Stress Analysis of Ceramic Laminate Veneer for Diastema Closure with Different Extensions and Different Directions of Applied Load

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Abstract Purpose: To analyze stress distribution on the IPS e.max (lithium disilicate) laminate veneer used for diastema closure with different free median extensions and different extensions of proximal preparation using two directions of applied force. Statement of the problem: Closure of large median diastema by laminate veneer will increase stress intensity on the unsupported mesial extension. Materials and Methods: Finite element model of unprepared maxillary central incisor was made, by deletion method, the labial surface was reduced by 0.5 mm. and is taken up to the height of the incisal edge (feather design), then, the basic geometric configurations of different laminate veneer designs and its dimensions in millimeters were introduced into the ANSYS software program to obtain the different nine models from three proximal extensions (1, 1.5 and 2 mm) and three unsupported median extensions (0.5, 1 and 1.5 mm), then the stress distributions were evaluated by applying load of 100 N at two angulations (60° and 125°). Results: In case of 60° applied load the highest stress value was recorded in Model 3 (veneer with 1 mm labio – palatal extension with 1.5 free median extension, 30.95 Mpa) where The lowest stress value was recorded in Model 7 (veneer with 2 mm labio – palatal extension with 0.5 free median extension, 20.15 Mpa). Statistically, there was a significant difference between tested models (P at the level 0.05) except in cases of model 1, 4 and 7 which exhibited no statistical significant difference (P > 0.05). In case of 125° applied load the highest stress value was recorded in Model 3 (veneer with 1 mm labio – palatal extension with 1.5 free median extension, 53.61 Mpa) where The lowest stress value was recorded in Model 7 (veneer with 2 mm labio – palatal extension with 0.5 free median extension, 39.27 Mpa). Statistically, there was a significant difference between tested models (P at the level 0.05) except in cases of model 4, 5 and 8 which exhibited no statistical significant difference (P > 0.05). Conclusion: Stress is concentrated on the free median extension, incisal edge, and the mesio - labio - incisal point angle. The stress intensity increase in the following cases: - (1) increase in free median extension of the veneer, (2) increase in angulation of applied force, (3) decrease in proximal extension of laminate veneer.

Keywords: stress analysis, diastema closure, laminate veneer

Cite This Article: Adel A. El Badawy, and Mohammed H. Abd El Aziz, “Stress Analysis of Ceramic Laminate Veneer for Diastema Closure with Different Extensions and Different Directions of Applied Load.” International Journal of Dental Sciences and Research, vol. 6, no. 2 (2018): 33-38. doi: 10.12691/ijdsr-6-2-3.

1. Introduction

Median diastema (which can be defined as a median space greater than 0.5 mm between the proximal surfaces of the two central incisors), [1] is certainly psychologically annoying for affected individuals as it is easily noticed and esthetically displeasing. [2] Due to the different applications of dental ceramics in dentistry, numerous dental ceramics with variable mechanical properties and chemical composition have been presented [3]. They are generally categorized into glass and high-strength core ceramics, onto which an esthetic ceramic layer must be applied to attain a natural appearance [4,5,6]. Lithium disilicates are glass ceramics that are currently recommended due to the ability to produce thin layers exhibiting an excellent esthetic performance [7]. Regarding the best place of interproximal margin of the laminate veneer, traditionally, the proximal preparation of laminate veneer stop labial to the contact area, But, in some cases we have to make the veneer tooth interface more palatal, [8] there is a range of authors opinions from a preparation that end before the interproximal contact to a slight opening of this contact. [9] Vanlioğlu, [10] postulated that, breaking the contact may be necessary to clear the contact in case of changing the shape or position of teeth and in case of multiple veneers preparation, while Garber, [11] recommended the preparation extension passing two thirds of proximal surface as a more appropriate depth. Most authors, [12,13,14] postulated that, palatal extension of the proximal preparations is necessary to permit technician to enhance the optical illusion of diastema closure. Robbins, [13] described these palatal extensions by that, the greater
the median space to be closed, the farther the extension must be to the palatal. This study was directed to evaluate stress distribution on the IPS empress ceramic laminate veneer used for diastema closure with different free median extensions and different extensions of proximal preparation using two directions of applied force.

2. Materials and Methods

Maxillary right central incisor with 26 mm length (free of dental caries, restorations and incisal attrition) was selected and fixed at a glass slab (2 X 2 cm) with a piece of wax. Using dental surveyor, the tooth was aligned with their axis perpendicular to the horizontal plane of the mold, then, a plastic mold (2 X 2 X 3 cm) was assembled over the glass slab. Finally, the mold was filled entirely with molten wax. Computerized tomography (CT) image was performed (CS 9300, Carestream, AGXL012) with image quality (120 kV, 150 mA) and slice volume of 0.5 mm thickness to divide the tooth into 52 sections. Scanning was performed in a labio – palatal direction starting from the incisal edge up to apical foramen to obtain 53 image levels (0, 1, 2, 3, 4……52 mm). From Computerized tomography scan, 1240 K points were obtained, each K point has a three distances, x, y, and z. 

