

EFFECT OF ACIDIC DRINKS ON COLOR STABILITY OF DIFFERENT DIRECT BULK-FILL RESIN COMPOSITE RESTORATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Although resin composite restoration is now considered one of the most commonly used esthetic restoratives, color stability of restorations is the major demand for a successful and durable restoration. However acidic drinks have a discoloring effect on it

Aim of the study: This study aimed to evaluate the effect of acidic drinks on color stability of different direct Bulk-Fill Resin composite restorations.

Materials and methods: A total of 90 standardized disc shaped specimens were constructed, 30 from each restorative material (n=30), Filtek bulk-fill Posterior Restorative, TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill, and SonicFill resin composites using a customized split Teflon mold, with an internal space of 10mm diameter and 2mm thickness. Each specimen was photo-cured for 20 seconds, using a LED curing unite. Specimens of each restorative material were divided into three subgroups according to storage media used to store in (n=10); orange juice, Coca cola and artificial saliva. Color measurements were recorded for all specimens using *Spectrophotometer before* and after storage for 48 hour in the media. Finally, the values of ΔE were submitted to statistical analysis.

Results: Coca Cola caused the highest degree of discoloration of the resin composites, to be followed by Orange juice with the least color changes were noticed with storage in the Artificial saliva ($p < 0.0001$). Regarding to the bulk-fill resin composites, Filtek Posterior revealed the lowest levels of color change while the highest levels of discoloration were noticed with SonicFill bulk-fill resin composite, regardless the type of storage media ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusion: Bulk-fill resin composites, investigated in this study, showed less color stability than incremental resin composites. Acidic drinks have deteriorating effects on color of resin composite restorations.

KEYWORDS: Color stability, Bulk-Fill resin composite, Acidic drinks.

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INTRODUCTION

There is a growing attention to the beauty since the earliest civilizations. Resin composites have become a part of this quest to enhance teeth and mouth esthetics. Although resin composite restoration is now considered one of the most commonly used esthetic restoratives, several drawbacks still facing the clinicians. One of the inevitable drawbacks of dental resin composites is its polymerization shrinkage, which may be as high as 3% by volume.^{1,2} This volumetric shrinkage leads to stresses development. Polymerization stresses at the restoration/tooth interface result in either adhesive de-bonding with gap formation³ or cusp deformation which might cause microcracks and/or cusp fracture.⁴ Many clinical methods have been proposed to reduce the polymerization shrinkage stresses, such as the control of the curing light intensity,⁵ flowable resin liner application,⁶ indirect resin restoration,⁷ and incremental layering techniques.⁸ However, no method has been shown to be totally effective in abating the effects of polymerization shrinkage.

Despite the controversy over the advantages of incremental build-up of composites,⁹⁻¹³ this technique has been broadly recommended for direct resin-composite restorations, because it is expected to decrease the configuration factor, allowing a certain amount of flow to partially dissipate the shrinkage stress.¹³ However, despite of these advantages, incremental technique has a number of disadvantages such as; entrapment of voids between the increments, bond failure between the increments and the time required to complete the procedure placement and polymerization of each separate increment.^{3,14} In order to overcome many of the downsides associated with the incremental placement approach of resin composites, new restorative materials have emerged and are marketed as bulk-fill composites. However, dentists who have become accustomed to the incremental philosophy of placing light-cured composites quite rightly question what specifically has changed to make

these bulk-fill composites a viable alternative¹⁵.

Bulk-fill resin-based composites are tooth-colored restorative materials with increased polymerization depth, decreased polymerization shrinkage stresses and suspected decreased cuspal deflection and gap formation rate. Unlike to the conventional resin-based composites they can be applied into the prepared cavities in layers up to 4 or 5 mm thick¹⁶. According to some researchers these bulk-fill composites offer a number of advantages for restoring preparations such as simplifying the restorative process and saving time. Furthermore, bulk-fill composites eliminate many of the drawbacks that are associated with incremental layering techniques, such as the risk of contamination and voids forming between the increments¹⁷⁻¹⁹.

