

## Effect of chlorhexidine solution on microleakage of pit and fissure sealants in permanent teeth with and without the use of fifth- and sixth-generation adhesive systems

Mehrsa Paryab

Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatric Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

### Article type

Research Paper

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Due to concerns about histological caries and recurrent caries after the use of sealants, adhesive systems containing fluoride and antibacterial agents have been proposed. The aim of this study was to evaluate the microleakage of sealants after the use of antibacterial chlorhexidine solution on etched enamel with and without the use of fifth- and sixth-generation adhesive systems.

**Materials & Methods:** In this experimental study, sixty sound human premolars were divided into 4 groups as follows: Group A: Etching, fissure sealant; Group B: Etching, chlorhexidine solution (2 %), fissure sealant; Group C: Etching, chlorhexidine solution, single bond, fissure sealant; Group D: Etching, chlorhexidine solution, Clearfil SE Bond, fissure sealant. The samples were thermocycled for 500 cycles and immersed in basic fuchsin 0.5%. Then, the teeth were embedded in acrylic resin and cut buccolingually parallel to the long axis. Microleakage of the specimens was observed under  $\times 40$  magnification and graded from 0 to 3. Data were analysed using the Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney U tests. A value of  $p < 0.05$  was considered significant.

**Results:** Sealant micro-leakage was statistically lower in group A (etching, fissure sealant) than in groups B, C and D, the groups with the chlorhexidine solution ( $P < 0.05$ ). There was no statistically significant difference between groups B, C and D.

**Conclusion:** The use of chlorhexidine solution on the etched enamel increases the sealant microleakage; with and without the application of the adhesive systems, Single Bond or Clearfil SE Bond. Therefore, it cannot be used as one of the steps in the application of the sealant to reduce the colonization of bacteria around the fissure sealant.

**Received:** 1 Dec 2022

**Revised:** 21 Mar 2023

**Accepted:** 8 May 2023

**Pub. online:** 14 Jun 2023

**Keywords:** Chlorhexidine, Dental leakage, Pit and Fissure Sealants

**Cite this article:** Paryab M. Effect of chlorhexidine solution on microleakage of pit and fissure sealants in permanent teeth with and without the use of fifth- and sixth-generation adhesive systems. Caspian J Dent Res 2023; 12: 50-6.



© The Author(s).

Publisher: Babol University of Medical Sciences

\*Corresponding Author: Mehrsa Paryab, School of Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Tel: +982142794000

E-mail: drmparyab@yahoo.com

## Introduction

Some anatomical pits and fissures in the occlusal surfaces of posterior teeth are not self-cleansing and are prone to caries.<sup>[1]</sup> These areas with less enamel thickness at the base of a fissure or pit absorb little fluoride.<sup>[2]</sup> Pit and fissure sealants create an impermeable barrier that prevents colonization of the sealed fissure by other oral microorganisms and isolates the remaining viable organisms from the nutrient source.<sup>[1, 2]</sup>

Caries may be present histologically before it is detected clinically and radiographically. It is possible that sealants over the enamel cause histologic caries and cariogenic organisms in pits and fissures. This has caused great concern among dentists and has led to the restricted use of sealants.<sup>[2]</sup> The acid etching procedure itself eliminates 75% of viable microorganisms from pits and fissures. But etching gel and sealant materials may penetrate less deeply into the I-shaped pits and fissures that are the main indication for sealant use.<sup>[3]</sup> On the other hand, sealant materials, like restorative materials, have a higher surface energy than enamel, which increases microorganism colonization, especially during the first week after sealant placement,<sup>[1, 4]</sup> and clinical follow-up demonstrates sealant loss and wear over time.<sup>[5]</sup>

Fluorides and antibacterial agents have been added to the composition of adhesive systems or sealants to inhibit caries formation, especially at enamel margins.<sup>[6-8]</sup> Chlorhexidine solution and varnish were used in the prepared cavity<sup>[9-15]</sup> or during bracket placement.<sup>[16-21]</sup> There is evidence that chlorhexidine varnish is effective in suppressing oral mutans for at least 3 months and up to 7 months after application when used prior to the placement of fixed orthodontic appliances.<sup>[22]</sup> Little or no information is available on the use of chlorhexidine after enamel etching and before the placement of sealants. Therefore, the aim of the current study was to investigate whether the application of chlorhexidine on the etched enamel as an antibacterial agent can be one of the procedural steps in fissure sealing.