{x: is the distance from "X" axis, y: is the distance from "Y" axis, while z: is the slice level (0.5 mm increase with each level)}. The collected x, y, and z distances were introduced into special program for stress analysis (ANSYS 5.4 finite element software) to obtain three-dimensional finite element model for maxillary central incisor divided into cubical volumes “as seen in Figure 1”. The volumes were digitally refined and automatically mashed with eight nodes brick for each with three degrees of freedom per nodes, finally resulting the original finite element model for unprepared maxillary central incisor with its internal morphology including (131294) elements and (202464) nodes “as seen in Figure 2”. By deletion method, the labial surface was reduced by 0.5 mm. and is taken up to the height of the incisal edge but the edge is not reduced (feather design) “as seen in Figure 3”. And from the spongy bone volume, 0.25-mm periodontal ligament, 0.25-mm lamina dura, and 1.5 mm cortical bone were developed. The remaining bone was modeled as cancellous type [15,16] and a cylindrical bone section of 20 mm height and 10 mm diameter was modeled.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.
The basic geometric configurations of the different laminate veneer designs and its dimensions in millimeters in addition to 30 µ thickness of bonding agent layer with 100 µ thickness of resin cement layer were introduced into the ANSYS software program to obtain the nine models “as seen in Table 1”. Young’s Modulus, and Poisson’s ratio of the tooth components as well as the used materials” as seen in Table 2”, [17,18,19] were introduced to the ANSYS software program which in turn calculated stresses under a load of 100 N at 60° (tearing) and 125°(protrusion) [20] to identify maximum Von Mises equivalent stresses (in X, Y, Z directions) $\sigma_{\text{total}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 + \sigma_3^2 + \sigma_1\sigma_2 + \sigma_2\sigma_3 + \sigma_3\sigma_1)}$ where $\sigma_1$, $\sigma_2$, and $\sigma_3$ are principal stresses taking in consideration that, $\sigma_1 > \sigma_2 > \sigma_3$. [21] The data were collected and statistically analyzed by ANOVA one-way test using statistical-package of social science (SPSS) statistic software (SPSS for windows, version 21.0, SPSS Inc. Chicago).

### Table 1.

| Model | Description                                    |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| M (1) | 1 mm proximal extension and 0.5 mm free median extension |
| M (2) | 1 mm proximal extension and 1 mm free median extension |
| M (3) | 1 mm proximal extension and 1.5 mm free median extension |
| M (4) | 1.5 mm proximal extension and 0.5 mm free median extension |
| M (5) | 1.5 mm proximal extension and 1 mm free median extension |
| M (6) | 1.5 mm proximal extension and 1.5 mm free median extension |
| M (7) | 2 mm proximal extension and 0.5 mm free median extension |
| M (8) | 2 mm proximal extension and 1 mm free median extension |
| M (9) | 2 mm proximal extension and 1.5 mm free median extension |

### Table 2.

| Material                        | Modulus of elasticity Mpa | Poisson’s ratio |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Enamel [17]                     | 84100                     | 0.41            |
| Dentin [17]                     | 18600                     | 0.31            |
| Pulp [17]                       | 2                         | 0.45            |
| Periodontal ligament [18]       | 68.9                      | 0.45            |
| Cortical bone [18]              | 13700                     | 0.30            |
| Cancellous bone [18]            | 13700                     | 0.30            |
| IPS e. max core [18]            | 65000                     | 0.24            |
| IPS e. max veneer [18]          | 65000                     | 0.24            |
| Resin cement [19]               | 18.3                      | 0.33            |

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Qualitative analysis

In all tested finite element models representing the nine different designs (in both directions of applied load), the results exhibited that, the highest stress concentration appeared at the level of the laminate veneer then decreased towards the resin cement layer up to the tooth structure. Within the laminate veneer level, the stress was higher at the free median extension, incisal region and mesio - labio - incisal point angle, then gradually and significantly decreased and uniformly distributed along the labial wall giving an indication of good and uniform stress distribution. After dispersing along the adhesive interface in the same direction of the applied force and transferring the stress to a lower value, it was concentrated again at the cervical area “as seen in Figure 4”. In general, stress values on the IPS e. max laminate veneer for all models, increase by the following variables (1) increasing the angulation of applied force, (2) decreasing the proximal preparation extension, (3) increasing the free median extension for diastema closure.

Table 3 reports Von Mises equivalent stress values recorded on the IPS e.max laminate veneer in the simulated finite element models with the tested nine
different proximal designs and the two angles of applied load in (Mpa). “As shown in Table 3”, Von Mises equivalent stress values on the IPS e.max laminate veneer for all models, increase by the following variables (1) increasing the angulation of applied force, (2) decreasing the proximal preparation extension, (3) increasing the free median extension for diastema closure.

