



Effect of Cariogenic Challenge on the Degradation of Adhesive-Dentin Interfaces

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The aim was to evaluate, in vitro, the influence of pH cycling on microtensile bond strength (μ TBS) and percentage of nanoleakage (%NL) in the dentin-adhesive interface. Flat dentin surfaces were obtained in 56 extracted third molars. The teeth were randomly divided into four groups (n=14): G1- Single Bond Universal (etch-and-rinse mode); G2- Single Bond Universal (self-etch mode); G3- Scotchbond Multi-Purpose; G4- Clearfil SE Bond. A block of composite was built on the adhesive area. Eight tooth/resin sets were cut parallel to the tooth's long axis to obtain 48 beams (0.8 mm²) for each group. Half of the beams were submitted to four cycles of pH cycling (demineralizing solution for 6 h and remineralizing solution for 18 h). The samples were submitted to μ TBS test in a universal testing machine. Six tooth/resin sets were cut parallel to the tooth's long axis to obtain three slices of the central region (1.0 mm thickness). Half of the slices were submitted to pH cycling. The nanoleakage methodology was applied to obtain the %NL at the adhesive interfaces. According to two-way ANOVA, the interaction between factors (adhesive system x storage) was significant (p=0.0001) for μ TBS and %NL. After pH cycling, there was a significant decrease in μ TBS and a significant increase in %NL for all adhesives. The adhesives applied in the self-etch mode obtained lower %NL, differing significantly from the etch-and-rinse adhesives. It was concluded that the pH cycling negatively influenced the μ TBS and %NL for all adhesives evaluated. However, self-etch adhesives allowed less %NL.

Key Words: Adhesives, bond strength, pH cycling, dentin, leakage.

Introduction

The chemical and physical characteristics and aspects concerning the oral cavity may influence the restorative materials' properties (1). Among the cited factors, the dental biofilm pH undergoes variations during the demineralization and remineralization process in vivo, and the physical and chemical structure of the materials may be changed by the environment (2). In environments with high cariogenic challenges, changes are present on the materials' surfaces (3), and mineral loss can occur on the tooth/restoration interface (4). These changes may negatively affect the bonding interface and produce marginal deterioration like discoloration and secondary caries, decreasing the restoration longevity (5).

The adhesive interfaces obtained in dentin have different characteristics depending on the type of adhesive system employed (6), that is, the etch-and-rinse mode (two- or three-step) or self-etch mode (one- or two-step) (7). Scotchbond Bond Multi-Purpose (SBMP) is an etch-and-rinse adhesive system, and Clearfil SE Bond (CSE) is a self-etch adhesive system. Both adhesive systems have been in the market for many years (8). Another

adhesive system category is classified as "multi-mode" or "universal," such as Single Bond Universal (SBU). According to the manufacturers, universal adhesives can be applied using either the etch-and-rinse or the self-etch modes. However, it is important that universal adhesive systems are comparable or achieve better performance than other adhesive systems under different oral challenges.

One of the oral challenges is the alterations in the dental plaque pH. Among the in vitro tests available, the pH cycling model has been successfully used to evaluate cariogenic challenge and the effectiveness of bonding in the adhesive-dentine interfaces (4,9). However, the effect of pH cycling on the performance of adhesive-dentin interfaces is not well established.

Given the need for further analyses of the dentin bonded interface with adhesive systems under cariogenic challenges, this study evaluated the effect of pH cycling on microtensile bond strength (μ TBS) and percentage of nanoleakage (%NL) of different adhesive systems applied to dentin. The hypotheses tested were that (1) pH cycling influences the μ TBS of the adhesive systems to dentin, (2) pH cycling influences the %NL at the dentin-adhesive

interface, and (3) there is significant difference in μ TBS and %NL among the adhesive systems.

Material and Methods

Material and Specimen Preparation

Fifty-six human third molars, extracted for therapeutic reasons, were collected from young adults aged between 17 and 30 years after approval from the Ethics Committee (55675416.7.0000.5336). The teeth were disinfected in 0.5% chloramine solution for 24 h and stored in distilled water at 4°C.

