

SHADE MATCHING OF CAD/CAM LITHIUM SILICATE CERAMICS VENEERED ON NEWLY INTRODUCED FOUNDATION MATERIAL

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ABSTRACT

Statement of the problem: The emergence of Polyetheretherketone (PEEK) in prosthodontics and its use as a foundation for ceramic veneering restorations demand reassessment of shade match of final restoration.

Purpose: This study aimed to investigate the use of different foundation materials on the color output of two CAD/CAM lithium silicate ceramics.

Material and Methods: Rectangular plate specimens (60 samples) were prepared from CAD/CAM generated all-ceramic materials of shade A2; IPS e.max (EM) CAD and Vita suprinity blocks (ZLS). A reflectance spectrophotometer used to measure the colour difference of ceramic samples before and after bonding to different foundation specimens; Zirconia (ZR), resin composite (RC), and PEEK; all of shade A2. The parameter of colour was measured via CIE L*a*b* (Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage) color system. Statistical analysis of data were done using two way ANOVA and the Tukey HSD test ($\alpha=0.05$).

Results: ANOVA revealed that ΔE values influenced significantly ($P<0.05$) by the composition of ceramic material and different foundation materials used. However; the interaction was almost not statistically significant between the variables ($p=.294$). In comparison to ZR and RC assemblies, the foundation material; PEEK, revealed comparable color parameters when assembled with each of the tested veneering material.

Conclusions: Zirconia reinforcement of CAD / CAM lithium silicate glass-ceramics decrease the impact of color variations on the various foundation materials used. The level of color acceptance varies between the ceramic and foundation materials tested. Compared to other widely used foundation materials (ZR and RC); PEEK displayed no different tendencies in color properties.

KEY WORDS: Lithium Silicate Ceramics, Color, PEEK, Foundation materials.

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays; one of the most challenging and complex universal demand in dentistry is the creation of a restoration with lifelike appearance. Therefore; all ceramic restorations gained the mastery in esthetic appearance over metal-ceramic restorations¹.

A variety of all ceramic materials and manufacturing techniques emerging in the dental store. Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM) has been emerging as an alternative to the traditional method of manufacturing. It became a gold standard in the field of dentistry²⁻⁶.

Lithium disilicate-reinforced glass-ceramics prosthesis combined the adequate strength properties, and adequate esthetic properties, which encourage its wide use in fixed restorations; veneers, multiple-unit posterior prostheses and dental implant restorations⁵⁻⁸. In the last few years Vita Suprinity was introduced in the market; where lithium silicate ceramic is reinforced with zirconium dioxide (ZLS) in an attempt to gain the required esthetic and strength properties⁹.

The final all ceramic restoration that have appropriate match with the corresponding shade guide is a multifactorial issue¹⁰⁻¹³. These factors include the type of ceramic material, steps of manufacturing (condensation technique, number of firing cycles and temperature, and ceramic thickness), and thickness of dentin remaining¹⁴⁻²².

Optical interaction between light and tooth structure is responsible for its color. Brightness, hue and chroma are the main optical parameters of tooth structure²³⁻²⁶. The underlying abutment and different foundation materials has a critical role in color production of all ceramic system in addition to their role in reinforcing the integrity and stability of the restoration^{27,28}. Consequently; the dentist and dental technician should be aware about the

final restoration color that match the selected shade guide is the net results of restoration materials color, abutment and foundation shade^{22,29}. Therefore; different foundation materials used in restoring endodontically treated teeth in combination with all ceramic restorations may have a great impact on the color output of final restoration and should be deemed.

It has become clear that polyetheretherketone (PEEK) is a propitious and promising in prosthetic dentistry. PEEK is a linear, aromatic, semicrystalline thermoplastic polymer that has tremendous mechanical properties³⁰. Stawarczyk et al. 2014 and Uhrenbacher et al. 2014 proved that PEEK has appropriate mechanical stability and it allows bonding to veneering materials^{31,32}. However, its low translucency and grayish or even snow-white color may have passive effect on the esthetic demands if it used as full coverage. Therefore; it may require the addition of resin composite or ceramic materials for veneering³³. Few studies are available investigating the color characteristics and optical properties of PEEK in comparison with other popular foundation materials in conjunction with veneering materials.