3.2. Qualitative Analysis

Table 3 and Figure 5 showed Von Mises equivalent stress values recorded on the IPS e. max laminate veneer in the finite element model with the tested nine designs at two directions of applied load in Mpa. The results of this study showed that, Von Mises equivalent stress value in case of 60° applied load for all tested models were lower than that in case of 125° applied load.

![Figure 4](image)

![Figure 5](image)

| Table 3. | Mesial extension (mm) |
|-----------|-----------------------|
|            | 0.5       | 1.0     | 1.5       |
| proximal Extension (mm) | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 60°        | 60°       | 60°     | 60°       |
| Model 1    | 20.23     | 22.73   | 30.95     |
| Model 2    | 47.77     | 48.27   | 53.61     |
| Model 3    | 20.16     | 21.51   | 30.08     |
| Model 4    | 44.32     | 45.87   | 52.99     |
| Model 5    | 20.15     | 20.25   | 29.66     |
| Model 6    | 39.27     | 45.34   | 52.23     |

Figure 4.

![Figure 5](image)

Von Mises equivalent stress values ( Mpa)

Figure 5.

**In case of 60° applied load** the highest stress value was recorded in Model 3 (veneer with 1 mm labio – palatal extension with 1.5 free median extension, 30.95 Mpa) where the lowest stress value was recorded in Model 7 (veneer with 2 mm labio – palatal extension with 0.5 free median extension, 20.15 Mpa). Statistically, there was a significant difference between tested models (P at the level 0.05) except in cases of model 1, 4 and 7 which exhibited no statistical significant difference (P > 0.05).

**In case of 125° applied load** the highest stress value was recorded in Model 3 (veneer with 1 mm labio – palatal extension with 1.5 free median extension, 53.61 Mpa) where The lowest stress value was recorded in Model 7 (veneer with 2 mm labio – palatal extension with 0.5 free median extension, 39.27 Mpa). Statistically, there was a significant difference between tested models (P at the level 0.05) except in cases of model 4, 5 and 8 which exhibited no statistical significant difference (P > 0.05).

4. Discussion

The finite element analysis is a numerical method for study of stress distribution. The advantage of this method is that, great number of variables can be studied on the same model, decreasing the risk of experimental errors. The internal stress can be analyzed whatever the dimensions and shape of the structure to be studied, which is a problem found when dealing with the human body. [22] Many authors accepted the traditional design of
lamine veneer which extends interproximal stopping before the contact area to allow simple, quick, and conservative reduction of tooth structure, at the same time exclude the need for temporization. But this design is not appropriate for every situation as in diastema closure where we have to extend the interproximal preparation involving the contact area. [23]

In this study, maxillary central incisor has been selected for finite element modeling because veneers are commonly indicated for it, also, at the same time, most of laminate veneer failure occur in this tooth. [24] Uniform labial reduction was done to ensure the whole preparation confined into enamel layer. This simulate clinical situation of better bonding without veneer over contouring. [25,26,27] The result of this study showed that, the stresses concentrated on the laminate veneer level and significantly decreased towards the resin cement layer up to the tooth structure in all tested preparation designs and the highest stress concentration appeared at the level of the laminate veneer. This is due to the overall mechanical properties of the IPS e.maxwhich is high in modulus of elasticity (nearly 95 Gpa) than that of resin cement and tooth structure, this result is in agreement with Zarone et al, [28] and Troedson and Dérand [29].

The results of this study showed that, with the increase of proximal extension of the preparation, the stress concentration decreased. This is may be attributed to that, the presence of thick enamel band at the interproximal area that permit extension to the palatal aspect without dentin exposure.

This result is in agreement with that of other authors. [12,13,14] On the other hand, the results of this study are incompatible with that of other studies, [30,31] in which the traditional inter proximal preparation design without involvement of contact area exhibited better fracture resistance than in proximal preparation with contact involvement attributing their results by that, the stress levels increase on the incisal edge with an increase in extension of the interproximal preparation (it should be noted that, they used porcelain material rather than IPS e max press that has been used in this study).

Regarding to increasing in free median extension closing the diastema, the results of the study exhibited that, compressive stress levels increase on the mesio - labial incisal angle in case of 60° applied load (tearing) and became more in case of 125° applied load (protrusion), this is may be due to increasing in stress bearing surface area of the laminate veneer and presence of laminate veneer material un supported by tooth structures.

From the other hand, tensile stress levels decrease with an increase in proximal extension into palatal direction, this is probably because stress is load divided by area, and an increased area with extended laminate veneer helps to distribute the load and produce lower tensile stresses, also, in case of 60° applied load the stress distribution is better than that of 125° applied load. This results are compatible with that of Chander and Padmanabhan [31].

5. Conclusion

Within the limitations of this study, the following conclusions have been found:

1. Stress is concentrated on the free median extension, incisal edge, and the mesio - labio - incisal point angle.
2. The stress intensity increase in (a) increase in free median extension of laminate veneer, (b) increase in angulation of applied force, (c) decrease in proximal extension of laminate veneer.

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