

Effect of surface treatments on color of machinable ceramics

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Abstract

Aim: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effect of surface treatments on color of lithium disilicate ceramic (IPS e. max [CAD]) and hybrid ceramic (VITA Suprinity [pc]).

Method: Ceramic blocks were sectioned in to one hundred sixty discs; eighty discs of lithium disilicate were randomly subdivided in to four groups according to surface treatment (n= 20). Group C: Control group without surface treatment; group I: using (AL₂O₃) particles size 50µm; group II: Hydro fluoric (HF) acid etching; group III: tribochemical (TBC) surface treatment. Eighty discs of hybrid ceramic (n= 20) were subdivided in to the same groups. Color measurements were performed with spectrophotometer and repeated after surface treatments. ΔE values were statistically analyzed with one- way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc test was done to identify significance between groups. Statistically significance was considered when P value ≤ 0.05.

Results: Changing color of lithium disilicate specimens were not clinically perceptible except for hydrofluoric acid etching as it was below the clinically accepted threshold (ΔE < 2.7). Suprinity hydrofluoric acid etching specimens color changes were clinically acceptable ΔE < 2.7 but air abrasion with Al₂O₃ 50 µm and tribochemical surface treatment specimens showed ΔE > 2.7 which were clinically unaccepted.

Conclusion: Different techniques; sand blasting, HF acid etching and tribochemical surface treatments affected color significantly.

1. Introduction

All ceramic restorations are recommended from dentist and favorable for patients because of their esthetic and durability in conservative tooth preparations [1].

Now a day, ceramics are mainly lithium disilicate- based computer- aided design, computer/aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) blocks [2].

Recently, a new material, zirconia- reinforced (lithium silicate) ceramic (ZLS), was introduced to the market under argument that zirconia could act as a crystal phase that can reinforce the material; that is, avoid crack propagation. This material could be etched with hydrofluoric acid as a ceramic matrix is predominantly glass with zirconia (8%- 12%) [3].

Proper adhesion between a luting agent and a ceramic restoration requires surface pretreatment. Powerful resin bond depends on chemical adhesion and micro mechanical interlocking to the ceramic restoration surface, which needs surface roughening for adequate surface activation [4].

To reach this bond, the ceramic surface might be modified chemically, mechanically or by laser to promote surface roughness and/or reactivity of the porcelain to the luting agent.

Air abrasion with aluminium oxide particles using a chair side device is one of the techniques of surface treatment to increase micro mechanical retention [5].

The use of hydro fluoric acid etching of ceramic surface resulted in alternative surface by selectively etching the glass matrix [6]. Roughening of the surface by tribochemical surface treatment is considered reliable method using aluminium oxide particles with silica coating and silane application [2].

As surface treatment is important step in bonding, color changes of restorative material should be considered.

2. Hypothesis

Different surface treatment techniques affect the color of lithium disilicate (IPS e. max [CAD]) and hybrid (VITA Suprinity [pc]) ceramics.

3. Materials and Methods

Two types of ceramic used in this study; Lithium disilicate (IPS e- max, CAD Ivoclar Vivadent AG. Schaan. Liechtenstein. USA) was shown in (Table 1). Hybrid ceramic (VITA SUPRINITY pc. VITA Zahnfabric. Spitaglasse 3. Bad Säkingen. Germany) was shown in (Table 2).

3.1. Preparation of ceramic samples

One hundred sixty discs (five mm in diameter and two mm thick) were fabricated of the two types of ceramic; eighty discs of lithium disilicate (L.D) and eighty discs of hybrid ceramic

(H.C) then discs were had crystallization in a furnace at a proper temperature according to manufacturer's instructions. All specimens were polished under constant water irrigation with 600- grit followed by 1000 and 1200 grit wet silicon carbide paper (Klingspor abrasives Inc. Hickory. NC).