The roots were mounted in self-cured acrylic resin, and the occlusal enamel surface was removed using a water-cooled, low-speed diamond saw (Extec Corp., London, UK) mounted in a laboratory-cutting machine (Labcut 1010, Extec Corp., London, UK). The superficial dentin was exposed

and finished with 600-grit silicon carbide abrasive paper under running water in a polishing machine (DPU-10, Panambra, São Paulo, SP, Brazil) for 15 s. The teeth were randomly divided into four groups (n=14) according to the materials applied (Table 1).

Group 1 – SBU applied in the etch-and-rinse mode: the dentin was etched with 35% phosphoric acid for 15 s, followed by an air rinse and a water spray for 15 s. The excess water was removed with cotton buds. The adhesive was applied with a microbrush and scrubbed for 20 s, followed by gentle air-drying for 5 s. The adhesive was light cured for 10 s with a light-curing unit (LED Radium-cal, SDI, Vic., Australia) with light intensity of 1.000 mW/cm². The light intensity was assessed by a radiometer (Model 100 Demetron, Saint Louis, MN, USA).

Group 2 – SBU applied in the self-etch mode: the

Table 1. Materials used in the study

Product	Composition	Batch number	Manufacturer
Scotchbond Multi- Purpose (Adhesive system)	Primer: Aqueous solution of HEMA, polyalkenoic acid	Primer: 1511700492	3M/ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA
	Adhesive: Bis-GMA, HEMA, photoinitiator system	Adhesive: 1512800186	
Clearfil SE Bond (Adhesive system)	Self-etch primer: 10-MDP, HEMA, hydrophilic dimethacrylate, photo-initiator, water.	Primer: 670203	Kuraray, Kurashiki, Okayama, Japan
	Adhesive: 10-MDP, bis-GMA, HEMA, hydrophilic dimethacrylate, microfiller	Adhesive: 6L0328	
Single Bond Universal (Adhesive system)	Organophosphate monomer (MDP), dimethacrylate resins (BisGMA, etc), HEMA, Vitrebond copolymer, filler, ethanol, water, initiators, silane	1529300633	3M/ESPE, St. Paul MN, USA
Ultra-etch (Phosphoric acid)	35% phosphoric acid, thickener, dye	D013H D018K	Ultradent Products Inc. – South Jordan, USA
Filtek Z350 XT shade A2B (Nanofiller composite)	BisGMA, Bis-EMA, TEG-DMA, silane-treated ceramic, silane-treated silica, silane-treated zirconium oxide, functionalized dimethacrylate polymer	1524400749	3M/ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA
Remineralizing solution*/ artificial saliva (pH=7)	1,5 mM Ca, 0,9 mM P, 20 mM TRIS buffer, 150 mM KCl	Ca(NO ₃) ₂ : 1020660250	Merck Darmstadt, Germany
		NaH ₂ PO ₄ : 1063460500	
		TRIS Buffer : SYT102701AG	
Deminerallizing solution* (pH=4.3)	2 mM Ca, 2 mM P, 75 mM acetate buffer	KCl: 1049361000	Merck Darmstadt, Germany
		Ca(NO ₃) ₂ : 1020660250	
		NaH ₂ PO ₄ : 1063460500	
		Acetate Buffer: 1000631000	

adhesive was applied to the dentin with a microbrush and scrubbed for 20 s, followed by gentle air drying for 5 s and light-curing for 10 s.

Group 3 – SBMP: the dentin was etched with 35% phosphoric acid for 15 s, followed by rinsing with air and a water spray for 15 s. The excess water was removed with cotton buds. A layer of primer was applied for 15 s, followed by gentle air drying for 5 s. Subsequently, the bond was applied for 10 s with a microbrush and light cured for 10 s.

Group 4 – CSE: the self-etching primer was applied to the dentin using a microbrush and scrubbed for 20 s, followed by gentle air drying for 5 s. The bond was applied using a microbrush and light cured for 10 s.

After the adhesive systems were applied, the surface was built up using three layers of Z250 (3M, St. Paul, MN, USA) composite resin to result in a height of 6 mm. Each layer was light cured for 40 s. The samples were stored for 24 h at 37 °C in distilled water.

