

EFFECT OF DIFFERENT SURFACE TREATMENTS ON OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF CAD /CAM CERAMICS

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To evaluate different surface treatments influence on optical properties of two CAD/CAM lithium silicate-based ceramics.

Materials & Methods: Sixty disc shaped samples (10 mm diameter x1mm thickness) were constructed and divided according to ceramic type into two groups (30 samples/group): Group(LD): Lithium disilicate. Group (ZLS): Zirconia reinforced-lithium silicate. Each group was divided into three sub-groups (10 samples/subgroup), according to the surface treatment: (C) Control, (HF) Hydrofluoric acid 9.5%, (SB) Sandblasting. Spectrophotometer was used to measure both Colour change (ΔE) & Contrast Ratio (CR). Universal adhesive was added to sub-groups (**HF**) & (**SB**) then (ΔE) & (CR) were measured for the new subgroups (**HFU & SBU**). Finally, collected data were statistically analysed.

Results: (AE) showed significant increase within (LD) for both subgroups (HFU & SBU). ZLS (Subgroup SBU) showed a significantly higher ΔE compared to the other subgroups. In both groups, the highest ΔE was recorded for the (SBU subgroups). (CR) showed an insignificant difference within (LD) group. Only ZLS (HF) & (SB) subgroups recorded significant difference with all the other subgroups in both groups & insignificant difference with each other.

Conclusions: Etching or sandblasting without the use of universal adhesive didn't affect the colour of (LD) as ΔE lied in the range of clinical acceptance. Etching or sandblasting (LD) with or without the use of universal adhesive didn't affect its translucency. Etching (ZLS) with the use of universal adhesive didn't affect its colour nor its translucency.

KEY WORDS: Surface treatment, Lithium disilicate, Zirconia reinforced-lithium silicate, Translucency, Colour.

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INTRODUCTION

Lithium silicate glass ceramics (LSC's) are considered an achievement due to their esthetics and mechanical properties in addition to their multiple clinical application. ⁽¹⁾ CAD/CAM led to an evolution in the development of LSC's.⁽²⁾ IPS e.max CAD was presented in 2005, with a well-accepted durable clinical serviceability.^(3,4) Moreover, in order to enhance its mechanical properties, LSC's reinforced with 10 wt% zirconia ; VITA Suprinity was recently introduced.⁽⁵⁾ LSC's CAD/CAM blocks are either pre-crystallized for faster milling or fully-crystallized to reduce heat treatment following the milling process and saves time for patients particularly in case of single appointment restorations. ^(2, 6, 7)

For a durable strong bond, various surface treatment protocols aroused for preparation of the internal surfaces of ceramic restorations, enhancing their chemical reactivity as well as the micromechanical retention with dental cements. Surface modifications can occur by mechanical, chemical or chemo-mechanical treatments. Acid etching, airborne particle abrasion (sandblasting) & diamond bur grinding, and tribochemical silica-coating are the representatives of these surface treatments respectively.⁽⁸⁻¹¹⁾

The ceramic materials' chemical composition is responsible for their chemical reactivity to different acids; glass ceramics are more sensitive to acids, while polycrystalline ceramics are resistant to acids.⁽¹²⁾ Hydrofluoric acid (HF) was employed for surface treatment of LSC's for generating a porous microstructure, but it showed skin penetrations and systemic toxicity. So, HF is advised to be applied outside oral cavity, then restorations should be ultrasonically cleaned and rinsed to ensure removal of acid remnants.⁽¹³⁾ However, microscopically HF remnants were traced in ceramic surfaces even after rinsing. ^(14,15) So, to overcome any hazards, a substituent etching techniques have been introduced as a neutralizing agent that is applied on ceramics following HF etching in order to neutralize the residual acid and avoid any topographical alterations.^(16,17)