## Materials & Methods

This experimental study was a research project (No: 2212) supported and funded by Zahedan University of Medical Sciences. According to the study of Darabi et al.,<sup>[13]</sup> and considering the statistical formula

$$n = \frac{(Z_{1-\alpha/2} + Z_{1-\beta})^2 (p_1 q_1 + p_2 q_2)}{(P_1 - P_2)^2}$$

with coefficients of  $\alpha=0.05$  and  $\beta=0.05$ , the sample size of each group was set to 10 teeth. For more confidence, 15 teeth were considered. Sixty sound human premolars extracted for orthodontic purposes within a 6-month period were selected and disinfected with thymol 0.2%. The teeth were cleaned with water/pumice slurry and randomly divided into 4 equal groups. The occlusal pits and fissures of the teeth were etched with 37% phosphoric acid (Ultra Etch, Ultra dent product INC, South Jordan, Utah, USA) for 15 seconds. They were then rinsed thoroughly for 5 seconds and dried with oil-free compressed air to obtain a uniform whitish, dull, chalk-like appearance. Bonding procedures were performed in each group as follows:

**Group A:** Following the above procedures, fissure sealant (Concise, 3M ESPE, St. Paul, USA) was applied to the etched pits and fissures including 2 to 3 mm of cusp inclination and cured for 20 seconds with a visible light-curing unit (Coltolux 75, Colten, California, USA) at 450 mw/mm<sup>2</sup> output power.

**Group B:** A thin layer of chlorhexidine mouth rinse (2%) (Consepsis; Ultradent Product Inc, South Jordan, UT, USA) was brushed onto the enamel so that the entire surface of the enamel was covered. This was left undisturbed for 10 seconds and then the pits and fissures were dried and sealed.

**Group C:** Disinfection with chlorhexidine solution was performed as in group B. Two consecutive coats of Single Bond (3M EPSE, St. Paul, USA) were applied to the etched enamel for 15 seconds with gentle agitation using a fully saturated applicator. The surface was then gently dried for 15 seconds to evaporate the solvents. The adhesive was light-cured for 10 seconds, and finally the pits and fissures were sealed.

**Group D:** Disinfection with chlorhexidine solution was performed as in group B. Prior to sealing, Clearfil SE Bond System (Kuraray Medical Inc, Tokyo, Japan) was applied, according to the manufacturer's instructions, then the teeth were dried for 15 seconds and finally light-cured for 10 seconds.

According to the standard ISO/TR 11405 <sup>[23]</sup>, samples were stored in distilled water at 37° C for at least 24 hours before testing and thermocycled for 500 cycles between 5 and 55 with a retention time of 50 hours. After thermo-cycling, the teeth were sealed with glass ionomer cement at the root tips and covered with two layers of nail polish, except for the restorations and a 1 mm rim of tooth structure around the restoration. The specimens were immersed in basic fuchsin (0.5 wt %) for 24 hours and then rinsed thoroughly with tap water. Next, the teeth were embedded in self-curing acrylic resin to prevent chipping of the material. Using a diamond disk (Leitz1600, Leica Instruments GmbH, Wetzlar, Germany), the resin blocks were buccolingually cut parallel to the long axis into mesial and distal fragments under water. After the above procedures, the length of dye penetration at the interface between the sealant and tooth was examined under (SMZ800N, Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) at ×40 magnification. The criterion for the amount of dye microleakage was the level of maximum dye penetration. Grading was based on the following criteria:

**Grade 0:** no penetration; **Grade 1:** dye penetration of more than zero to one-third of the sealant-tooth interface; **Grade 2:** dye penetration of one-third to two-thirds of the sealant- tooth interface length; **Grade 3:** dye penetration of more than two-thirds of the sealant- tooth interface length. Data were analyzed using the Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney U tests. All statistical tests were performed at a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ .

## Results

A total of 120 sections were examined for microleakage. The percentage of each result for all groups is shown in table 1. The results of the statistical analysis indicated a significant difference in the total microleakage between ( $p < 0.05$ ). The results of the pairwise statistical tests represented that the microleakage was lower in group A compared to the other groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). There were no differences between the dentin adhesives studied ( $p > 0.05$ ) (table 2).

Table 1. Distribution of microleakage grades in experimental groups

	Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Group A	27(90.00%)	2(6.66%)	1(3.33%)	0(0.00%)
Group B	16(53.33%)	9(30.00%)	2(6.66%)	3(10.00%)
Group C	12(40.00%)	14(46.66%)	2(6.66%)	2(6.66%)
Group D	16(53.33%)	10(33.33%)	4(13.33%)	0(0.00%)

Group A: etching, sealant  
Group B: etching, chlorhexidine solution, sealant  
Group C: etching, chlorhexidine solution, Single Bond, sealant  
Group D: etching, chlorhexidine solution, Clearfil SE Bond

Table 2. Comparing the experimental groups using the Mann-Whitney U

Groups	P- value (OR: 1.96)	Groups	P- value (OR: 1.96)
Groups A &B	0.002	Groups B & C	0.58
Groups A & C	0.00	Groups B & D	0.74
Groups A &D	0.002	Groups C & D	0.36

Group A: etching, sealant  
Group B: etching, chlorhexidine solution, sealant  
Group C: etching, chlorhexidine solution, Single Bond, sealant  
Group D: etching, chlorhexidine solution, Clearfil SE Bond

Discussion

Recurrent caries is the main problem with the use of fissure sealants.<sup>[2]</sup> Antibacterial adhesive systems under the sealant may be useful in preventing caries formation after microleakage or partial loss of the sealant. The release of these antibacterial agents depends on the PH and the chemical structure of the materials. A low PH of the self-etching systems may reduce the activity of the antibacterial agents.<sup>[7]</sup> Therefore, it is recommended to disinfect the cavity and tooth surfaces prior to the bonding agent application with antibacterial agents such as chlorhexidine solution before applying the bonding agent. Depending on the type of antibacterial agents and adhesive systems, the function of the antibacterial agents and the bond strength of the adhesive systems may change.<sup>[13, 14]</sup> The aim of this study was to evaluate the microleakage of the sealants after the use of antibacterial chlorhexidine solution on the etched enamel with and without the use of fifth- and sixth-generation adhesive systems.

Chlorhexidine is a broad-spectrum antibacterial agent that is effective against plaque and gingivitis as well as caries. It has also been offered as a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor in recent years.<sup>[24]</sup> Furthermore, it may have a stabilizing effect on the smear layer, transforming it from a semi-permeable, loosely bonded layer to a more impermeable, tightly bonded layer.<sup>[13]</sup> This effect may be beneficial in self-etch dentin bonding systems. These systems have a mild acidic monomeric primer that is applied

to the smear layer without rinsing. It is therefore necessary to disinfect the smear layer before the acid primer.<sup>[13]</sup>

One of the most important properties of chlorhexidine that is desirable in this study is its cationic charge. It bonds to the surface of amino acids and hydroxyapatite and is released over time, exerting a long-lasting antibacterial effect.<sup>[25]</sup> Because of this strong positive charge, it binds readily to phosphate groups and increases the surface free energy of enamel and can increase bond strength, especially when hydrophilic bonding agents are used.<sup>[13]</sup>

Doman et al. (1997) showed that the shear bond strength of brackets was not significantly affected after treatment of etched enamel with Transbond XT, which contained chlorhexidine varnish in its primer.<sup>[17]</sup> This means that the chlorhexidine does not affect the wettability of adhesive systems such as Transbond XT used in bonding the brackets.<sup>[16-21]</sup> The use of chlorhexidine varnish in the primer of adhesive systems or chlorhexidine solution on the etched enamel may be acceptable application methods.<sup>[17-22]</sup> However, the application of the chlorhexidine varnish as a separate layer or the chlorhexidine gel has resulted in a reduction of shear bond strength.<sup>[18, 22]</sup> In the studies by Haidari et al.<sup>[26]</sup> and Saffarpour et al.,<sup>[27]</sup> chlorhexidine rinse 2% was used and it did not have any negative effects on enamel microleakage of composite restorations in different bonding systems.