Table 1: Chemical composition of IPS e- max CAD

Standard composition	(in % by weight)
SiO ₂	57.0- 80.0
Li ₂ O	11.0- 19.0
K ₂ O	0.0 – 13.0
P ₂ O ₃	0.0 - 11.0
ZrO ₂	0.0 – 8.0
ZnO	0.0 - 8.0
Al ₂ O ₃	0.0 – 5.0
MgO	0.0 – 5.0
Coloring oxides	0.0 – 8.0

Table 2: Chemical composition of VITA Suprinity PC

Standard composition	(in % by weight)
ZrO ₂	8 - 12
SiO ₂	56 - 64
Li ₂ O	15 -21
La ₂ O ₃	0.1
pigments	< 10
various	>10

3.2. Surface treatments

Lithium disilicate Discs were then randomly subdivided in to four groups according to the surface treatment (n= 20). L.D (C): Control group without any surface treatment. L.D I: using (AL₂O₃) particles size 50µm; L.D II: Hydro fluorid acid etching; L.D III: tribochemical surface treatment. Hybrid ceramic discs were randomly subdivided in to four groups according to surface treatments (n= 20). H.C (C): control group without any surface treatment; H.C I: air abrasion using (AL₂O₃) particles size 50µm; H.C II: hydro fluorid acid etching; H.C III: tribochemical surface treatment.

Air abrasion was done using aluminium oxide particles Al₂O₃ size 50µm (Korox. Bego. Bremen. Germany) using a chair side sand blasting device (prep star. Danvell instrument. CA. USA) at a pressure of 2.8 bars, from a distance of 10 mm, perpendicular to the treated surface for 20 s [7].

Hydrofluoric acid etching of the samples was done by using (9.5 %) Buffered Hydrofluoric Acid Gel. Bisco. Schaumburg. U.S.A) for 20 seconds, then rinsed with distilled water for one minute, ultrasonically cleaned in distilled water for one minute and finally dried with compressed oil– free water/ air spray [8]. Tribochemical surface treatment was done by first cleaning the treated surface with 110µm aluminium oxide sand (Korox.

Bego. Bremen. Germany) at a pressure of 2.8 bars, from a distance of 10 mm, perpendicular to the treated surface for 15s. Then the surface was micro blasted with silica- modified aluminium oxide using a chair side sand blasting device (prep star. Danvell instrument. CA. USA) (110 µm Al₂O₃ and 30 µm SiO₂) at a pressure of 2.8 bars, from a distance of 10 mm, perpendicular to the treated surface for 15s. The next step was silanization with (Rely X ceramic primer. 3M ESPE., USA) for 5 minutes. Apply silane coupling agent to the treated ceramic surface then, gently oil free air was blown across the surface [9].

3.3. SEM observation

Ceramic discs were fixed on stubs that were sputter- coated with gold with thickness 40 Å (Desk II. Denton vacuum Inc. NJ) and scanned by SEM at 2000 magnification (JSM- 5600 LV; JEOL. Tokyo. Japan).

3.4. Color measurements

Color measurements of all specimens were done using spectrophotometer (VITA easy shade compact. VITA Zahnfabric). According to instructions of manufacturer, calibration done for the device using (tooth single) measurement mode was chosen and the probe was placed in the specimen center. The mean L*, a* and b* values were calculated for each specimen. Color difference was calculated for all groups on the gray backing to analyze the effect of surface treatment with the following equation:

$$\Delta E = [(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2]^{1/2}$$

ΔE value > 1.2 was considered perceptible and ΔE value > 2.7 was clinically unaccepted.

4. Statistical analysis

ΔE value were analyzed with one- way ANOVA, Post- hoc comparison were done. Statistically significance was considered when P value \leq 0.05.

5. Results

5.1. SEM evaluation

Representative SEM images of Lithium disilicate (IPS e. max [CAD]) and Hybrid ceramic (VITA Suprinity [pc]) groups are reported in (Figures 1-2). The control groups revealed homogenous structures. HF acid etching groups of both types of ceramic showed much rough surface than control groups with micro porous appearance. A large number of voids as dissolution of the glass phase of ceramics. Sand blasting with AL₂O₃ and tribochemical surface treatment groups revealed similar surface of various irregular retentive areas with gaps and grooves on surface. Tribochemical surface treated groups showed finer texture.