Also, Self-Etch Primers were proposed to substitute HF being less toxic but efficient in etching and priming. (18,19) Moreover, sandblasting is recommended as a surface treatment for various ceramics by forming microscopic surface irregularities. ⁽⁹⁾ Lately, universal adhesives have been introduced as alternatives to self-etch as well as etch-&-rinse adhesives. These universal adhesives overcome multiple steps required for the conventional ones, also their surface treatment for both restorations & teeth became easier & more time saving.⁽²⁰⁾ Many researchers investigated that these universal bonding agents can bond with tooth structures as well as ceramic restorations like zirconia & lithium disilicate as it contains a new type of MDP. (21,22) A lot of research have discussed the influence of universal adhesives on bond strength of ceramics. However, there is still inadequate information about the influence of these adhesives on the optical properties of various ceramic restorations.

The object's surface texture might crucially influence the ceramics' optical properties like color, translucency and opacity perception. As rough surfaces could permit light scattering more than smooth ones.⁽²³⁾ Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the effect of four surface treatment protocols on some optical properties of two CAD/ CAM lithium silicate-based ceramics.

The null hypothesis of this study is that different surface treatments would not affect the optical properties of the tested ceramics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design

In this research, sixty disc shaped samples (10 mm diameter x 1mm thickness) were constructed and equally divided into two different ceramic groups (30 samples/group): Group (LD): Lithium Disilicate (IPS e.max CAD, Ivoclar-Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein), Group (ZLS): Zirconia reinforced-lithium silicate (Vita Suprinity, Vita Zahnfabrick, Bad Sackingen, Germany). Each group was randomly divided into three subgroups (10 samples/subgroup) according to performed surface treatment:(**C**) Control {no surface treatment}, (**HF**) Hydrofluoric acid 9.5%, (SB) Sandblasting. Then a spectrophotometer (VITA Easyshade Advance 4.0, Vita Zahnfabrick, Bad Säckingen, Germany) was used to record colour change(ΔE) & translucency {Contrast Ratio (CR)}.Then a universal adhesive (OptiBondTM eXTRa universal, Kavo Kerr) was added to sub-groups (**HF**) and (**SB**). Finally (ΔE) & (CR) were measured for the new subgroups (HFU & SBU). Collected data were statistically analysed.

Fabrication of Disc Samples:

To standardize the shape and thickness of the disc samples, a metal mold was constructed (10 mm diameter x 1mm thickness). Then a scan spray (Cerec Optispray, Sirona) was applied onto the top of metal mold to be scanned by inEos scanner (Sirona, Germany). Disc designing was done by a CAD software (Cerec inLab software). Milling of (LD) & (ZLS) A3 shade blocks was performed using Cerec inLab MC XL milling machine (Sirona, Germany). Thirty discs were obtained for each ceramic group. According to manufacturer instructions, (LD) discs were fully crystallized at 850°C for thirty minutes while (ZLS) discs at 840°C in a furnace (Programat P500, Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein). Finally, all discs were cleaned through steam followed by air dryness.⁽²⁴⁾ Polishing was performed using 600, 1000, 1200 grit

wet silicon carbide papers (Klingspor abrasives Inc. Hickory. NC), respectively under constant water irrigation.⁽²⁵⁾

Surface treatment:

Sub-group (HF): Discs were etched with 9.5% HF acid gel (Bisco,USA) following the instructions of the manufacturer for 20 sec. for both (LD) & (ZLS), then rinsed for 1 min., cleaned ultrasonically for another 1 min. and finally air dried.⁽²⁶⁾

Subgroup (SB): Discs were sandblasted for 20 sec. using 50- μ m Al₂O₃ at a pressure 2.8 bars, at a distance 10 mm (perpendicular to the treated surface) utilizing a sandblasting device (prep star. Danvell instrument. CA. USA).⁽²⁷⁾ Then all discs were ultrasonically cleaned for 3 min. and left to dry.

