ABSTRACT

Introduction: Disinfection of dentin surfaces is desirable so long as it does not interfere with subsequent bonding of adhesive resins.

Objective: To test the null hypothesis that bond strengths to dentin are not affected by previous application of an iodine disinfecting solution.

Materials and Methods: Twenty-four extracted non-carious molars were selected. Occlusal enamel was removed producing a flat dentin substrate. Test teeth were all treated with 2% Iodine disclosing/disinfecting solution (I2DDS) for 20 sec and rinsed for 20 sec followed by the application of self- or total- etching bonding systems, generating five adhesive groups (n=3): Single Bond; Prime & Bond NT; Clearfil SE Bond; Opti-Bond Plus. The control groups (n=3 per adhesive) had no disclosing/disinfectant application prior to adhesive application. A 4-mm thick resin restoration was built up on each tooth for microtensile testing. Statistical analyses between experimental and control groups were performed by student's t-test (α=0.05).

Results: In general, experimental groups (previously treated with I2DDS) showed significantly lower bond strength values when compared with their respective controls (p<0.05), except for group Prime & Bond I2 that did not significantly differ from its control (p>0.05). Conclusion: Acetone-base adhesive systems seem not to be affected by the application of I2DDS prior to etching and bonding procedures.

Uniterms: Dentin; Dentin-bonding agents; Iodine; Dentin sensitivity.
INTRODUCTION

Incomplete removal of bacterially contaminated dentin or enamel associated with caries is a potential problem in restorative dentistry. Bacteria can remain in the smear layer or in dentinal tubules, and can potentially multiply. Studies indicate that residual bacteria might proliferate from the smear layer beneath restorations, allowing toxins to diffuse to the pulp, resulting in irritation and inflammation.

It is argued that microorganisms that are present in the cavity walls cannot be removed by the use of water spray or by the effect of restorative materials containing disinfecting agents. Therefore, the adjunctive use of antibacterial solutions after cavity preparation may be considered as an important tool on reducing the potential for both microorganism growth and hypersensitivity.

A 2% Iodine disclosing/disinfecting solution (I2DDS) has been used to disclose and kill bacteria in plaque, hence working as “toilet” for caries removal. Based on this bactericidal effect, I2DDS could be an appropriate agent to clean and disinfect dentin and enamel substrates prior to restorative procedures. However, a potential problem of using disinfectant solutions before bonding restorative procedures could be an interference with the ability of hydrophilic monomer resins to wet, diffuse and polymerize in situ into dentin substrates.

Due to the lack of information about I2DDS application as a disinfectant agent applied prior to adhesive restorations, this study tested the null hypothesis that the adhesive bond strengths obtained via microtensile method are not affected whenever I2DDS is used prior to application of a range of bonding systems.

METHOD AND MATERIALS

The materials used in this study are listed in Table 1. Twenty-four freshly extracted non-carious molars were selected. All teeth were gamma-irradiated to ensure sterility and then stored in water. The occlusal enamel was removed perpendicular to the long axis of the tooth using a slow-speed saw (Buehler Isomet Low Speed Saw with Buehler Diamond Wafering Blade - Series 20 HC Diamond, No 11-4215, Buehler, USA) to expose a flat dentin surface that was not infected by caries.

| Material          | Composition                                                                 | Lot     | Company                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Single Bond      | Bis-GMA; Polyalkenoic acid co-polymer; Dimethacrylates; HEMA; Photoinitiator; Ethanol; Water | 1FM     | 3M- St. Paul MN 55144    |
| Prime & Bond NT  | Di-and Trimethacrylate resins, PENTA, Cetylamine hydrofluoride, Acetone, Nanofillers, Stabilizers | 020227  | Dentsply-Milford, DE 19963 |
| Clearfil SE Bond | 10-Methacryloyloxydecyl dihydrogen phosphate (MDP); Bis-phenol A diglycidylmethacrylate (HEMA); Hydrophobic dimethacrylate; di-Camphorquinone; N, N-Diethanol-p-toluidine; Silanated colloidal silica; water | 61243   | Kuraray- 200 Park Ave.    |
| Opti Bond Solo   | Acrylates, ethanol                                                           | 012785  | Kerr USA-1717 West Collins Ave Orange, Ca 92867 |
| Z 100            | BIS-GMA, TEGDMA resins                                                      | 2CJ     | 3M- St. Paul MN 55144    |
| 2% Iodine Disclosing/Disinfection Solution (I2DDS) | In volumetric 100ml flask - 2gm I₂ (USP); 2.4gm KI (USP); 53ml Glycerol (USP); H₂O | -       | New York University, 345 East 24th street, NY, 10010 |
RESULTS

Means and standard deviations of the bond strength for all groups are shown in Table 2. In general, experimental groups (previously treated with I2DDS) showed significantly lower bond strength values when compared with their respective controls (p<0.05). An exception was the P&BI2, which did not significantly differ from its control P&BC (p>0.05).

Mixed failure was found in approximately 75% of bond test specimens for both control and Iodine groups, respectively. Adhesive failure in dentin was observed in 16.6% of controls and 23.4% of Iodine treated specimens summed across all tested groups. This slight increase of adhesive failure mode for the iodine groups might be related to the possible presence of remnants of glycerol after application and rinsing of I2DDS. Residual glycerol may be responsible for the decrease (P>0.05) of MTBS of water and/or ethanol based bonding agents. Cohesive mode of failure either in dentin of resin was observed in 8.3% of test specimens for both control and Iodine groups, which did not significantly differ from its control P&BC (p>0.05).