This study was designed to assess the matching of the shade of CAD/CAM zirconia reinforced lithium silicate glass-ceramics compared to lithium disilicate glass ceramics veneered materials, when using various foundation materials; zirconia (ZR), resin composite (RC) and PEEK. The hypothesis is that; there is no difference in the color of each tested veneering material when using any of various foundation materials.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens preparation of veneering materials

Sixty rectangular plate slice specimens (14 x 12 x 1 mm) were prepared from Lithium disilicate glass ceramic (EM) (IPS e.max CAD; IvoclarVivadent) and zirconium dioxide reinforced lithium silicate

ceramics (ZLS) (Suprinity, Vita Zahnfabrik) blocks in a pre-crystalline stage utilizing water cooled, slow speed diamond saw (Isomet, Buehler Ltd., Lake Bluff, IL). The manufacturers' instructions were followed during ceramic blocks crystallization. The surfaces of the specimens to be measured for color were finished using wet grit silicon carbide paper (#400, # 800 and #1200). Then, for each specimen the thickness was verified using digital caliper (Electronic Digital Caliper, Shan, China). Finally, all specimens were cleaned for 10 min ultrasonically in distilled water.

Fabrication of non-tooth color foundation

The ceramic specimens were tested over three foundations; 20 test specimens each, The following foundation materials were prepared in a standardized dimensions 12 x 14 x 2 mm: zirconia (ZR), shade resin composite (RC), and PEEK. All the used veneering materias and those of the tested foundation ones were of shade A2.

The following CAD/CAM foundation materials: PEEK (Dentokeep; nt-trading, Karlsruhe, Germany), and ZrO₂ (IPS e.max ZirCAD; Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein) were cut into 2 mm thick rectangular slices. Then, ZrO₂ specimens were sintered (LHT 02/16, Nabertherm GmbH, Lilienthal/Bremen, Germany) according to the manufacturer instructions at a heating rate of 10°C/min to 1500°C with a holding time of 120 min.

Resin composite foundation samples were incrementally prepared with multiple layers of a nanofiber-reinforced hybrid resin composite (NovaPro Fill Universal; NANOVA Columbia MO. USA) using a plastic mold 12×14×2 mm and each increment polymerized for 40 s. The specimens were covered by glass slab to obtain a smooth surface before polymerization. Finally; the resin samples were polished using 800-grit silicon carbide abrasive papers.

Color measurement of ceramic specimens before foundation bonding

A computer-controlled reflectance spectrophotometer was conducted (UV-3101PC; Shimadzu, Japan) with integrated sphere attachment, D-65 light source, 360 and 720 nm range, and 10° viewing angle for measuring of the color of ceramic specimens. L*, a* and b* color coordinates which characterize lightness, red-green chromaticity index and yellow-blue chromaticity index respectively, was specified from the transmittance and reflectance data using a computer software (X-rite; GmbH Optronic, Berlin, Germany).

Bonding of ceramics-foundation disks assembly:

Before cementation, the ceramic surfaces to be bonded were treated with 9.6 % hydrofluoric acid (Porcelain etch, Pulpdent) for 20 seconds, rinsed with water and air dried. Ceramic primer (Monobond S; Ivoclar Vivadent) was applied for 60 seconds and air dried. Clear resin cement (Nexus NX3; Kerr Corporation) was used for bonding; photopolymerized for 40 s from each side. All specimens were kept under constant axial force until complete setting of the cement.

Color measurement after bonding

The color coordinates (L*, a* and b*) of each ceramic-foundation assembly were determined and the ΔE (color difference) was calculated between the tested groups and subgroups by using the color difference formula:

$$\Delta E = \sqrt{(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2}$$

Where:

ΔE represent the total color difference, ΔL*, Δa* and Δb* represent the difference of L*, a* and b* of veneering ceramic materials before and after bonding to the foundation materials.

Measurement of the shade guide color properties

The middle third part of shade A2 tab in shade guide (chromascop, Ivoclar Vivadent) was measured using the same condition as described before. L^* , a^* and b^* was determined three times and the average was calculated.

Statistical analysis

The results were statistically analyzed using SPSS software 20.0 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL). To assess data homogeneity, the Levene test was used. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze the data for significant differences in shade match recorded for the tested groups at the significance level of 0.05, followed by Tukey HSD post hoc test at a 95% confidence level for multiple comparisons.

RESULTS

Table I presents the mean color co-ordinates values (L^*), (a^*), and (b^*) of the ceramic test groups before bonding to foundation materials and those of A2 shade tab. There was a significant difference among L^* value of EM and ZLS and the shade guide ($P < 0.05$) before bonding to foundation blocks. L^* values of EM group was higher than ZLS group. Though the a^* value of ZLS group was statistically higher than that of EM groups and shade guide. While the b^* value of EM and ZLS groups were significantly lower than the shade guide.