Dentin μ TBS Test

The number of beams was obtained through sample size calculation performed on the software Minitab 18 (Minitab, State College, PA, USA). The first adhesive system tested in the study was Single Bond Universal (etch-and-rinse mode) to sound dentin, being the values considered for sample size calculation. The bond strength mean and standard deviation was 39 MPa \pm 11 MPa. Using an α 0.05, a power of 80% and a two-sided test, the minimum sample size was 21 beams in each group in order to detect a difference of 10 MPa among groups.

Eight tooth/resin composite sets per group were sectioned perpendicular to the bonding surface using a water-cooled low-speed diamond saw (Extec) mounted in a laboratory-cutting machine (Labcut 1010). The samples were cut into approximately 0.90 \times 0.90 mm transverse sections, measured with a digital caliper (Mitutoyo Sul Americana Ltda., Suzano, SP, Brazil). Six beams from the central region of each tooth were obtained and examined with a stereomicroscope (Olympus Corp., Tokyo, Japan) at 25 \times magnification to analyze the adhesive area. The samples presenting defects, such as bubbles, lack of material or irregular areas, were discarded. Twenty-four beams were randomly selected and immediately submitted to a μ TBS test, and the other 24 beams were submitted to the pH-cycling model to simulate cariogenic alteration. Pre-failures did not occur.

The composition of the demineralizing (De) and remineralizing (Re) solutions are in Table 1. The amount of solution and the number of cycles followed the protocol of Peris et al. (10). For the De solution, 6.25 ml was used for each mm² of exposed dentin; and for the Re solution, 3.125 ml was used for each mm² of exposed area. The

pH cycling was composed of four cycles, and each cycle consisted of immersing the beams in the De solution for 6 h and subsequent immersion in the Re solution for 18 h. The beams were washed with deionized water for 1 min between immersions in the solutions. After the four cycles of De and Re solutions, the beams were submitted to the μ TBS test.

The samples were fixed with cyanoacrylate glue (Loctite, São Paulo, SP, Brazil) to a microtensile testing device. The samples were stressed at a crosshead speed of 0.5 mm/min until failure in a universal testing machine (EMIC DL-2000, São José dos Pinhais, PR, Brazil) using a cell load of 50 N. The μ TBS was expressed in MPa and derived by dividing the imposed force (N) at the time of fracture by the bond area (mm²).

The fractured surfaces of all samples were sputter coated with gold (Bal-Tec, Balzers, Liechtenstein) for 120 s at 20 mA and observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) (Inspect F50, FEI, Hillsboro, OR, USA) under 250 X magnification, operated at 20 kV and working distance of 14 mm. The failures were classified as adhesive (failure between adhesive and dentin, or between adhesive and composite resin), cohesive in dentin (failure inside the dentin), cohesive in composite resin (failure in composite resin), or mixed (two or more types of failure).

Nanoleakage Analysis

After storage in water for 24 h, six tooth/resin composite sets per group were cut in the long axis of the tooth using a water-cooled low-speed diamond saw (Extec) mounted in a laboratory-cutting machine (Labcut 1010) to obtain two slices (1 mm thickness) from the central region. Subsequently, two layers of nail polish were applied, leaving 1 mm below and 1 mm above the exposed adhesive interface. Half samples were subjected to the procedures for the nanoleakage after storage in water for 24 h (n=6), and the others after the pH-cycling model (n=6).

In the sequence, the samples were immersed in a 50 wt% silver nitrate solution (pH=4.2). After immersing in the tracer solution for 24 h, the samples were rinsed with deionized water for 5 min and placed in a photo-developing solution for 8 h under fluorescent light to reduce the diamine silver ions into metallic silver grains. The samples were then rinsed in distilled water and the nail polish was removed. The samples were immersed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 12 h in order to fix the dentin. The samples were washed with distilled water for 1 min, followed by dehydration with rising ethanol concentrations (25% for 15 min, 50% for 15 min, 75% for 15 min, 95% for 30 min, and 100% for 60 min). The samples were immersed in 50% HMDS and 50% alcohol at 100% for 5 min (in a hood) and then placed in 100% HMDS for 10 min (in a

hood). The samples dried overnight in a greenhouse.

