

Influence of Ceramic and Substrate Types on the Microleakage of Aged Porcelain Laminate Veneers

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Objective: To evaluate the effects of the type of ceramic, and the influence of the type of cervical substrate on the microleakage of aged Porcelain laminate veneers (PLVs).

Materials and Methods: A total of 48 sound human maxillary premolars were divided randomly into two groups (n=24), Group A: lithium disilicate PLVs; Group B: zirconia reinforced lithium silicate PLVs. The groups were further subdivided into four subgroups (n=12): (A1, B1): finishing line placed in Class V composite filling; (A2, B2): finishing line placed in sound enamel. In subgroups A1 and B1 standardized Class V cavities were prepared and restored with nanocomposite. Standardized PLVs tooth preparation was done for the specimens in all subgroups. Cementation of PLVs was done with a light cured resin cement and specimens were stored in distilled water for 2 weeks. Mechanical load cycling (45,000 cycle, 49 N at 2.5 Hz) and thermocycling procedure (500 cycles, 5–55°C) were done. A microleakage test was done with dye penetration (2% methylene blue) and the microleakage percentage was recorded and calculated using a stereomicroscope and ImageJ program.

Results: Means of microleakage percentage of the subgroups were: A1 (6.6075%), A2 (4.6058%), B1 (7.3158%), and B2 (6.105%), Two-way ANOVA showed a significant effect of ceramic type and cervical composite substrate. According to samples *t*-test, subgroup A2 was significantly lower than A1 and B2, while subgroup B2 was significantly lower than B1. A *P*-value ≤ 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Conclusion: The type of ceramic and the type of substrate both affects PLV microleakage. Lithium disilicate PLVs had significantly lower microleakage compared to zirconia reinforced lithium silicate PLVs. Teeth with cervical composite substrate had a significantly higher microleakage compared to teeth with enamel substrate.

Keywords: dental leakage, dental restoration, dental veneers, VITA Suprinity, IPS e.max CAD

Introduction

Porcelain laminate veneers (PLVs) as an esthetic treatment modality have seen increased interest worldwide, this is attributed to the combination of excellent esthetics and the strength of dental porcelains with more conservative types of tooth preparation.¹ PLVs are indicated for the alterations of teeth shape, color, and position. According to a systematic review that evaluated the main clinical performance of glass-ceramic and feldspathic PLVs, the estimated survival for glass-ceramic PLVs was 94%, and for feldspathic PLVs was 87% over a median follow-up period of 9 years.² The main reasons of failure were fracture and chipping 4%, debonding 2%, severe marginal discoloration 2%, secondary caries 1%, and endodontic failures 2%.

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Over the last decade, computer aided design/computer aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) of dental restorations has become an established fabrication process, especially for fabrication of PLVs. The PLVs were traditionally fabricated from glass ceramics, this is because of the excellent optical properties of these materials which mimics the shade and translucency of natural dentition. Glass ceramics have evolved over the years in their compositions, physical properties, and processing techniques. Initially feldspathic porcelains had no crystal phase, which is then evolved to better leucite crystal phase and later lithium disilicate crystal phase Ceramics (L2S).³ Recently, a new material was introduced, zirconia-reinforced lithium silicate ceramic (ZLS), with the idea that zirconia could act as a crystal phase nuclei center that can reinforce the glass ceramics material.⁴ This material was created with the hope of uniting the physical properties of polycrystalline ceramics with the esthetic excellence of the glass-ceramics in a CAD/CAM monolithic restoration, however, this material is relatively new and there is little published evidence on its performance.

