

Microleakage of Porcelain and Composite Machined Crowns Cemented with Self-Adhesive or Conventional Resin Cement

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Abstract

Purpose: Resistance of machined crowns to microleakage when cemented with new self-adhesive cements has not been fully investigated. This study evaluated microleakage of machined crowns milled from porcelain and composite blocks and bonded to teeth with self-adhesive and conventional resin cement.

Materials and Methods: Thirty-two freshly extracted premolars of similar shape and size were sterilized and mounted in resin blocks. Teeth received standard crown preparations with 1-mm circumferential shoulder finish line, flat occlusal surface reduced by 2 mm, and ideal angle of convergence. Prepared teeth were divided into two equal groups and assigned to either porcelain (Vita Mark II, Vident) or composite (Paradigm MZ100, 3M ESPE) blocks for crown fabrication. Optical impressions were captured for each tooth with the intraoral camera of a CEREC 3D machine. Crowns were designed and milled from both materials. Each group was then subdivided into two subgroups ($n = 8$) according to cement used (self-adhesive resin cement, RelyX Unicem, 3M ESPE or resin cement with self-etching adhesive, Panavia F 2.0, Kuraray). Following seating, a 5-kg weight was applied on the occlusal surface of the crown for 5 minutes. Specimens were then stored in water at 37°C for 24 hours. Specimens were thermocycled for 3000 cycles between 5°C and 55°C, then coated with nail varnish and immersed in a 2.0% basic red fuchsin dye solution for 24 hours. Teeth were then rinsed and sectioned mesiodistally and assessed under magnification for microleakage. A five-point scale was used to score degree of microleakage. Data were statistically analyzed with 2-way ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric test.

Results: Crown material had no significant effect on microleakage ($p = 0.67$); however, cement type had a significant effect ($p < 0.0001$), with Panavia F 2.0 resulting in lower microleakage scores than RelyX Unicem.

Conclusions: Compared to the self-adhesive cement, the resin cement with separate primer/bonding agent resulted in significantly lower microleakage scores, irrespective of crown material.

Clinical studies have shown that recurrent caries and lack of retention are the major causes of failure of indirect restorations.^{1,2} Optimal marginal accuracy and the presence of a long-term cement seal are, therefore, important clinical requirements. An additional cause of failure of current nonmetallic esthetic indirect restorations is the occurrence of clinical fracture.³ Resin luting cements combined with proven bonding procedures have been shown to provide an extremely strong, retentive, and almost insoluble luting unit that provides the strength requirement necessary for many nonmetallic esthetic indirect restorations.

Typically available with dual-polymerization capability, resin cements are characterized by high mechanical strength and excellent esthetic properties.^{4,5}

Tooth-colored crowns can be constructed from resin composite or porcelain material using computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology, providing esthetically pleasing restorations that are cemented in the patient's mouth at the same visit, thus decreasing treatment time and eliminating the need for making interim prostheses. The CAD/CAM milling of porcelain blocks

fabricated under controlled and optimum manufacturing conditions enables the production of a restoration with a higher intrinsic strength without the variability inevitable in the laboratory-produced restoration.^{6,7} Clinical use of adhesively cemented monolithic CAD/CAM anterior and posterior crowns generated from Vita Mark II feldspathic blocks generated in a one-step procedure at chairside has been reported.⁸ Indirect resin composite restorations can be constructed by CAD/CAM techniques using the prefabricated composite blocks (Paradigm MZ100, 3M ESPE, St. Paul, MN) under controlled conditions, which according to the manufacturer combine some of the best attributes of porcelains and polymers.^{9–13} Advantages over restorations milled from CAD/CAM porcelain blocks include easier intraoral finishing and polishing, less abrasiveness to the opposing dentition, and ease of additions/adjustment.¹⁴