The samples were embedded in epoxy resin and polished with 400-, 600-, 800-, and 1200-grit silicone carbide abrasive papers under moisture and then polished with 6-, 3-, 1- and 0.25- μm grit diamond pastes on a felt disk with manual pressure. Between each diamond paste, the samples were ultrasonically cleaned in distilled water for 10 min. The samples dried for 24 h in a greenhouse, sputter coated with gold (Bal-Tec, Balzers, Liechtenstein) for 120 s at 20 mA, and observed by SEM (Inspect F50, FEI, Hillsboro, OR, USA) in a backscattered mode under 2,000 X magnification at 20 kV and working distance of 10-14 mm. Three equally spaced images of the same magnification were obtained for each slice.

The 2,000x magnification photomicrographs of each region were analyzed using the ImageJ program (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA) to quantify the percentage of nanoleakage (%NL). This was calculated based on the contrast and brightness of each pixel in the 2000x image generated by SEM.

Statistical Analysis

μTBS and %NL values were submitted to the Shapiro-Wilk normality test. As there was normality in the values, the data were analyzed using two-way analysis of variance (adhesive system x mode of storage) and post-hoc multiple comparisons using Tukey's test. $P \leq 0.05$ was considered significant. The software used was SPSS v10.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

Results

Dentin μTBS

According to two-way ANOVA, the adhesive system factor ($p=0.0001$), the mode of storage factor ($p=0.0001$), and the interaction between the two factors were significant ($p=0.0001$).

At 24 h of storage time, no significant differences existed in the mean μTBS among the adhesive systems ($p>0.05$). However, after pH cycling, a significant difference

was noted among the adhesive systems. SBU applied in the etch-and-rinse mode presented the highest mean μTBS , which was not significantly different from SBMP. SBMP also did not differ significantly from CSE and SBU in the self-etch mode. For all adhesive systems, the mean μTBS at 24 h of storage time was significantly higher than after the pH cycling (Table 2).

There was a predominance of mixed failures in all groups at 24 h of storage time. After the pH cycling, there was reduction in the number of mixed failures and the occurrence of more adhesive failures between adhesive and dentin when compared to the 24 h of storage time for the SBU in both modes (etch-and-rinse and self-etch) and the CSE. No group presented cohesive failure in dentin. SBMP showed no cohesive failure in composite resin (Table 2).

Nanoleakage

According to two-way ANOVA, the adhesive system factor ($p=0.0001$), the mode of storage factor ($p=0.0001$), and the interaction between the two factors were significant ($p=0.0001$).

At 24 h of storage time, no significant differences existed in %NL among the adhesive systems ($p>0.05$). However, after pH cycling, a significant difference was noted among the adhesive systems. SBU applied in the etch-and-rinse mode obtained the highest %NL, differing significantly from the other groups. SBMP obtained the second highest %NL, differing significantly from CSE and SBU applied in the self-etch mode. The last two groups did not differ significantly from each other. The %NL was significantly higher after pH cycling in comparison to 24 h of storage time for all adhesive systems (Table 3).

Figure 1 shows representative SEM micrographs (2000x) of the nanoleakage observed in the different groups at 24 h and after pH cycling. After pH cycling, higher nanoleakage was observed for SBU in the etch-and-rinse mode (e – white arrow) and SBMP (g – white arrow), and less nanoleakage occurred for SBU in the self-etch mode (f – white arrow) and for CSE (H – white arrow).

Table 2. μTBS means (MPa) to dentin and standard deviations (SD) and mode of failure (%) in the groups

	24 h	Cariogenic challenge	A24h	CC24h	M24h	ApH	CCpH	MpH
Single Bond Universal (SBU) total-etch	39.0 Aa \pm 11.0	25.0 Ab \pm 5.0	10	10	80	24	28	48
Single Bond Universal (SBU) self-etch	31.0Aa \pm 13.0	19.0 Bb \pm 4.0	5	5	90	51	4	45
Scotchbond Multi- Purpose (SBMP)	34.0 Aa \pm 14.0	22.0 ABb \pm 6.0	25	-	75	30	-	70
Clearfil SE Bond (CSE)	36 Aa \pm 11.0	21.0Bb \pm 4.0	15	5	80	65	5	30

Means followed by different capital letters in columns and different lowercase letters in rows present significant differences according Tukey's test ($p<0.05$). A24h: Adhesive, CC24h: Cohesive in composite resin; M24h: Mixed; ApH: Adhesive; CCpH Cohesive in composite resin, MpH Mixed.