The use of PLVs with dentinal or composite filling margins has been subjected to controversy.^{5–7} Although researchers suggested that the veneers should be extended to achieve an intra-enamel margin,⁸ this is not always the case in clinical practice. According to a clinical study, 60% of laminate veneers have been reported to cross over existing composite restorations.⁹

PLVs marginal discoloration has been reported with patient dissatisfaction in clinical studies.^{2,10,11} It holds the proof of marginal defects, partial debonding, and microleakage.¹² There is a suggestion that the resin cements shrinkage layer can generate internal stress, causing micro-crack formation,¹³ this can be accelerated by mechanical load which further propagates the crack marginally and results in microleakage and possible future fracture. Another suggestion is the differences in the coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) of bonded surfaces (the enamel, the resin cement, the ceramic, and the composite), this difference in behavior of the surfaces under the oral thermal cycles may cause a marginal opening and ultimately microleakage.⁸

Little information is available in the literature on the effects of ceramic materials on the microleakage of PLVs. Also, there is little evidence on the influence of class V composite filling as bonding substrate on the microleakage of PLVs. The aim of the study is to evaluate the effects of ceramic materials and cervical composite substrate on the microleakage of aged PLVs.

Materials and Methods

Forty-eight human maxillary first premolar were selected for the study. Teeth were extracted as a part of an orthodontic treatment plan in the clinics of the Department of Orthodontics, College of Dentistry, Mustansiriyah University and all patients signed a consent form. The research was approved by the scientific and ethical research committee, College of Dentistry, Mustansiriyah University.

All teeth were caries free and carefully examined with light transillumination (Diagnostic LED Attachment, Radium-Plus, SDI, Australia) to detect any crack. Teeth were cleaned using a fluoride-free pumice with prophylaxis rubber cup (Produits Dentaires S.A, Switzerland) and then were stored in 0.1% thymol solution for 1 week. During all the following steps of the study, the specimens were stored in distilled water.

The specimens were divided randomly into two groups (n=24) according to the type of ceramic material used, Group A: lithium disilicate PLVs (IPS e.max CAD, A1 HT, C14, Ivoclar/Vivadent, Germany); Group B: zirconia reinforced lithium silicate PLVs (VITA Suprinity PC, A1 HT, LS14, Vita Zahnfabrik, Germany). The groups were further subdivided into four subgroups (n=12): (A1, B1): cervical finishing line placed in class V composite filling (Filtek Z350 XT, 3M ESPE, Germany); (A2, B2): finishing line placed in sound enamel.

Simulation of Periodontal Ligament

Bone support and the periodontal ligament are important for the mechanisms of stress distribution of teeth. The root surfaces were dipped into molten dipping wax (GEO Dip, Renfert, Germany) up to 2 mm below the cemento-enamel junction (CEJ),¹⁴ resulting in a wax layer of 0.2–0.3 mm thickness that was ensured by measuring the width of the root from the three facing points before and after dipping using digital caliper (InSize, Austria) (Figure 1A and B). The teeth were mounted individually in a custom-made mold made of rubber silicon material (20×20×25 mm) with pink cold cure acrylic (Paladur, Kulzer GmbH, Germany) using dental surveyor (Paraline, Dentaaurum GmbH, Germany) to ensure vertical positioning of each tooth inside the mold. At the first polymerization sign, each tooth was removed from acrylic block, then wax removed, then A-silicone light body impression material (Elite HD+, Zhermack SpA, Italy) was injected and the tooth was reinserted. A standardized silicone layer of 0.2–0.3 mm that simulated periodontal ligament was thus created, taking the thickness of the wax layer.