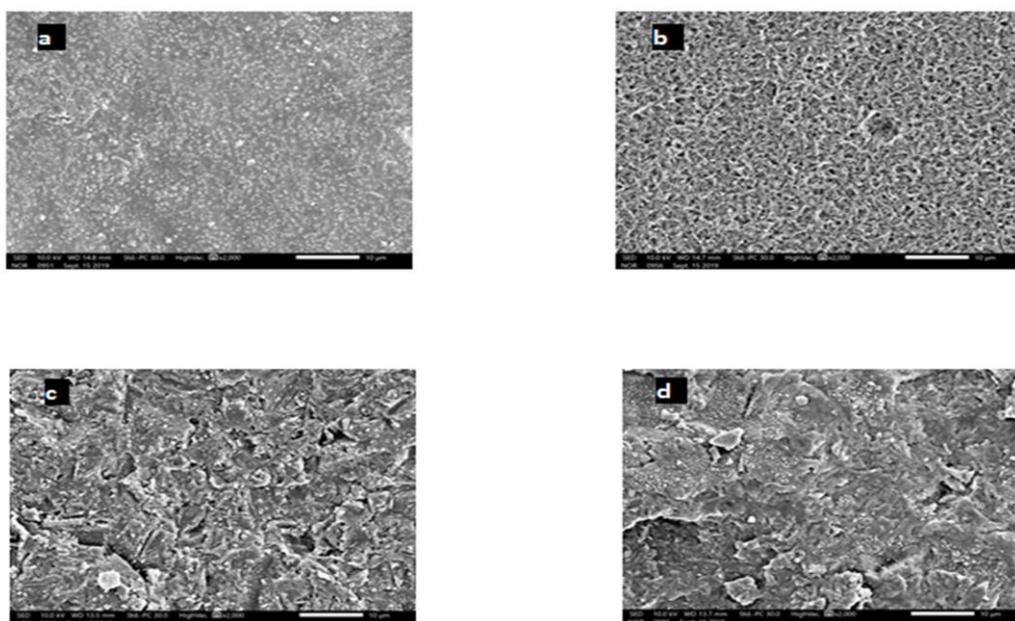


Figure 1: SEM images of Lithium disilicate (IPS e. max CAD) surface treatments: (a) control (b) HF acid etching (c) AL₂O₃ sand blating (d) TBC

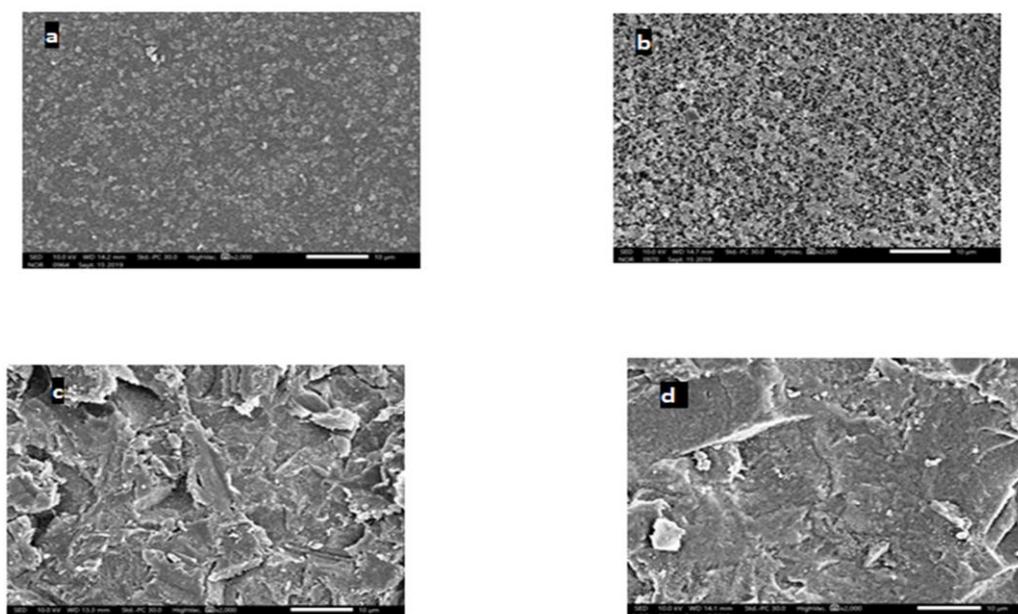


Figure 2: SEM images of Hybrid ceramic (VITA Suprinity PC) surface treatments: (a) control (b) HF acid etching (c) AL₂O₃ sand blating (d) TBC