Resin cements are the material of choice for the adhesive cementation of all-porcelain restorations.^{5,15,16} Bindl *et al* studied the strength and fracture pattern of monolithic CAD/CAM-generated posterior crowns and found that adhesive cementation improved the relatively weak strength of some porcelains to that of stronger porcelains and recommended using adhesive resin cements for leucite glass-ceramic and feldspathic ceramic crowns.¹⁷ Generally the technique of adhesive cementation involves three main steps: etching, priming, and cement application. The multistep procedure requires attention to detail and is extremely technique sensitive.^{18–20} A new generation of proprietary self-adhesive resin cements has been introduced recently, designed to self-etch and bond to dentin without using separate etching or priming agents. Self-adhesive, dual-polymerizing resin cements are designed to provide ease of handling with favorable mechanical properties, good esthetics, and appropriate adhesion to tooth structure and restoration.^{21,22}

Microleakage is defined as passage of bacteria, fluids, molecules, or ions between a cavity wall and the restorative material applied to it.²³ Evaluation of microleakage *in vitro* is a reliable method to predict the *in vivo* performance of crown cements.²⁴ Microleakage at crown margins may result in marginal staining, secondary caries, and subsequent pulpal pathology.^{25,26} Dye penetration and microscopic evaluation is a well-established method for *in vitro* microleakage testing.^{27,28} It was used in several studies because of its simplicity and reproducibility.^{30,31}

Microleakage and the marginal gap associated with various cementing agents for full-cast crowns were investigated for groups of cementing agents.²⁹ The authors of a later investigation reported that the self-adhesive resin cement resulted in the smallest degree of microleakage both at enamel and dentin margins. De Munk *et al*³⁰ found there was no significant difference in bonding MZ100 composite blocks to dentin using an auto-cured adhesive resin cement relative to a conventional resin cement. Other investigators concluded that good marginal adaptation and low microleakage could be established with the self-adhesive cement comparable to that of conventional resin cement.^{31,32} In contrast, Ibarra *et al*³³ reported that the self-adhesive cement microleakage score was more similar to dentin than that recorded with the cement that employed an adhesive in a separate step. Escribano and de la Macorra compared the bond strength of Empress II discs to dentin using Multilink system, RelyX Unicem, and Panavia F and concluded that RelyX

Unicem achieved the lowest tensile bond strength.³⁴ The same finding was reported in another study in which the microtensile bond strength of RelyX Unicem self-adhesive resin cement was found to be lower than that achieved with a conventional resin cement.³⁵

More research is needed on microleakage of machined crowns made from composite or porcelain blocks and cemented with self-adhesive resin cement. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the microleakage of CAD/CAM crowns milled from both composite and porcelain blocks and bonded to tooth preparations with proprietary self-adhesive resin cement as compared to that of conventional resin cement with self-etching primer.

Materials and methods

This study used human teeth to simulate the clinical situation when crowns are cemented to teeth with different cements.³⁶ Furthermore, this study used CAD/CAM crowns milled from new composite blocks as well as ones made with traditional porcelain blocks. The processing techniques of these composite blocks maximize the degree of cross-linking (monomer conversion) and eliminate void formation.

Thirty-two freshly extracted sound human maxillary premolars of nearly the same shape and size were collected in a 6-month period from the Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, Mansoura University, Egypt. The selected teeth were found free of cracks, caries, or developmental defects and extracted for orthodontic purposes. These were sterilized with a gamma irradiation device with a dose of 3.3 kg/y/hr for 12 hours (Gamma Cell 220, Atomic Energy Ltd., Ottawa, Canada).³⁷ The sterilized teeth were then cleaned of any debris, scaled to remove any calculus deposits, then examined under optical microscope to exclude any with major defects. They were then mounted in resin blocks and prepared in a standard manner to receive crowns with 1-mm circumferential all-around shoulder finish line and flat occlusal surface reduced by 2 mm with a 10° angle of convergence (Fig 1).

The prepared teeth were divided into two groups of 16 teeth each relative to the composite or porcelain blocks to be used for making the crowns with the CEREC 3D machine. Each group was further subdivided into two subgroups ($n = 8$), relative to the type of resin cement used for crown cementation, either a conventional resin cement with self-etching adhesive (Panavia F 2.0, Table 1) or a self-adhesive universal resin cement (RelyX Unicem, Table 1).