TABLE (I) Means \pm standard deviations of the L^* , a^* , and b^* values of ceramic groups and the scale before bonding. Groups with the same letter are not statistically significant ($P < 0.05$).

Groups	L^*	a^*	b^*
ZLS	67.47 \pm 1.26 ^a	2.77 \pm 0.25 ^d	11.11 \pm 1.15 ^g
EM	70.4 \pm 1.91 ^b	0.17 \pm 0.04 ^c	11.33 \pm 1.47 ^g
Scale	77.42 ^c	0.1 ^c	18.7 ^h

After Bonding to foundation blocks, the assemblies showed no significant difference of the mean values of ΔE except for ZR and PEEK veneered by EM. The lowest mean ΔE value among all tested groups obtained with Suprinity bonded to RC, while the highest one obtained with EM bonded to ZR. In addition, when the (L^*) was evaluated for the bonded ceramic-foundation assembly; results indicated significant higher value of PEEK-EM than PEEK-ZLS assembly. While the a^* value of ZLS-foundation assembly were statistically higher than that of corresponding EM- foundation assembly groups. Moreover, the b^* value of ZR-EM groups was statistically differed from ZR- ZLS assemblies. (Table II).

The 2-way ANOVA indicated that the veneering ceramic material significantly influenced the ΔE values, regardless the foundation materials used ($P < 0.001$) (Table III).

TABLE (II) Means \pm standard deviations of the L^* , a^* , b^* and ΔE values of EM and ZLS after bonding to foundation block. Groups with the same letter are not statistically significant ($P < 0.05$).

Groups		L^*	a^*	b^*	ΔE
ZLS	ZR	68.30 \pm 0.81 ^a	2.89 \pm 0.2 ^c	11.49 \pm 1.1 ^g	1.47 \pm 0.85 ⁱ
	CR	68.69 \pm 0.77 ^a	2.81 \pm 0.25 ^c	11.41 \pm 1.24 ^g	1.06 \pm 0.61 ⁱ
	PEEK	68.62 \pm 1.06 ^a	3.04 \pm 0.32 ^c	12.07 \pm 1.16 ^{g,h}	1.09 \pm 0.64 ⁱ
EM	ZR	71.09 \pm 0.45 ^{a,b}	1.33 \pm 0.92 ^d	13.58 \pm 0.25 ^h	2.67 \pm 0.75 ^j
	CR	71.09 \pm 0.35 ^{a,b}	0.75 \pm 0.56 ^c	12.83 \pm 0.54 ^{g,h}	1.77 \pm 0.42 ⁱ
	PEEK	72.43 \pm 2.63 ^b	-0.002 \pm 0.65 ^f	12.22 \pm 2.00 ^g	2.43 \pm 0.73 ^j

TABLE (III) 2-way ANOVA analysis for the interaction of different variables on mean ΔE .

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	22.953 ^a	5	4.591	10.883	.000
Intercept	183.372	1	183.372	434.748	.000
Ceramic	17.535	1	17.535	41.573	.000
After bonding to foundation	4.361	2	2.181	5.170	.009
Ceramic * after bonding to foundation	1.057	2	0.528	1.252	.294
Error	22.777	54	0.422		
Total	229.102	60			
Corrected Total	45.729	59			

a. R Squared = .502 (Adjusted R Squared = .456)

DISCUSSION

For the development of prosthetic materials in dentistry, color evaluation and shade determination are crucial requirements. Shade guides have been accustomed as a color matching method, because it is a cheaper and more practical method. However, spectrophotometers and colorimeters devices have become common in dental clinics due to their numerical expression of colors, standardization, and precision³⁴⁻³⁷.

The thickness level of 1.0 mm is the minimal thickness of all ceramic restoration at cervical area^{38,39}. It was selected for EM and ZLS samples in the current study to test the interaction and effects of the foundation materials shade on the final colour production.

The A2 shade of either Vita Suprinity or IPS e.max CAD ceramics that used in the current study was chosen as it is one of the most prevalence tooth shade. This was in agreement with Elamin et al⁴⁰ who screened central incisor shade of a study group whose age from 15-72 years and concluded that shade (A) appears in 78.5% of the patient. Moreover; a survey done by Alrifai and Alharby⁴¹ for different ethnic groups central incisors showed that A2 is one of the most common shade.

Niu et al⁴² reported that a white opaque resin cement should be used irrespective of its thickness to conceal the color resulting from the bonding of lithium disilicate glass ceramic to non-tooth colored foundations. The present study therefore used transparent resin cement to elucidate the effect of foundation materials on the final color.