5.2. Color measurements

ΔE values of lithium disilicate for all surface treatment groups were not clinically perceptible as ΔE values < 1.2 (0.622 and 1.164 for Al_2O_3 sand blasting and tribochemical respectively) except for hydrofluoric acid etching specimens as $\Delta E < 2.7$ were below the clinical acceptable threshold. Hydrofluoric acid etching suprinty specimens showed ΔE values below 2.7 ($\Delta E < 2.7$) which were below the clinically acceptable threshold. ΔE values for Al_2O_3 sandblasting and tribochemical specimens were above 2.7 ($\Delta E > 2.7$) which were clinically unacceptable as ΔE values were 4.701 and 7.293 respectively. There was significant difference in ΔE values between different surface treatment groups of each type of ceramic p value ≤ 0.05 as shown in (Table 3). As showed in (Figure 3) there was significant difference between the three surface treatments groups in ΔE values (P value ≤ 0.05). HF acid etching group showed the highest mean ΔE value which was (2.7) while Al_2O_3 sand blasting was the lowest value which was (0.6). In (Figure 4) there was significant difference between groups (P value ≤ 0.05). The highest ΔE value was for tribochemical surface treatment group which was (3.7) and the lowest value for HF acid etching group (1.9).

6. Discussion

Developments in CAD/CAM technology have led to introduce ceramic materials with mechanical and optical properties. Enhancing bonding with all ceramic restoration requires conditioning of fitting surface of dental restoration. Bond strength and optical properties of ceramics have been affected by different techniques of surface treatment [10-11]. There for our study investigated the effect of different surface treatment techniques on the color of current CAD/CAM lithium disilicate and hybrid ceramic materials. Optical properties knowledge of current CAD/CAM restorative materials is important to improve esthetic appearance of the monolithic restorations [12]. Optical two main thresholds were used for evaluation of color differences, perceptibility and acceptability. Assessment of ΔE values for ceramic materials was done using different thresholds. In this study clinically perceptibility threshold was 1.2 and clinical acceptance one was 2.7, according to the results of recent published study of perceptive multicenter [13]. Different techniques of surface treatment for lithium disilicate ceramics gave color changes within the clinical acceptable range [14]. ΔE values of hydrofluoric acid etching of suprinty specimens were within the range of color

Table 3: Color difference ΔE values of Lithium disilicate and suprinty ceramics

	Group I Al_2O_3 (50 μm) N=5	Group II H.F N=5	Group III TBC N=5	P – value		
Lithium disilicate (L.D)						
Range	0.24 – 1	2.33 – 3.21	1.02 – 1.33	I vs II	I vs III	II vs III
Mean \pm SD	0.6 \pm 0.3	2.7 \pm 0.35	1.2 \pm 0.13	$<0.001^*$	0.010*	$<0.001^*$
Suprinty (H.C)						
Range	4.27 – 5.2	1.62 – 2.13	5.16 – 9.07	I vs II	I vs III	II vs III
Mean \pm SD	4.7 \pm 0.4	1.9 \pm 0.19	7.3 \pm 1.5	$<0.001^*$	0.001*	$<0.001^*$