Prepared teeth were uniformly sprayed with reflective powder to facilitate the scanning process during optical impression taking (Vita Cerec powder, Table 1). An optical impression was captured for each tooth with the intraoral camera of the CEREC 3D machine. Crowns were then designed, and digital data sent to the milling machine through a wireless connection. The milling unit uses two types of burs (a flat-ended and a round-ended cylindrical diamond) that were changed after every five crown millings. The internal gap distance was set at 25 μm to create cement space, while the marginal gap was adjusted to 0 μm .

Sixteen crowns were milled from composite blocks (Paradigm MZ100, Table 1), and sixteen crowns were milled from porcelain blocks (Vita Mark II, Table 1). Milled crowns

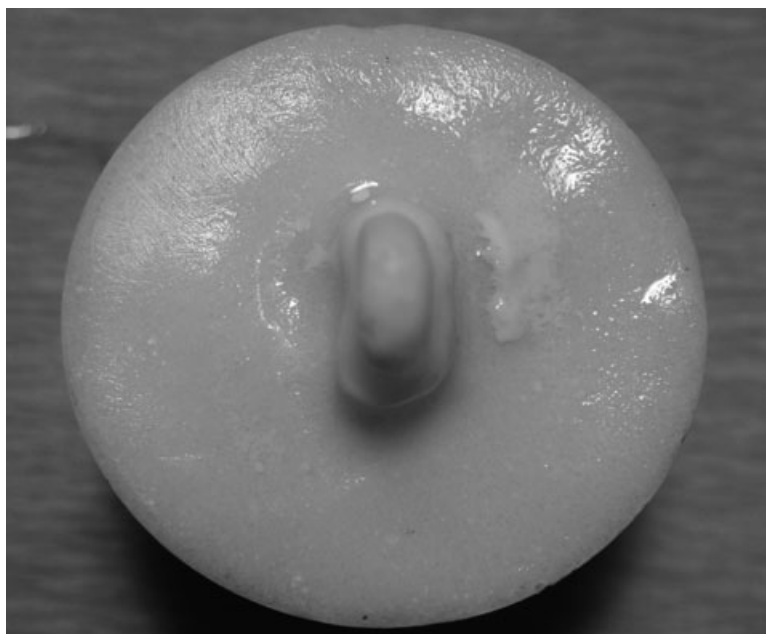


Figure 1 Mounted and prepared premolar.

were seated on their corresponding preparations and adjusted when necessary until complete seating was achieved. The composite crowns were polished (Soflex discs, 3M ESPE), while the porcelain crowns were glazed at 930°C without vacuum, following the manufacturer's recommendations (Fig 2).

The height of each tooth with its corresponding crown was determined with a digital caliper (Digimatic caliper, model CD-6 BS, Mitutoyo Corporation, Kawasaki, Japan) before and after cementation to ensure proper seating. The intaglio surfaces of the composite crowns were grit-etched with 50- μ m aluminum

oxide powder in a sandblasting machine microetcher (Microcab, Danville Engineering Inc, San Ramon, CA) followed by application of silane coupling agent (Lot number B0DMV, Ultradent, South Jordan, UT), while the intaglio surfaces of the porcelain crowns were etched with Porcelain Etch, a 9% hydrofluoric acid (Lot number B1P6J, Ultradent), followed by application of the same silane coupling agent. For each subgroup crowns were cemented to their corresponding premolars with conventional resin cement with the self-etching adhesive Panavia F2.0; the other subgroup's crowns were cemented with

Table 1 Materials used

Material name	Manufacturer	Lot number(s)	Composition
Vitablocs Mark II	Vita Zahnfabrik, Bad Sackingen, Germany	7484,7615, 7484	Conventional feldspathic ceramic with fine-grain particle size
Vita Cerec powder	Vita Zahnfabrik, Bad Sackingen, Germany		
Paradigm MZ100	3M ESPE Dental Products, St Paul, MN	20060213, 20061122	Conventional hybrid composite resin, Bisphenol-A-diglycidylether dimethacrylate (BisGMA), triethylene glycol dimethacrylate (TEGDMA), and ultrafine zirconia silica ceramic particles as filler. Particles have spherical shape and average size 0.6 μ m
Panavia F 2.0	Kuraray Medical Inc., Okayama, Japan	61140	<i>Base paste:</i> Hydrophobic aromatic (and aliphatic) dimethacrylate, hydrophilic dimethacrylate, sodium aromatic sulfinate, N,N-diethanolp-toluidine, functionalized sodium fluoride, silanized barium glass <i>Catalyst paste:</i> MDP, hydrophobic aromatic (and aliphatic) dimethacrylate, hydrophilic dimethacrylate, silanized silica, photoinitiator, dibenzoyl peroxide
RelyX Unicem	3M ESPE Dental Products, St. Paul, MN	236752	<i>Powder:</i> glass fillers, silica, calcium hydroxide, self-cure initiators, pigments, light-cure initiators <i>Liquid:</i> methacrylated phosphoric esters, dimethacrylates, acetate, stabilizers, self-cure initiators