In this study, the chlorhexidine solution was applied to the etched enamel during fissure sealing, and the results indicated that the use of chlorhexidine solution increased the microleakage of the sealant. Two different generations of adhesive systems (total-etch adhesive system and self-etch adhesive system with acid PH) were used after applying the chlorhexidine layer. None of the adhesive systems used in this study reduced the microleakage to the level of the control group. In prepared cavities that extend to the dentin, chlorhexidine does not affect the function of Single Bond and Clearfil SE Bond.<sup>[13]</sup>

It seems that different methods of chlorhexidine application may affect its function. The chlorhexidine substance on the enamel surface decreases the ability of the resin to impregnate the micropores of the enamel. SEM seems to require investigation to clarify this hypothesis. In addition, there may be some negative interactions between chlorhexidine and adhesive systems. The use of sealants with chlorhexidine varnish incorporated into the sealant resins or bonding agents could result in less microleakage. It is proposed to investigate the use of chlorhexidine varnish in combination with adhesive systems to seal the fissures in a further study.

## Conclusion

The use of chlorhexidine solution on the etched enamel without rinsing leads to an increase in the rate of microleakage of the fissure sealant. The use of Single Bond and Clearfil SE Bond bonding systems cannot neutralize the negative effects of chlorhexidine mouth rinse on the rate of microleakage of the fissure sealant. Therefore, it cannot be used as one of the steps in the application of the sealant to reduce the colonization of bacteria around the fissure sealant.

## Funding

This study was a research project (No: 2212) supported and funded by Zahedan University of Medical Sciences.

## Conflicts of Interest

There is no conflict of interest to declare.