Colour Measurement Test

Using the spectrophotometer, samples were scanned & CIELAB colour parameters within the visible spectrum 380-780 nm were calculated. The 3 coordinate values (L, a, b) of the CIELAB colour system were measured. ΔE was calculated to assess surface treatment of different subgroups, using the following formula.⁽²⁸⁾

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

Where,

 ΔL^* represents, difference in L between the control group & the tested subgroup

 Δa^* represents, difference in a between the control group & the tested subgroup

 Δb^* represents, difference in b between the control group & the tested subgroup

Translucency test: Contrast Ratio (CR):

The L*, a* and b* were recorded for each disc by placing the probe tip on the central part.⁽²⁹⁾ For reliability, probe tip was positioned similarly on each sample. These measurements were repeated three times for each sample. The samples were positioned against white and black backgrounds. Figure (1).

For standardization, the device was calibrated before each measurement. The (CR) was calculated according to the following equations:

The spectral reflectance (Y) was calculated as follows: ⁽³⁰⁾

$Y = [(L^* + 16)/116]^3 X 100.$

Registered readings on white (Yw) & black (Yb) backgrounds were utilized as follows: ⁽³⁰⁾

CR=Yb/Yw.

(CR) values range : (0 = transparent object) – (1 =opaque object).



Fig. (1) Ceramic sample on a black background for translucency measurement

Following the Colour Measurement & (CR) Test

For Sub-groups (HF) & (SB):

The (OptiBondTM eXTRa universal, Kavo Kerr) adhesive was applied for 20 sec. & thoroughly air dried. The adhesive was light cured for 10 sec. Then ΔE & CR were measured for the samples of both subgroups after the addition of the adhesive creating two new subgroups (**HFU & SBU**), respectively.

Statistical Analysis

The analysis of data was carried out using the IBM SPSS version 25 statistical package software. Normality of the data was tested using the Shapiro Wilk test. Data were expressed as mean \pm SD. Analyses were done between all groups using One Way Anova test followed by post hoc LSD analysis between each two groups. P-value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Change in colour results:

The change in colour of different groups after being subjected to different surface treatments are represented in table (1), figure (2). Results showed a significant increase in (ΔE) within LD group when subjected to surface treatment with **HF+Universal adhesive**, {subgroup HFU (4.1)} as well as with Sandblasting+Universal adhesive {subgroup SBU (4.4)} compared to acid etched LD subgroup. Sandblasted (SB) LD subgroup showed an insignificant difference in ΔE compared to other LD subgroups. For ZLS group, the subgroup treated with Sandblasting + Universal adhesive (subgroup SBU) showed a significantly higher ΔE (6.7) compared to the other subgroups. In both groups, the highest ΔE was recorded for the subgroups treated with Sandblasting + Universal

adhesive (SBU subgroups).

TABLE (1) Means & standard deviations (SD) values of ΔE of different groups.

Ceramics	HF	SB	HFU	SBU
Li Disilicate	2.6ª	3.3 ^{a,b}	4.1 ^b	4.4 ^b
	(0.22)	(0.16)	(0.29)	(0.32)
Zr Li	3.8 ^b	3.4 ^{a,b}	2.5ª	6.7°
Silicate	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.47)	(0.26)

Different letters denote significant difference



Fig. (2) Bar chart representing ΔE of different subgroups

Translucency results (Contrast ratio):

Contrast ratio results showed an insignificant difference within (LD) group. Only ZLS (etched) (HF) & (sandblasted) (SB) subgroups recorded significant difference with all the other subgroups in both groups & insignificant difference with each other representing the highest CR, 0.84,0.85, respectively. table (2), figure (3).

TABLE (2) The mean, standard deviation (SD)values of CR of different groups.