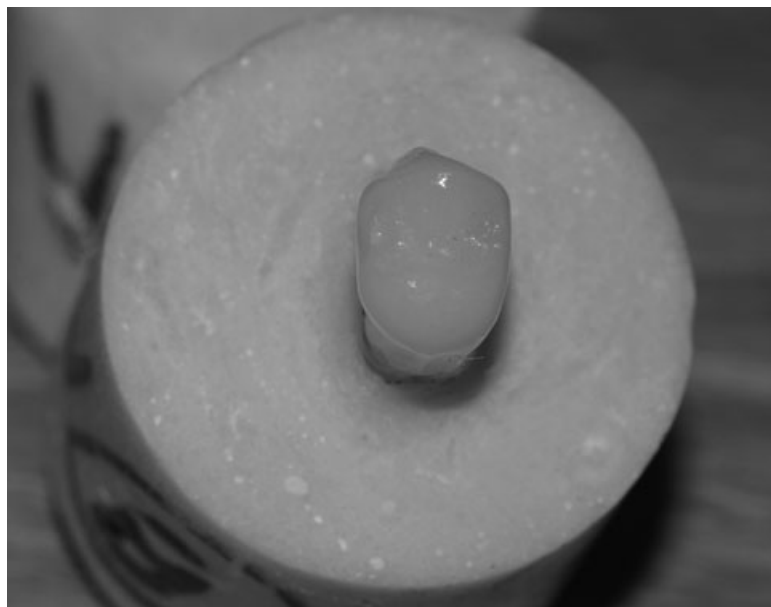


Figure 2 Milled crown seated on prepared tooth.

the self-adhesive universal resin cement RelyX Unicem. All crowns were cemented to their corresponding premolars following specific manufacturer's recommendations under a constant load of 5 kg, which was maintained for 10 minutes in a specially designed apparatus (Fig 3).

Cemented crowns were stored in water at 37°C for 24 hours. They were then subjected to thermocycling between 5 and 55°C

for a total of 3000 cycles with dwell time of 30 seconds and transfer time 5 seconds. The specimens were then prepared for microleakage testing by coating the root surfaces, except 1 mm from the margin with nail varnish. Specimens were then immersed in a 2.0% basic red fuchsin dye solution for 24 hours at room temperature. The roots of the teeth with their surrounding acrylic base were severed and teeth were split mesiodistally into two halves using a slow-speed Isomet saw (Buehler, Lake Bluff, IL) under constant water cooling.

Specimens were then assessed under magnification (binocular stereomicroscopy, Wild, Heerbrugg, Switzerland) at each margin using the following five-point scale:

Score	Description
0	No dye penetration.
1	Dye penetration along the gingival wall.
2	Dye penetration up to 1/2 the axial wall.
3	Dye penetration along more than half to the full length of the axial wall.
4	Dye penetration extending to the occlusal surface.



Figure 3 Cemented crown seated in a device with constant occlusal load of 5 kg maintained until initial setting was achieved.

A total of 128 readings were available for evaluation of microleakage at the dentin/cement crown interface. These were obtained from 64 specimen halves from all subgroups. Two readings were obtained from each section, and data were statistically analyzed using SPSS (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) with 2-way ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric test at the $p < 0.05$ level of significance.

Results

No significant difference in microleakage scores (Fig 4) was found between crowns milled from resin composite or porcelain blocks, irrespective of the type of cement used ($p = 0.672$).