The general practitioner, however, is rather confused with the variety of different bulk-fill materials on the market and the way they are promoted. The most common method to promote and market these products is by presenting data gained from laboratory tests. Continuing research into practical advances and successful clinical evaluations of composite restoratives are critical to oral care, esthetics, and functional restoration.²⁰

The evolved bulk-fill resin-based composites are mainly classified into flowable type, that requires an additional layer of conventional resin, and high-viscosity types.²¹ These materials contain monomer structures and filler compositions almost identical to conventional resin composites. The main difference is the polymerization modulators and plasticizers which are incorporated to modulate polymerization kinetics.²² Added to this; the percentage of filler content has been reduced in bulk-fill resin composites to facilitate deep light transmission up to 4-5 mm. Mostly, the conducted studies of bulk-fill resin based composites have been focused on the polymerization-related properties, depth of cure, degree of monomer conversion, sorption and solubility, polymerization shrinkage stress,

cytotoxicity, as well as micro-hardness and wear resistance of the high viscosity types.²³⁻²⁶

In the era of esthetic restorations, color stability of restorations is the major demand for a successful and durable restoration. A successful restoration should not only demonstrate high physical and mechanical properties, but also should be appealing esthetically. Despite the advances in resin monomers and filler particle technology, color stability of direct resin composite restorations has been still a great problem. Color changes could be caused by either intrinsic factors or extrinsic factors. The intrinsic factors might be related to composition of the resin matrix, filler composition, degree of monomer conversion, in addition to the type of photo-initiator, which is responsible for yellow-shifts taking place over time.^{27,28} External discoloration can be caused by oral habits such as tobacco and certain dietary patterns, along with bad oral hygiene and the adsorption or absorption of water soluble stains throughout the resin matrix.²⁹⁻³¹

Acidic drinks are the most common beverages consumed many times daily throughout the world,

and a large amount of evidence considering them as a part of oral tissues as teeth, saliva and restorations. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the potential risk that the consumption of these beverages poses to new bulk-fill resin composites. Several studies assessed color stability have shown that beverages such as coffee, tea, and cola produce varying levels of discolorations in photo-cured resin composites restoratives.^{29,32,33} Therefore, a study to evaluate the color changes of different direct bulk-fill resin composite maybe of value.

MATERIALS SELECTION

This *in-vitro* study included three bulk fill dental resin composites, of A2 shade i.e., Filtek bulk-fill Posterior Restorative, TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill and SonicFill Nanohybrid. The materials were selected on the basis of initiator type and resin monomer variation within the major category of bulk-fill resin based composites. The descriptions of the materials investigated are represented in Table 1. Two different types of acidic drinks; orange juice and Coca-cola, and artificial Saliva, as a control, were represented in Table 2.

TABLE (1) The bulk fill dental resin composites used.

Restorative system	Manufacturer	Composition	Filler loading
Filtek bulk-fill Posterior Restorative	3M ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA	Matrix Aromatic UDMA, UDMA, ERGP-DMA, Diurethane-DMA and 1,2- dodecane-DMA	58.4 vol % 76.5 weight %
		Filler Non-agglomerated/non aggregated 20 nm filler, non agglomerated/non aggregated 4 _ 11 zirconia filler, aggregated zirconia/silica cluster filler and a ytterbium trifluoride filler	
TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill (nanohybrid)	Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein	Matrix UDMA, Bis-GMA	60-61 vol % 79-81 weight %
		Filler Barium glass, ytterbium trifluoride, mixed oxide and pre polymer	
SonicFill (Nanohybrid)	Kerr Corporation	Matrix Bis –GMA, TEGDMA, EBpDMA	83weight %
		Filler Silicon dioxide, barium glass	
<p><i>Abbreviations: Bis-GMA, Bisphenol glycidyl dimethacrylate; HEMA, hydroxyl ethyl methacrylate; DMA ,dimethacrylate; TEGDMA, Tri-ethylene glycol dimethacrylate; UDMA, Urethane Dimethacrylate; Bis-EMA, Bisphenol Apolyethylene glycol diether dimethacrylate; GPDM, Glycero phosphate dimethacrylate; EBpDMA, Exthoxylated Bisphenol A dimethacrylate</i></p>			