Research interests are growing in the measurement of teeth and dental restorations color using various devices, particularly when new materials appear. This requires various confirmation thresholds determination and interaction of color of teeth and dental materials⁴³. There are few studies that assesses the impact of PEEK as a foundation material on the color properties of final ceramic restoration. PEEK is gaining much interest in oral rehabilitation research, as PEEK-based materials are applied in removable and fixed partial denture technology in addition to polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA)-based and resin composite materials. Because of low rate of discoloration and improved mechanical properties, PEEK has been used as alternate to denture base resin materials and the ordinary and well-evaluated foundation materials⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶.

In the current study, L* value of A2 shade guide tab was significantly higher than that of ceramic

samples before bonding to different foundation materials. This may be attributed to the thicker thickness of the tested shade guide than the ceramic specimen's thickness used in this study⁹.

The findings of this study showed that; the ΔE values of ZLS - assembly groups were not affected statistically by different foundation materials used. Meanwhile, for EM- assembly groups; ZR and PEEK recorded insignificant ΔE values but RC showed lower significant value comparable to those of ZLS- assemblies. While there was a significant change between PEEK bonded to either ZLS or EM and between ZR bonded to either ceramic veneering used. Therefore, in the current study, the type of ceramic veneering affected the final color of the restoration that appear obvious with PEEK and ZR foundation materials. On the other hand, by using RC foundation there was no significant color changes observed between the used veneering ceramic. Hence the hypothesis that; there was no difference in the color of each veneering material with using various foundations was rejected.

The results were attributed to variation in the optical properties of the ceramic materials which were influenced by its crystalline composition⁴⁸. The findings of the present study were in agreement with that of Targut et al²¹ who stated that; the underlying color of abutment is one of the factors that governed the color difference (ΔE) of CAD/CAM generated ceramic restoration.

Furthermore; the results of EM-foundation assembly were also consistent with Azer et al⁴⁸ findings who stated that the color of the abutment tooth irrespective of the ceramic shade influence the overall selected color of the ceramic veneer. In addition to Stevenson B and Ibbetson R¹⁵ who revealed that the underlying foundations have a significant effect on the final color of the restorations because of the different degree of translucency of the ceramic veneer. Also, Stawarczyk et al³³, who studied the spectrophotometric assessment of PEEK

as a foundation material showed that the foundation and veneering material had a significant impact, which elucidates an inherent color difference in the different assemblies.

Based on the ΔE values, clinical color matching can be assessed. The color difference is identified as "perfect" when the ΔE value of two colors is 0, "very good" when the value is 0.5-1.5 units, 1-2 is "good", 2-3.5 is "clinically noticeable" and more than 3.5 is "unacceptable". Average color differences greater than 1.0 ΔE are considered visually perceivable to the human eye and 3.5 ΔE are categorized as unacceptable for clinical use^{47,49}. The results of our study showed that ZLS CAD/CAM veneering the three foundation used provided very good color matching with mean ΔE value ranged from 1.06 -1.47 and that of EM assemblies with mean ΔE value ranged from 1.77- 2.67 is noticeable but clinically perceptible. Thus, both ZLS and EM assemblies are considered appropriate for clinical use.

Vita Suprinity assemblies (ZLS) had a statistically significant lower mean ΔE value than IPS e.max CAD (EM). This proved that Vita Suprinity was less affected by the foundation color than IPS e.max CAD which suggested that Vita Suprinity has a greater intrinsic ability to mask the underlying structure color than IPS e.max CAD. These findings could be explained as the presence of a ceramic type capable of masking the foundation color influencing the optical properties of the samples. In the ceramic matrix, larger and irregular particles are integrated, hindering the transmission of light and favoring the dispersion of light, resulting in a decrease in translucency and an increase in ceramic opacity. The presence of particles slightly larger than the incident wavelength result in optimum reflection and opacity and causing a refraction degree different from the matrix where they are embedded²⁵.

It is worth noting that other possible shade variables, opaque or shaded cements are interested issues to be further investigated.

CONCLUSIONS

The following may be inferred within the limitation of this research; CAD / CAM Zirconia reinforcement lithium silicate glass-ceramics reduces the impact of color variations on the different foundation materials used. The level of color acceptance varies between the ceramic veneering and foundation materials tested; ZLS foundation assemblies showed the highest color matching followed by EM foundation. Compared to other widely used foundation materials (ZR and RC); PEEK demonstrates similarity with respect to the CIE L*a*b* system parameters of the assemblies and individual veneering material.

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