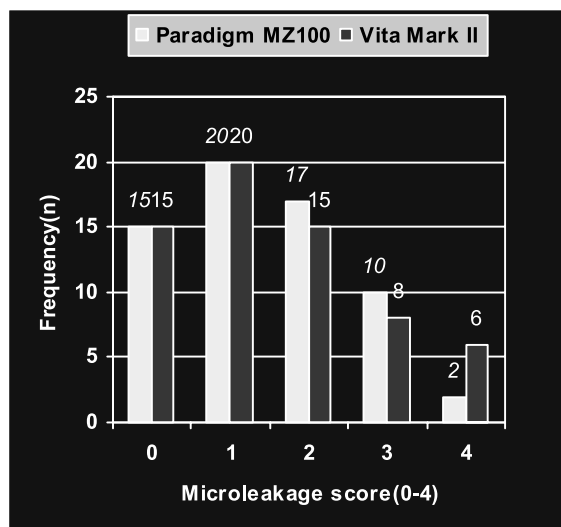


Figure 4 Microleakage overall scores of composite and porcelain crowns with the two cements. Score of 0 indicates no microleakage, while a score of 4 indicates most microleakage that extends throughout the entire tooth/cement interface. No statistically significant differences were detected between the two crown materials ($p = 0.672$).

The use of Panavia F2.0 cement (Fig 5) resulted in significantly lower microleakage scores when resin composite crowns were used as compared to the use of RelyX Unicem cement ($p < 0.0001$). Similarly, the use of Panavia F2.0 cement (Fig 6) resulted in significantly lower microleakage scores when porcelain crowns were used as compared to the use of RelyX Unicem cement ($p < 0.015$). Figures 7–10 show representative sectioned specimens from the four test groups.

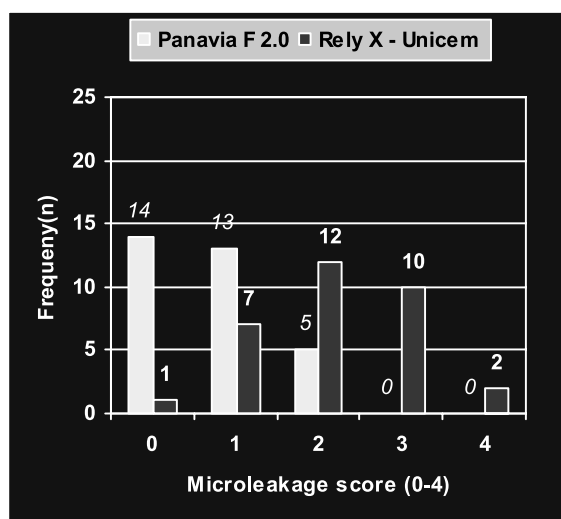


Figure 5 Microleakage scores of Panavia F 2.0 and RelyX Unicem cements with resin composite crowns. Score of 0 indicates no microleakage, while a score of 4 indicates most microleakage that extends throughout the entire tooth/cement interface. Statistically significant differences were detected between the two cements ($p < 0.0001$).

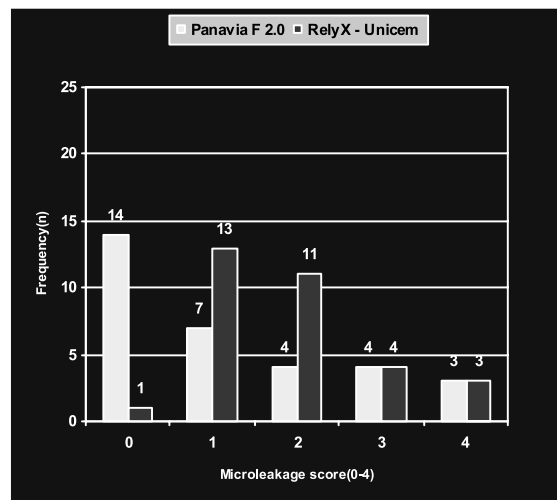


Figure 6 Microleakage scores of Panavia F 2.0 and RelyX Unicem cements with porcelain crowns. A score of 0 indicates no microleakage, while a score of 4 indicates most microleakage that extends throughout the entire tooth/cement interface. Statistically significant differences were detected between the two cements ($p < 0.015$).