Discussion

In the present study, the SBU, SBMP, and CSE adhesive systems were used. In the immediate evaluation (24 h storage in water), the adhesive systems did not present significant differences in the mean μ TBS and %NL. However, after the pH cycling simulating cariogenic challenge, there was a significant decrease in the mean μ TBS and a significant increase in the %NL for all adhesive systems, and there were significant differences among the adhesive systems. Within the limitations of this study, particularly concerning dentin substrate, the results demonstrate that aesthetic restorations in which an adhesive system is used would be sensitive to pH changes that may occur in the oral cavity. The pH changes, in addition to other factors, make possible the occurrence of caries (11). Therefore, the three hypotheses of the study were accepted.

For the μ TBS methodology, the samples were submitted to cariogenic challenge in the form of beams, and in the

form of slices for the nanoleakage methodology. This allowed the demineralizing and remineralizing solutions to be in contact with all sides of the adhesive interface, as well as the dentin, adhesive, and composite resin before being submitted to the tests. Possible reasons for the influence of cariogenic challenge on the mean μ TBS and %NL may be related to different factors: a) loss of dentin minerals and reduction of the resistance of this substrate and of the adhesive interface, weakening the bond between dentin and resinous materials (12); b) degradation of the organic matrix of the adhesives and weakening of the mechanical properties of these materials (13); c) enzymatic and/or hydrolytic degradation of the collagen fibers not enveloped by the resinous monomers at the bottom of hybrid layer (8).

The cariogenic challenge significantly decreased the mean μ TBS to dentin for the two application modes of the SBU. Although the mean μ TBS was significantly higher in the etch-and-rinse mode (25 MPa) in comparison with the self-etch mode (19 MPa) after cariogenic challenge, both application modes resulted in similar numerical reductions of the mean μ TBS, being 14 and 12 MPa respectively. In addition, the lowest mean μ TBS in the self-etch mode (19 MPa) corresponded to the lowest %NL (6.49%) after cariogenic challenge. In contrast, the highest mean μ TBS in the etch-and-rinse mode (25 MPa) corresponded to the highest %NL (11.27%).

The lowest %NL after cariogenic challenge was obtained by the SBU in the self-etch mode. Another study also demonstrated less nanoleakage for SBU applied in the self-etch mode when compared to the same adhesive in the etch-and-rinse mode (14). The present study also demonstrated that CSE, which is considered the gold standard of self-etch adhesives, did not differ significantly

Table 3. Percentage of nanoleakage (%NL) and standard deviations (SD) of the groups

Groups	24 h	Cariogenic challenge
Single Bond Universal total-etch	1.68 Aa (\pm 0.29)	11.27 Ab (\pm 1.88)
Single Bond Universal self-etch	1.41 Aa (\pm 0.11)	6.49 Cb (\pm 1.14)
Scotchbond Multi- Purpose	2.41 Aa (\pm 0.21)	8.62 Bb (\pm 0.79)
Clearfil SE Bond	1.15 Aa (\pm 0.14)	7.21 Cb (\pm 1.17)

Means followed by different capital letters in columns and by different lowercase letters in lines present significant differences according Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$).

