPE Dental Products, St. Paul, MN, USA), A2 Enamel shade. b. Suprananofill Palfique Omnicroma (Tokuyama Dental, Tokyo, Japan).	30
1.2	The polishing systems used a. Enamel Plus Shiny polishing pastes: Shiny A, Shiny B, Shiny C, Shiny S goat hair brush and Shiny FD felt disc (Micerium, Italy). b. Super-Snap X-treme fine and superfine discs (Shofu INC, Japan). c. OneGloss® PS IC shape (Shofu INC, Japan).	31
1.3	Specimen preparation a. The split Teflon mold. b. Resin composite surface covered with mylar strip and microscopic glass slide. c. The light curing unit tip perpendicular on the specimen. d. Polymerized specimen after trimming the excess. e. A polymerized specimen molded into acrylic molds. f. Another separate acrylic mold to stabilize the molded specimens. g. Molded specimens stabilized in acrylic mold.	36
1.4	The pre-polishing and polishing protocols used. a. 600-grit silicon carbide paper. b. The multi-step polishing protocol, the two diamond pastes applied with goat hair brush and the aluminum oxide paste applied with disc felt. c. The two-step polishing protocol, the green fine and the red superfine discs. d. The one-step polisher weighing 40 grams stroke.	40
1.5	Gwydion Image analysis software interface showing an SEM imported scan.	42

List of Figures

1.6	a. Gwydion Image analysis software interface showing the selection of (calculate roughness parameters) option. b. The white lines representing the levels selected for roughness measurements.	42
1.7	Gwydion Image analysis software interface showing the available roughness parameters and surface mapping charts provided for each level on the scan, the black box encircling numeric surface roughness average (Ra) value.	43
2.1	Bar chart showing average surface roughness (Ra) for different resin composites.	46
2.2	Bar chart showing average surface roughness (Ra) for different polishing systems.	47
2.3	Bar chart showing average surface roughness (Ra) for different resin composites and polishing systems (A).	49
2.4	Bar chart showing average surface roughness (Ra) for different resin composites and polishing systems (B).	51
2.5	Scanning electron microscope image of the control group (against mylar strip) of 500x magnification power a. Filtek Control group b. Omnichroma Control group and 4000x magnification power c. Filtek Control group ($Ra = 8.26 \pm 0.69$ nm) d. Omnichroma Control group ($Ra = 7.13 \pm 0.73$ nm).	53
2.6	Scanning electron microscope photograph (white arrows points to air voids) of 500x magnification power a. Filtek Control group b. Omnichroma Control group and 4000x magnification power c. Filtek Control group ($Ra = 8.26 \pm 0.69$ nm) d. Omnichroma Control group ($Ra = 7.13 \pm 0.73$ nm).	54

List of Figures

- 2.7** Scanning electron microscope photograph of both 56
resin composites surfaces after polishing at 500x
magnification power, a. Filtek Pastes group b.
Omnichroma Pastes group c. Filtek Discs group d.
Omnichroma Discs group e. Filtek OneGloss group
f. Omnichroma OneGloss group.
- 2.8** Scanning electron microscope photograph of both 57
resin composites surfaces after polishing at 4000x
magnification power, a. Filtek Pastes group ($Ra = 21.13 \pm 0.79$) b. Omnichroma Pastes group ($Ra = 18.77 \pm 1.02$) c. Filtek Discs group ($Ra = 7.88 \pm 0.90$) (white arrows point at filler dislodgment) d. Omnichroma Discs group ($Ra = 7.74 \pm 0.93$) e. Filtek OneGloss group ($Ra = 5.37 \pm 0.56$) f. Omnichroma OneGloss group ($Ra = 4.78 \pm 0.55$).

Introduction

Development of dental materials that have good mechanical properties, accepted longevity as well as excellent esthetic outcome has been the interest of the researchers of dentistry and dental materials. Resin composite is one of the most widely used restorative materials in the recent decades. Continuous research and modifications on resin composite made it the material of choice on both anterior and posterior restorations. Resin composites can reproduce the lost tooth structure with excellent esthetic outcome, with accepted material longevity when exposed in the oral environment.¹ One of the most factors that have impact on the longevity of composite resins, being functionally, biologically and esthetically accepted is the material composition.^{2,3}

Surface texture of composite resin is an important factor that affects esthetics, color stability and longevity of the restoration. Surface roughness promotes bacterial adherence, plaque accumulation and staining violating both biological and esthetic prospective of restoration. A smooth surface depends not only on composite type but also on finishing and polishing systems used in removing excess material and restoring morphology to achieve optimum function.⁴ The search for ideal finishing and polishing system for resin composites has resulted in significant improvements in both the material aspect and the used techniques. Several systems have been invented and available in the market which have variant protocols and incorporate different materials. Some of them have been introduced as multi-step, two-step or one-step finishing and polishing systems with the ultimate goal of achieving smooth surface with fewer steps and reduced application time.

Presence of so many varieties and continuous innovations in both the resin composite material and the finishing/polishing systems are very challenging to the operator in selection of the best system that gives superior

polishability and surface smoothness.^{5,6} Currently, many attempts have been made to determine which abrasion system provides the most polished surface for resin composites, and several methods have been introduced without reaching a consensus that verifies which is the best. The abrasive wear of contemporary resin composites is also material dependent, and cannot be deducted from its category.⁷ Accordingly, the objective of this study was to evaluate the in vitro surface roughness of differently filled resin composite categories subjected to different polishing protocols.