Ceramics	Control	HF	SB	HFU	SBU
Li	0.73 ^a	0.68 ^a	0.7ª	0.63 ^a	0.7 ^a
disilicate	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.02)
Zr Li	0.71 ^a	0.84 ^b	0.85 ^b	0.7 ^a	0.7ª
silicate	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.04)



Different letters denote significant difference

Fig. (3) Bar chart representing CR of different subgroups

DISCUSSION

The current study investigated the effect of different ceramic surface treatments on change in colour & translucency of two glass ceramics with different compositions. Soares et al 2021,⁽³¹⁾ found insufficient data recording the interaction of surface treatment on ΔE and translucency, as morphological surface changes might alter light pathway and degree of light absorption.⁽³²⁾ Samples thickness was adjusted to 1mm as this is the maximum accepted thickness of a ceramic laminate veneer^(33,34) Etched surfaces were copiously rinsed after etching to remove any white deposits representing remnants of remineralized salts, to exclude their effect on the ceramics' shade.⁽³¹⁾ Measuring ΔE was done using a spectrophotometer which can detect colour changes undetectable by the human eye.⁽³⁵⁾ Optibond eXTRA Universal was used as it was claimed by the manufacturer that it can be used on any substrate instead of silane & primer.

Glass ceramics optical properties are specified according to their type, microstructure, porosities, thickness, and crystalline structure & content, grain size &, degree of pigmentation as well as amount and size of surface defects and porosities.^(31,36-39) Thus, the microstructure, surface texture, and thickness of a ceramic restoration greatly influence its photometric characteristics. Light attenuation through ceramic restorations might lessen bonding to light cured resin cement, reducing restoration's durability.^(23,32)

Etching LD samples resulted in the lowest ΔE compared to other surface treatments, although there was no significant difference with sandblasted LD subgroup. The ΔE was clinically unacceptable when etching or sandblasting were combined with universal adhesive indicating that using the universal adhesive negatively affected the shade of LD but it had no effect on their translucency.

Etching of ZLS resulted in ΔE exceeding the clinically acceptable change (ΔE <3.7 units).⁽³⁶⁾ Combined surface treatments of ZLS samples showed significantly higher translucency compared

to single treatments, indicating that the universal adhesive was capable of masking the effect of etching as well as sandblasting of ZLS on both colour & translucency, except when the universal adhesive was used on sandblasted samples, which failed to produce clinically acceptable ΔE , but improved their translucency. It was confirmed by many researchers that high ΔE was displayed when roughness increased.⁽⁴⁰⁻⁴³⁾ They reported that selective removal of the ceramic glassy (vitreous) matrix by HF etching or sandblasting lead to a rougher surface due to the exposure of crystalline structures revealing an amorphous microstructure with many porosities.⁽⁴⁴⁾

The needle-like crystalline microstructure of ZLS which is 4-8X less than that of LD permitted the existence of a great amount of glass content as a surrounding matrix, which was attacked by HF as well as sandblasting. But sandblasting caused lower translucency compared to etching with HF. Researchers,^(31,45,46) attributed this to the force of bombardment of the aluminium oxide particles while sandblasting causing a less regular removal of the vitreous matrix compared to HF etching.⁽⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷⁾ **Soares et al 2021,**⁽³¹⁾ recorded that silane was not able to hide the surface effect of sandblasting & that sandblasting resulted in higher surface alteration of ZLS than the HF.

The null hypothesis was rejected as the surface treatment technique of the two selected glass ceramics affected the two examined optical properties.

CONCLUSIONS

Within the limitations of this investigation, it could be concluded that:

- 1. Etching or sandblasting without the use of universal adhesive didn't affect the colour of LD as ΔE lied in the range of clinical acceptance.
- 2. Etching or sandblasting LD with or without the use of universal adhesive didn't affect its translucency.
- 3. Etching ZLS with the use of universal adhesive didn't affect its colour nor its translucency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. To keep the colour & translucency of Lithium disilicate ceramic, it is recommended to be etched with HF or sandblasted but without adding universal adhesive Optibond eXTRA Universal.
- To keep the colour & translucency of Zirconia reinforced-lithium silicate ceramic, it is recommended to be etched with HF followed by the addition of the universal adhesive Optibond eX-TRA Universal.

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