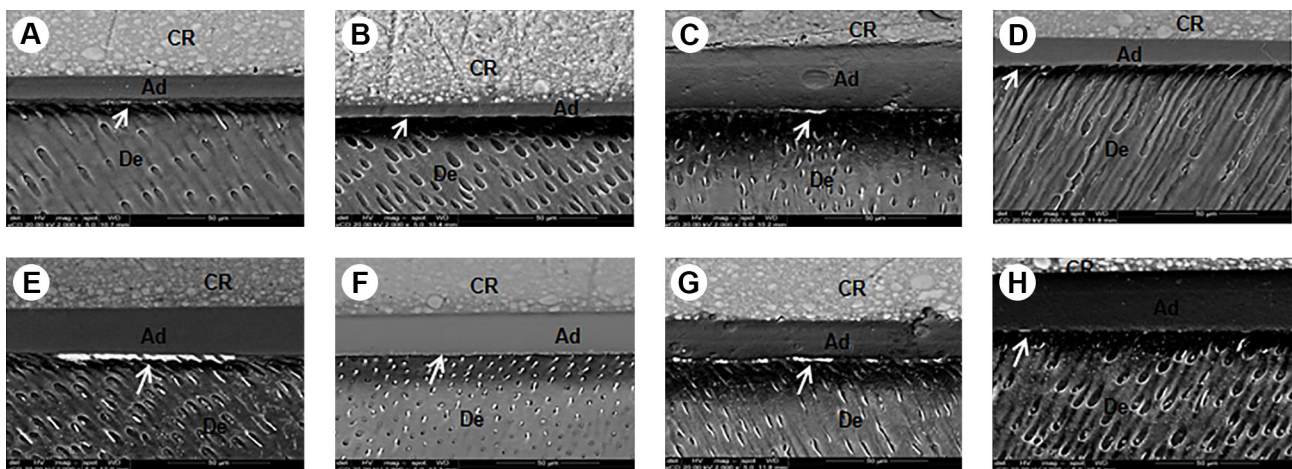


Figure 1. SEM micrographs (2000 \times) of the interface between dentin and the adhesive systems at 24 h (A,B,C,D) and after cariogenic challenge (E,F,G,H). De: Dentin; Ad: adhesive; CR: Composite resin. Single Bond Universal in the etch-and-rinse mode (A,E); Single Bond Universal in the self-etch mode (B,F); Scotchbond Multi-Purpose (C,G); Clearfil SE Bond (D,H).

from the SBU in the self-etch mode. Therefore, lower %NL was obtained in the self-etch modes. A possible explanation may be that phosphoric acid plays a role in the difference in nanoleakage percentages noticed between etch-and-rinse and self-etch modes.

In the etch-and-rinse adhesive systems, the bonding mechanism is based on the dentin etching with 35% phosphoric acid, causing total dentin demineralization and exposure of the collagen fibers, which must be enveloped by the resinous monomers to form the hybrid layer. However, in the etch-and-rinse mode, there is a greater possibility for the collagen fibers being not enveloped by the adhesive monomers, due to the incomplete infiltration of the resin monomers in the deeper layers of the demineralized dentin (15), favoring nanoleakage by the impregnation of silver particles in these spaces. It is important to emphasize that this incomplete infiltration would also expose the collagen fibers to hydrolytic and enzymatic degradation (16).

In the self-etch adhesive systems, the dentin is partially demineralized, remaining residual apatite in the collagen fibers and must be surrounded by the resinous monomers to form the hybrid layer (17). SBU applied in the self-etch mode and CSE presented mean μ TBS that did not differ significantly between them and obtained the lowest percentages of nanoleakage also without significant difference. The referred findings were obtained for the two adhesive systems, which have similarities in their compositions. Both adhesive systems incorporate 10-methacryloyloxydecyl dihydrogen phosphate monomer (10-MDP), which is able to chemically bond to the hydroxyapatite in dentin and enamel (18). In the self-etch mode, this monomer interacts with the residual hydroxyapatite that remains around the collagen fibers, enhancing the bond. A hydrolytically stable salt (MDP-Ca) is created by the bond of 10-MDP to calcium (19), protecting against hydrolysis (20). Hence, the presence of a hybrid layer containing fewer collagen fibers that were exposed to degradation and the presence of the MDP-Ca salt may have contributed to a more stable interface with less nanoleakage for the CSE and SBU in the self-etch mode (21).

SBU also contains polyalkenoic acid copolymer in its composition. This copolymer provides spontaneous chemical bonding to hydroxyapatite (22). The carboxyl groups, in the polyalkenoic acid copolymer, bond to hydroxyapatite by replacing phosphate ions on the substrate, creating ionic bonds to calcium (23). This is one more possibility of chemical bond of SBU to dentin.