Discussion

Extracted teeth were used in this study in an attempt to approximate conditions as close as possible to clinical conditions; however, in the oral environment crowned teeth are exposed to a multitude of challenges ranging from temperature and pH fluctuations related to the food being consumed to mechanical loading applied during mastication in addition to enzymes secreted to assist digestion. It is difficult in an in vitro set-up to simulate the cumulative effects of these challenges. Therefore, results of this study must be interpreted with caution, as clinical performance of the crowns in terms of microleakage might be worse than what is reported in this study.

The results obtained in this study showed that there was no statistically significant difference in microleakage scores between crowns milled from Paradigm MZ100 blocks and ones milled from Vita MARK II blocks, irrespective of the cement used. This is not surprising, as both types of crowns were milled with the same machine, and both types of blocks do not undergo any type of further setting after milling. This finding is generally in agreement with findings of Tsitrou,¹¹ who concluded that marginal gap of resin composite crowns manufactured with the CEREC 3D system were within the clinical range of acceptance, regardless of the finish line prepared or the cementation technique used. Furthermore, Behr et al³¹ found marginal adaptation of crowns cemented with the self-adhesive cement, Variolink II; however, they used crowns made with Empress II porcelain, which uses an injection-molding pressing technique rather than the milling technique used in this study for crown fabrication.

Akbar et al¹² stated that polymer-based materials appear to be a viable alternative for fabricating crowns with acceptable marginal gaps. In addition, El Zohairy et al, who tested the



Figure 7 Composite resin crown cemented with Panavia F 2.0. This specimen was given a score of 2. The die penetrated along the interface and reached a level limited to the lower half of the axial wall.



Figure 9 Porcelain crown cemented with Panavia F 2.0. This specimen was given a score of 0. There is no evidence of die penetration at any point along the interface.

microtensile bond strength of conventional resin cement to composite and porcelain blocks, concluded the composite blocks gave a higher bond strength and suggested they could replace porcelain blocks in inlay and crown fabrication.¹³

In this study, microleakage was found to be more pronounced with proprietary self-adhesive cement than that observed with resin cement with a separate self-etch primer/bonding agent. A similar trend was reported by other authors. Ibarra *et al*



Figure 8 Composite resin crown cemented with RelyX Unicem. This specimen was given a score of 2. The die penetrated along the interface and reached a level limited to the lower half of the axial wall.



Figure 10 Porcelain crown cemented with RelyX Unicem. This specimen was given a score of 2. The die penetrated along the interface and reached a level limited to the lower half of the axial wall.

reported that the self-adhesive cement gave a microleakage score more similar to dentin than that recorded with the cement that employed an adhesive in a separate step.³³ Yang *et al* reported that the bond strength of the self-adhesive cement was lower than that obtained with conventional resin cement.³⁵ Moreover, Escribano and de la Macorra reported that RelyX Unicem had the lowest tensile bond strength among a group of resin cements.³⁴ Contrary to this, Piowarczyk *et al*³⁸ stated that microleakage associated with self-adhesive cement was the smallest among a group of tested cements; however, the contrast in the results of that study and the current one may be attributed to differences in test conditions. In Piowarczyk *et al*'s study the crowns were made from a metallic alloy.

Based on the findings of this *in vitro* study and to reduce the potential for microleakage, dentists should consider use of the resin cement with separate primer/bonding agent when cementing nonmetallic crowns; however, as other self-adhesive resin cements are being made available, more research is needed to explore the potential of these new products in minimizing microleakage. In the oral environment, crowns are subjected to several types of mechanical forces during mastication. Such forces can result, over the long term, in mechanical fatigue, which may have a significant effect on microleakage. Crown material (resin composite vs. ceramic) may play a detrimental role in this respect. Further research is needed to explore the effect of mechanical cyclic loading on microleakage of different nonmetallic crowns.

Conclusions

Under the limitations of this study, the following can be concluded:

1. Crown material had no significant effect on microleakage scores.
2. Compared to the self-adhesive cement, RelyX Unicem, the resin cement with a separate primer/bonding agent resulted in significantly lower microleakage scores, irrespective of the crown material.

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