TABLE (2) Storage media

Product	Manufacturer	Ingredient
Orange juice	Freshly squeezed juice in Faculty of Pharmacy, Mansoura University, Mansoura city, Egypt	Chemical composition of the cloud: pH3.30 sugars, organic acids 4.5-32% pectin, 34-52% protein, 25% lipids, 5.7% nitrogen, 2% hemi- cellulose, 2% ash, and less than 2% cellulose
Coca-Cola	Coca – Cola company egypt	pH 2.50 Sugar,caramel coloring, caffeine, phosphoric acid, mixture of essential oils such as orange, lime, and lemon. Another ingredient is thought to be Lavender
Artificial saliva	Faculty of Pharmacy, Mansoura University, Mansoura city, Egypt	Preparation of artificial saliva: pH 7.00 1) Sodium azide: 0.75 g 2) Potassium monohydrogen phosphate: 0.804 g 3) Calcium chloride: 0.166 g 4) Magnesium chloride: 0.059 g 5) Sodium chloride: 1.02 g With Distilled water (ph 7) was added to produce one liter of Artificial Saliva

Specimens' preparation

A total of 90 standardized disc shaped specimens were constructed, 30 from each restorative material (n=30). Filtek bulk-fill Posterior Restorative, TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill, and SonicFill resin composites respectively. The discs were fabricated using a customized split Teflon mold, with an internal space of 10mm diameter and 2mm thickness. The split teflon mold was assembled over a glass slide, covered with a transparent polyester strip (Mylar; SS White Company, Philadelphia, PA, USA). The resin composite material was applied in a single increment. After filling the mold, another polyester strip was pressed onto the filled mold surface with a glass slide and a metal disc weighing 2 kg, for 30 seconds, to obtain a flat smooth surface without air entrapment or gross excess. After that, the metal disc and glass slide were removed and each specimen was photo-cured for 20 seconds, using a LED curing unite at wave length 430-480nm and light intensity of 1200 mW/cm² (EliparS10, 3M ESPE AG, Seefeld, Germany). The tip of the light

curing unite was placed directly perpendicular to the surface of the top strip. After curing the top surface, the bottom surface of each sample was additionally cured for another 20 seconds to obtain a homogeneous polymerization. The intensity of the light curing device was monitored through procedures of photo-curing using a radiometer (DigiRate LM-100, MONITEX, Tiwan). As the polyester strip produces a high smooth polished surface, no finishing or polishing were needed. All prepared specimens were then stored in distilled water at 37±1°C for 24h, to ensure optimum polymerization.

Assessment of color change

Color measurements were recorded for all specimens according to the Commission International de l'Eclairage (CIE) L*a*b* color scale, using shimazu UV-3101pc (*UV-VIS-NIR Scanning Spectrophotometer: 130 Conway Drive / Suites A, B & C | Bogart, GA 30622*). It should be recalled that the spectrophotometer was calibrated after each measurement.

In order to evaluate the color stability of each material, the quantitative color measurement of each specimen was first carried out after 24 hours of fabrication (control). The specimens were then divided into three subgroups (n=10) relative to the immersion media. Subgroup I stored in artificial saliva subgroup II stored in Coca cola, subgroup III stored in orange juice. The specimens were individually immersed in vials containing 20 mL/ specimen storage solutions. All the specimens were kept in dark at $37^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ for a period of 48 hour.³⁴ After the experimental period, the specimens were kept for 24 hours in distilled water at $37^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ and again subjected to quantitative color measurement.

The color changes of each specimen was measured by the coordinates L^* , a^* and b^* of the CIEL^{*} a^*b^* system and calculated using the formula $\Delta E^* = [(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2]^{1/2}$, where ΔE^* represents the color difference. ΔL^* represents a measure of the luminosity (varying from 0 to 100, and means absolute white to absolute black), Δa^* , Δb^* represent changes in chromaticity coordinates with $+a^*$ indicates the red direction, $-a^*$ indicates the green direction, $+b^*$ indicates the yellow direction and $-b^*$ indicates the blue direction. Finally, the values of ΔE were submitted to statistical analysis .