SBMP is an etch-and-rinse adhesive system which has been used for many years. This adhesive system obtained an intermediate mean μ TBS and did not differ significantly from the other adhesive systems. The %NL of the SBMP

was lower in comparison with the SBU in the etch-and-rinse mode, but higher than the adhesive systems applied in the self-etch mode. This finding evidences the tendency of lower nanoleakage for the self-etch adhesive systems.

The failure mode after μ TBS test was determined by SEM. This observation determines if the methodology applied provides bond strength values that correspond to the adhesive-dentin interface. In addition, allows analysis of the regions that are more susceptible to failures. This analysis demonstrates that the adhesive systems chosen for the present study had a strong bond to dentin since mixed failure was the most common failure mode at 24 h storage time. After the cariogenic challenge, there was a decrease in the mixed failures and an increase in the adhesive failures. The cariogenic challenge may have induced the weakening of the mechanical properties of the adhesive system (13), and changes at the hybrid layer (10), justifying the appearance of a greater number of interfacial failures and the decrease in the mean μ TBS.

The bond interface is an important region because the success of the restorative treatments is based on the sealing of this interface between the restorative material and the dental substrate (24). In view of the present research, cariogenic challenge may be a factor that contributes to the degradation of the bonding interface, which is evidenced by the decrease in the mean μ TBS and by the increase in the %NL.

The present study has the limitation of using a pH cycling-model that does not reproduce the real cariogenic challenges that occur in the oral cavity (25). In addition, it is an in vitro study, and care must be taken to extrapolate the results to clinical reality. Clinically, much of the dentin in which the adhesive system is applied is not exposed to pH changes due to cavity geometry and external enamel protection. However, in Class II cavities with cervical margins in the dentin and in Class V cavities with cervical margins in the dentin, it is estimated that these interfaces would be sensitive to pH changes.

Considering the limitations of this study, it was possible to conclude that the pH cycling decreased the bond strength and increased the nanoleakage at the adhesive-dentin interface for all adhesive systems evaluated. However, SBU, applied in the self-etch mode, and CSE allowed lower nanoleakage after pH cycling in comparison with SBU, applied in the etch-and-rinse mode, and SBMP.

Resumo

O objetivo foi avaliar, in vitro, a influência da ciclagem de pH na resistência de união à microtração ($RU_{\mu T}$) e na porcentagem de nanoinfiltração (%NI) na interface dentina-adesivo. Superfícies planas em dentina foram obtidas em 56 terceiros molares. Os dentes foram aleatoriamente divididos em quatro grupos ($n=14$): G1- Single Bond Universal (condicionamento ácido prévio); G2- Single Bond Universal (autocondicionante); G3-

Scotchbond Multi-Purpose; G4- Clearfil SE Bond. Bloco de resina composta foi construído sobre o adesivo. Oito conjuntos dente/resina foram cortados paralelamente ao longo eixo do dente para obter 48 palitos (0,8 mm²) para cada grupo. Metade dos palitos foi submetida a quatro ciclos de ciclagem de pH (solução desmineralizadora por 6 h e solução remineralizadora por 18 h). As amostras foram submetidas ao teste de RU μ T em máquina de ensaio universal. Seis conjuntos dente/resina foram cortados paralelamente ao longo eixo para obter três fatias da região central (1,0 mm de espessura). Metade das fatias foi submetida à ciclagem de pH. A metodologia de nanoinfiltração foi aplicada para obter a %NI nas interfaces. De acordo com ANOVA de duas vias, interação entre os fatores (adesivo x armazenamento) foi significativa ($p=0.0001$) para for RU μ T e %NI. Após ciclagem de pH, houve redução significativa na RU μ T e aumento significativo na %NI para todos adesivos. Os adesivos aplicados na técnica autocondicionante obtiveram menor %NI, diferindo significativamente dos adesivos com condicionamento ácido prévio. Concluiu-se que a ciclagem de pH influenciou negativamente a RU μ T e a %NI para todos adesivos. Contudo, adesivos autocondicionantes permitiram menor %NI.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Professor Sérgio Kato for the statistical analysis. This study was financed in part by the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior - Brasil (CAPES) - Finance Code 001.

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Received April 26, 2019
Accepted August 21, 2019