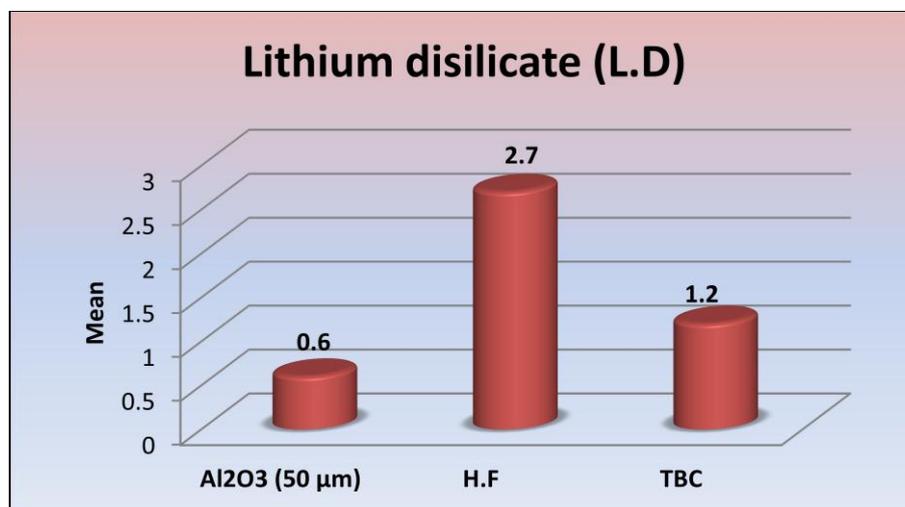


Figure 3: Statistical analysis of color of lithium disilicate (IPS e. max CAD)

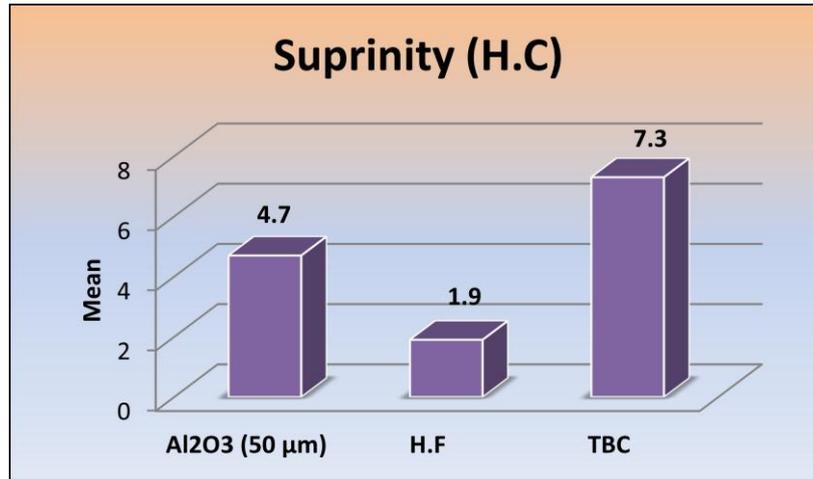


Figure 4: Statistical analysis of color of Hybrid ceramic (VITA Suprinity PC)

clinical acceptance. Sandblasting and tribochemical surface treatments ΔE values were not clinically accepted as lower hardness of suprinity ceramic material led to increasing in irregularities and excessive gaps on surface that result in diffusion and scattering of light at different angles [15]. In this study color difference of all ceramic materials were evaluated without presence of resin cement, which is a limitation. Another limitation is that the specimens were not subjected to the thermal cycling or aging which can better simulate the oral condition. Within the limitation of this study, it can find that Surface treatments have significant effect on color of CAD/CAM ceramic materials. Hydrofluoric acid etching, Al₂O₃ air abrasion and tribochemical surface treatment techniques could be used with lithium disilicate ceramic. Al₂O₃ sand blasting and tribochemical surface treatments were not recommended techniques for surface treatment of suprinity ceramic material as color changes were not clinically acceptable.

7. Conclusion

Different techniques; sand blasting with 50µm Al₂O₃, HF acid etching and tribochemical surface treatments affected color significantly. For Lithium disilicate ceramic the three techniques of surface treatment could be used, also HF acid etching could be used with VITA Suprinity [pc] but sand blasting with 50µm Al₂O₃ nor tribochemical surface treatments shouldn't be used as they were clinically unaccepted.

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