RESULTS

Mean values and standard deviations of color changes (ΔE) for the three bulk-fill resin composites tested are displayed in Tables 3. Two-way ANOVA indicated significant differences for both resin composite and immersion media factors ($p < 0.0001$). Regarding to the bulk-fill resin composites, Filtek Posterior revealed the lowest levels of color change while the highest levels of discoloration were noticed with SonicFill bulk-fill resin composite, regardless the type of storage media. Tukey's test showed that there are significant differences ($p < 0.0001$) between the three restorative materials when stored in either Coca Cola or Orange juice. Storage in artificial saliva did not significantly ($p > 0.05$) affect the color stability of the three restorative materials.

Regardless the restorative materials, Coca Cola caused the highest degree of discoloration of the resin composite, to be followed by Orange juice with the least color changes were noticed with storage in the Artificial saliva. There are significant differences ($p < 0.0001$) in the color stability of the restorative materials when stored in the three different media i.e. Coca Cola, Orange juice and artificial saliva.

TABLE (3) Means and SD of ΔE between different restorative materials

	Filtek Posterior	TetricEvoCeram	SonicFill	P Value
Artificial saliva	1.4150±0.23296 ^{a,1}	1.6970±0.20000 ^{a,1}	1.7890±0.18424 ^{a,1}	>0.05
Coca-Cola	5.5689±0.35897 ^{b,1}	6.4140±0.23627 ^{b,2}	7.4010±0.37239 ^{b,3}	<0.0001
Orange juice	4.352712±0.33338 ^{c,1}	5.3210±0.22123 ^{c,2}	6.4350±0.29205 ^{c,3}	<0.0001
P Value	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	

Different superscript letters in columns indicate significant differences between pairs within the same group. (Tukey's, $P < 0.0001$)

Different superscript numbers in rows indicated significant differences between values within the same subgroup. (Tukey's, $P < 0.0001$)

DISCUSSION

Color stability of dental resin composites is an important factor considered for durability of the restorations, as alteration of the restoration color can compromise its esthetic acceptance.³⁵ Several studies have been carried out to investigate the effect of different beverages on the color stability of conventional resin composites, but little confirmed information are available about the recently marketed bulk-fill resin composites.

Although it is recommended that bulk-fill resin composites could be applied in increment thickness of up to 4 mm, it was reported that color changes were increased with increasing the increment thickness.³⁶ Therefore the samples in this study were prepared in one increment of 2 ± 1 thickness, to avoid promotion of color changes by the thick materials.

The CIE $L^*a^*b^*$ coordinate color system, chosen in the current study, is a standard method for measuring color differences based on human perception. To obtain approximately one-month constant consumption of the coloring beverages *in vivo*, samples should be continuously exposed to these beverages for 24 hours at $37 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ *in vitro*.³⁴ The null hypothesis tested that there is no influence on the color behavior of different types of bulk-fill resin composites immersed in the different drinks was totally rejected.

It is reported that color susceptibility of bulk-fill resin composites, unlike conventional resin composite, is increased; due to a variety of differences in their composition.³⁷ Add to that, when assessing the color stability of the resin restorative materials, a value of ΔE value ≤ 3.3 is considered clinically accepted.³⁸ That is why storage in artificial saliva only was clinically accepted, while Coca Cola and orange juice adversely affect the color stability of the three bulk-fill resin composites with values exceeding the clinically accepted value.

As color stability is directly related to the degree of conversion of resin composite,³⁹ a strict polymerization energy was adopted so that each resin composite sample received a total dose of 40 seconds, which is superior to the manufacturers' recommendations. This controlled polymerization, for all groups, reduces the influence of the light-curing deficiency on the color stability results.⁴⁰

The results of the present study showed that Filtek Posterior bulk-fill resin revealed the least material gaining discoloration in all the storage media, while SonicFill resin composite is the highest material in discoloration gaining. Several studies showed that the reason of color susceptibility of composite restorations is multifactorial, including diet, oral hygiene and materials' properties.^{40,41} These material properties are resin matrix composition, resin matrix/filler interface, degree of conversion, filler content, and the degree of finishing and polishing procedures.⁴²⁻⁴⁴ Yet, it is thought that staining ability of resin composites is more dependent on the monomer hydrophilicity and surface roughness, rather than the filler content.⁴⁵