## References

1. Dean JA, editor. McDonald and Avery's Dentistry for the Child and Adolescent. 11th ed. Elsevier, Inc; 2022; p. 2019-26; 250-65.
2. Nowak AJ, Christensen JR, Townsed JA, Marby TR, Wells MH. Pediatric dentistry: infancy through adolescence. 6th ed. Philadelphia, PA; 2019; p.461-81.
3. Duangthip D, Lussi A. Microleakage and penetration ability of resin sealant versus bonding system when applied following contamination. *Pediatr Dent* 2003; 25:505-11.
4. Arora RK, Mordan NJ, Spratt DA, Ng YL, Gulabivala K. Bacteria in the cavity-restoration interface after varying periods of clinical service - SEM description of distribution and 16S rRNA gene sequence identification of isolates. *Clin Oral Investig* 2022;26:5029-44.
5. Rafatjou R, Nobahar Sh, Nikfar M, Salehimehr G, Khateri D. Retention and effectiveness of dental sealant after twelve months in Iranian children. *Avicenna J Dent Res* 2013; 5: 56-60.
6. Naorungroj S, Wei HH, Arnold RR, Swift EJ Jr, Walter R. Antibacterial surface properties of fluoride-containing resin-based sealants. *J Dent* 2010;38:387-91.
7. Eminkahyagil N, Gokalp S, Korkmaz Y, Baseren M, Karabulut E. Sealant and composite bond strength to enamel with antibacterial/self etching adhesives. *Int J Paediatr Dent* 2005; 15: 274-81.
8. Huang Y, Li H, Zhu CG, Zhou X, Wang H, Han Q, Ren B, Cheng L. Anti-bacterial and anti-microbial aging effects of resin-based sealant modified by quaternary ammonium monomers. *J Dent* 2021;112:103767.
9. Al Deeb L, Bin-Shuwaish MS, Abrar E, Naseem M, Al-Hamdan RS, Maawadh AM, et al. Efficacy of chlorhexidine, Er Cr YSGG laser and photodynamic therapy on the adhesive bond integrity of caries affected dentin. An in-vitro study. *Photodiagnosis Photodyn Ther* 2020;31:101875.
10. Mobarak EH. Effect of chlorhexidine pretreatment on bond strength durability of caries-affected dentin over 2-year aging in artificial saliva and under simulated intrapulpal pressure. *Oper Dent* 2011;36:649-60.
11. Albaqawi AH, Shabib S, Vohra F, Abduljabbar T. Efficacy of chlorhexidine, photosensitizers, green tea extract, and propolis on bond integrity and microleakage of caries-affected dentin: An in-vitro study. *Photodiagnosis Photodyn Ther* 2022;39:102998.
12. de Castro FL, de Andrade MF, Duarte Junior SL, Vaz LG, Ahid FJ. Effect of 2% Chlorhexidin on micro tensile Bond Strength of composite to dentin. *J Adhes Dent* 2003; 5: 129- 38.
13. Darabi F, Eftekhari M. Effect of Chlorhexidine on microleakage of composite restoration. *J Dent (Tehran)* 2009; 6: 16-22.
14. Sharma V, Nianan MT, Shivanna V. The effect of cavity disinfectants on the sealing ability of dentin bonding system: An in vitro study. *J Conserv Dent* 2009; 12: 109-13.
15. Owens BM, Lim DY, Arheart KL. The effect of antimicrobial pre-treatments on the performance of resin composite restorations. *Oper Dent* 2003; 28: 716-22.
16. Filler SJ, Lazarchik DA, Givan DA, Retief DH, Heaven TJ. Shear bond strengths of composite to Chlorhexidine-treated enamel. *Am J Dent* 1994; 7(2):85-8.
17. Damon PL, Bishara SE, Olsen ME, Jakobsen JR. Bond strength following the application of Chlorhexidine on etched enamel. *Angle Orthod* 1997; 67: 169-72.
18. Bishara SE, Vonwald L, Zamtuea J, Damon PL. Effects of various methods of Chlorhexidine application on shear bond strength. *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop* 1998; 114:150-3.
19. Polat O, Uysal T, Karaman AI. Effects of a Chlorhexidine Varnish on Shear Bond Strength in Indirect Bonding. *Angle Orthod* 2005; 75: 1036-40.
20. Demir A, Malkoc S, Sengun A, Koyuturk AE, Sener Y. Effects of Chlorhexidine and povidone-iodine mouth rinses on the bond strength of an orthodontic composite. *Angle Orthod* 2005; 75: 392- 6.



21. Catalbas B, Ercan E, Erdemir A, Gelgor IE, Zorba YO. Effects of Different Chlorhexidine Formulations on Shear Bond Strengths of Orthodontic Brackets. *Angle Orthod* 2009;79: 312–6.
22. Sandham HJ, Nadeau L, Phillips HI. The effect of Chlorhexidine varnish treatment on salivary mutans streptococcal levels in child orthodontic patients. *J Dent Res* 1992; 71: 32-5.
23. Campos EA, Correr GM, Leonardi DP, Barato-Filho F, Gonzaga CC, Zielak JC. Chlorhexidine diminishes the loss of bond strength over time under simulated pulpal pressure and thermo-mechanical stressing. *J Dent* 2009;37:108-14.
24. Baca P, Junco P, Arias-Moliz MT, Castillo F, Rodríguez-Archilla A, Ferrer-Luque CM. Antimicrobial substantivity over time of chlorhexidine and cetrimide. *J Endod* 2012;38:927-30.
25. Siadat H, Mirfazaelian A. Microleakage and its measurement methods. *J Dent (Tehran)* 2002; 15: 70- 81. [ In Persian]
26. Haidari Gorji MA, Abolghasemzadeh F, Alaghemand H, Esmaeili B. Effect of 2% Chlorhexidine on the Enamel Microleakage of Composite Restorations Using 5th, 6th, 7th and Universal Generation of Dentine Bonding Agents (In Vitro). *J Babol Univ Med Sci* 2017; 19: 36-42.
27. Saffarpour A, Saffarpour A, Kharazifard MJ, Rad AE. Effect of Chlorhexidine Application Protocol on Durability of Marginal Seal of Class V Restorations. *J Dent (Tehran)* 2016; 13:231-37.