Figure 1 shows the effects of adding either an ethanol and/or water-based or acetone-based adhesive formulation to a drop of glycerol. The ethanol and/or water-based adhesive depict a phase separation, while the acetone adhesive is miscible with glycerol.

| Groups          | Single bond (3M) | Prime & Bond (Dentsply) | Clearfil SE Bond (Kuraray) | Opti Bond Plus (Kerr) |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| I2DDS           | 34.9 ± 14.0b (n= 77) | 37.8 ± 14.4b (n= 46) | 24.8 ± 13.3b (n= 59) | 23.2 ± 12.7b (n= 54) |
| Control         | 44.2 ± 15.9b (n= 61) | 37.1 ± 14.8b (n= 39) | 36.3 ± 12.9b (n= 59) | 39.5 ± 14.7b (n= 49) |

a, b: statistically significance between experimental and control groups.
When I$_2$DDS was applied to dentin surface before etching, fewer opened-tubules were observed in the dentin, compared to the etched only dentin surface (Figure 2). This suggests that residual glycerol or iodine affects on the smear layer or collagen reduces the acid dissolution of the dentin surface.

**DISCUSSION**

During clinical procedures, prepared dentin surfaces may be contaminated with saliva, blood, and microorganisms. Saliva and blood contamination has been shown to reduce resin to dentin bond strengths, depending greatly upon adherent surface condition. However, no bacteria were found when the cavity was cleaned with a microbiocidal fluoride solution and leakage was eliminated. These observations suggest that prepared surfaces need to be cleaned to eliminate bacteria before lining, cementation, and restoration.

Using disclosing and/or disinfectant solutions on dentin before application of adhesive systems could potentially interfere with the ability of adhesive to micromechanically bond to the dentin, and consequently reduce bond strength. In 2002, Wahl, et al. tested the effect of different disinfectant rinses (distilled water as a control; water with 3.5 ppm iodine; water 3.0 ppm sodium hypochlorite; water with 2% ethanol; water contaminated with 6x10$^4$ cfu/ml of *E. coli* BH5($\alpha$)) applied following acid etching of dentin. This was followed by application of Single Bond adhesive and resin-based composite. They observed that the disinfectant water rinse had no significant effect on the shear bond strength of resindentin bonds. They also concluded that further work was needed to evaluate the effect of antimicrobial agents on adhesive bond strength of various adhesive systems (alcohol/water based and/or acetone based). Wahl’s group employed shear testing while in our work the microtensile bond method was utilized.

Application of an I$_2$DDS prior to adhesive application resulted in reduced microtensile bond strength values for ethanol- and/or water-based adhesive systems and not for the one acetone-based adhesive system tested. Ethanol-...
and/or water-based adhesive systems (Single Bond; Clearfil SE Bond; and Opti-Bond Plus) had statistically lower bond strengths (p<0.05), suggesting that I₂DDS interferes with the adhesive bond strength.

I₂DDS is a dark solution. However, the application of I₂DDS followed by a rinse step and bonding procedures did not have immediate influence on esthetic outcomes of restorations.

Reduction in bond strength values for ethanol- and/or water-based adhesive agents might be due to the presence of glycerol (53%) in the composition of I₂DDS. Glycerol is used as a “carrier” for I₂DDS. We speculate that remnants of the glycerol “carrier” might be incompletely removed from the dentin substrate after water rinsing (20s), drying and even etching procedures. Glycerol is highly viscous, and is soluble in water only when extensive mechanical mixing occurs. When ethanol and/or water-based adhesive agents were used, residual glycerol might prevent adhesive from diffusing through demineralized dentin surface interfering with hybrid layer formation. Phase separation between the water/ethanol adhesive and glycerol might occur during evaporation of these solvents (Figure 1). Deficiency of monomer penetration into demineralized layer could decrease the bond strength. However, for acetone-based adhesive system used in this study, acetone seemed to be able to diffuse into residual glycerol and allow monomer penetration into demineralized dentin, and thus does not produce a significant difference in bond strength value. This indirectly indicates a plausible basis for bond strength differences, should residual glycerol remain on the surface.

The application of I₂DDS might also lead to variation in the surface demineralization by phosphoric acid etching, suggesting the presence of I₂DDS remnants on the dentin substrate even after etching procedures. These remnants may limit the etchant to reach the collagen network and thereby work as a barrier for adhesive interlock into dentin, potentially leading to both microleakage and lower bond strengths.

In 2000, Roberts, et al. tested dentin bond strength using four chemical agents developed for the reduction of bacterial contamination in dental treatment water. The authors also observed reduction in dentin bond strength and speculated that this might be caused by essential oils present in these products, which might jeopardize tag formation.

The application of disclosing and/or disinfecting agents is an important step in clinical procedures. It can prevent bacterial growth and consequently diminish the possibility of post-operative hypersensitivity after restorative treatment. To be more conclusive about utilization of I₂DDS as a disinfectant before adhesive procedures, further studies are warranted to elucidate how bond strength of water- and/or ethanol-based adhesive systems might increase such as rinsing specimen longer than 20 seconds with water to remove any solution residue. Investigations into the role of glycerol on lower bond strengths should be pursued by using Iodine solutions based upon water alone associated with transmission electron microscopic evaluation (TEM).

CONCLUSION

Acetone-based adhesive systems seem not to be affected by the application of I₂DDS prior etching and bonding procedures. The null hypothesis can be rejected for ethanol- and/or water-base adhesives (p<0.05): Single Bond, Clearfil SE bond, and Opti-Bond Plus, in which I₂DDS application reduces bond strength.

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FIGURE 2- These 500x Scanning Electron Micrographs present: A) Dentin surface after etching procedure with 35% phosphoric acid; B) Dentin surface after 2% iodine disinfecting/disclosing treatment and etching procedure with 35% phosphoric acid. Note the fewer number of opened tubules on the surface treated by I₂DDS previous the etching and bonding procedures, suggesting the presence of remnants after rinsing the substrate with water for 20 seconds.
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