There are two major theories to explain the fluids' absorption in resin matrix. The first one is the "free volume theory", in which it is assumed that water freely penetrates the resin matrix through nanopores present, without any chemical reaction with polymerized chains. In the second theory "interaction theory", water chemically bind to the hydrophilic groups in the polymer chains, via hydrogen bond.⁴⁶ Therefore, water exists in the resin composites in two distinct forms, the unbound form freely present between the polymer chains and the nanopores created during polymerization⁴⁷ and the bound form, chemically attached to polymer chains.⁴⁸

Considering the hydrophilicity of the resin monomers in the materials tested in this study, the resin matrix of Filtek Posterior bulk-fill resin composite is mainly composed of UDMA based monomers. These monomers exhibited lower

discoloration values rather than other dimethacrylate based monomers, including Bis-GMA and TEGDMA.⁴⁹ This can be attributed to the decreased water absorption of this hydrophobic monomer, after polymerization, and lower viscosity.^{50,51} That is why Filtek Posterior bulk-fill resin composite has the highest values of color stability, which are significant with Coca Cola and orange juice storage media, in comparison with TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill and SonicFill.

It is well established that water absorption of resin composites depends on the type of monomers in a descending pattern as follow, TEGDMA>Bis-GMA>UDMA> Bis-EMA;^{29,52,53} leading to more pigment-susceptibility of BisGMA and TEGDMA monomers.⁵⁴ Hydroxyl groups in bis-GMA formed stronger hydrogen bonds with water molecules than urethanes group, that also could explain the high value of water absorbency. This monomer favored water sorption and increased the solubility of the polymers. Ingredients of food and drinks penetrate the resin matrix, damaging resin matrix/filler particles interface, resulting in greater color change.⁵⁵ In this context, the hydrophilic TEGDMA monomer, with high affinity to water, revealed the highest pigmentation ratio, a case of SonicFill bulk-fill resin composite.^{41,56}

Degree of polymerization can affect the color stability of resin composites, and intensify discoloration due to the release of monomer degradation products including methacrylic acid and formaldehyde.^{57,58} Despite Bis-GMA monomer, present in TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill and Sonic-fill resins has a very strong intermolecular interaction and rigid backbone, it exhibited low degree of conversion and was prone to water uptake.^{59,60} Added to that, filler incorporated in TetricEvoCeram bulk-fill serves as a stress reliever, due to its low modulus of elasticity. This filler does not exist in the other two composites evaluated in this study. Therefore, this filler may also be responsible for lower color stability.⁶¹

Regardless the restorative materials, Coca Cola caused the highest degree of discoloration of the resin composite, to be followed by Orange juice with the least and insignificant color changes were noticed with storage in the artificial saliva.

The findings of this study present that storage in artificial saliva can lead to slight insignificant discoloration of the restorations. It is mandatory that water sorption didn't discolor resin composites by itself to a significant extent because water has no coloring components. water absorption and the hydrophilic/hydrophobic nature of the resin matrix, are the key factors in the staining susceptibility of resins after being immersed in water. Microcracks or interfacial gaps at the interface between the filler and matrix, are caused by plasticization and expansion the resin component due to the excessive water absorption. As a result, these microcracks allow stain penetration and discoloration of the restoration.⁶² In addition, discoloration might be due to the dissimilarity in the refractive index of filler and resin matrix that increases after water absorption.⁶³

It is reported that the low pH of the immersion media seems to have an influence on the absorption and solubility behavior of composite resin materials. This is because the low pH of a solution increases the deleterious and erosive effects on resin composite.⁶⁴ It was reported that, orange juice due to its citric acid content and Coca Cola, due to its carbonic and phosphoric acid content can result in discoloration and staining of composite resin.⁶⁵ The visible color change in resin composites be due to penetration of the pigments into the composite microcracks.

Coca Cola, a yellow-brown carbonated beverage, contains orthophosphoric and carbonic acids lowering its PH to approximately 2.4; while Orange juice has yellow stains and pH of 3.8 due to the presence of citric acid.^{66,67} That is why it is reported that color change was higher in Coca Cola compared to orange juice.

CONCLUSIONS

Under the conditions of the present study it can be concluded that:

1. Bulk-fill resin composites, investigated in this study, showed less color stability than incremental resin composites.
2. Acidic drinks have deteriorating effects on color of resin composite restorations.

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