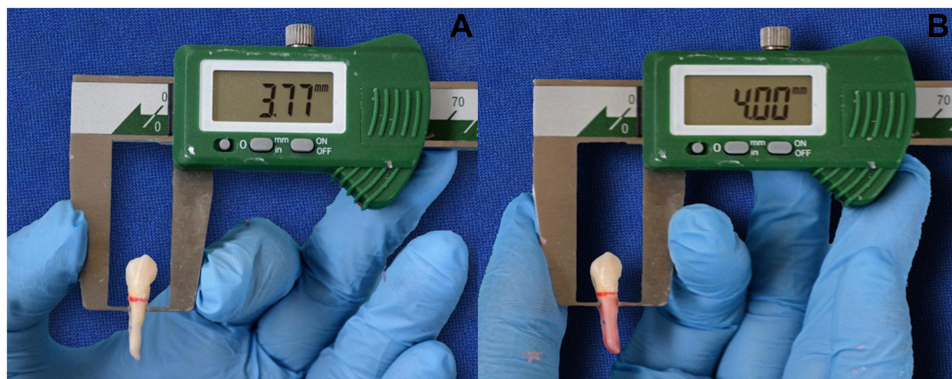


Figure 1 (A) Measuring the width of the root before wax dipping. (B) Measuring the width of the root after wax dipping.

Preparation of Cervical Composite Substrate

All specimens of A1 and B1 subgroups received a standardized class V cavity on the buccal surface. Initially, Class V cavity preparation template was made by using the square edge diamond wheel bur (ISO no. 806 314 043 524 040, NTI-Kahla GmbH, Germany) with high speed water-cooled hand piece (Kavo Dental GmbH, Germany) that was fixed to the vertical arm of modified dental surveyor to standardize the cavity preparation perpendicular to the long axis of the tooth. Then, Tungsten carbide fissure bur no. 256 (Komet, Germany) was used to standardize the cavity depth and correct the cavity floor. Color marker (Stabilo, China) and digital caliper (InSize, Austria) were used to mark the bur to provide a visual reference at 1.5 mm depth.

All Class V cavities were prepared 1 mm above the cemento-enamel junction in order to keep the restoration within enamel boundaries.^{15,16} The dimensions of the prepared cavities were: occluso-gingivally (2 mm) and axial depth (1.5 mm). The excess color marks were wiped with a cotton pellet dipped in alcohol.

Class V cavities acid were etched with 35% phosphoric acid etchant gel (Scotchbond™ Universal Etchant, 3M ESPE, Germany) following manufacturer's instructions, then washed and bloated with cotton pellet. A 5th generation bonding agent (Adper Single Bond 2 Adhesive, 3M ESPE, USA) was applied and light cured (Radii-Plus, SDI, Australia) for 40 seconds. A restorative procedure was done with nano-filled composite (Filtek Z350 XT, 3M ESPE, Germany) in two horizontal layers and light cured (Radii-Plus, SDI, Australia) for 20 seconds for each layer. The composite filling was finished and polished with a finishing polishing kit (Super-Snap Kit, SHOFU INC., Japan).

PLVs Preparation

For standardization purposes, all of the specimens were prepared by the same operator under 4x magnification (ZEISS EyeMag Pro S, ZEISS Medical Technology, Germany). Standardized preparations were done for all the teeth using a ceramic veneer system preparation bur set (Keramik-veneers.de, Komet, Germany). At first, a silicon mold was constructed with putty condensation silicone (Ormament Putty with Ormactivator Gel, Major Prodotti Dentari Spa, Italy) to provide visual reference during tooth preparation (Figure 2A). The outline of the preparation was painted on the tooth with water proof color marker (Stabilo, China) to provide a visual reference for the preparation area. The preparation was 1.5 mm above CEJ, Buccal cusp 1.5 mm bucco-palatally and 1.5 mm occluso-cervically. The facial reduction was 0.4 mm at the cervical third and 0.5 mm at the middle and occlusal thirds with an occlusal butt-joint preparation (Figure 2B).

At first, a custom made impression tray was fabricated by a pressure moulding machine (Biostar, Scheu-Dental GmbH, Germany). The custom-made trays were perforated with dimensions of 20x20x25 mm. The final impressions for the teeth in all the groups were taken with addition silicone impression material (Elite HD+, Zhermack SpA, Italy) in a two-stage putty wash technique and poured with type IV dental stone (elite model, Zhermack SpA, Italy).

The PLVs were designed with (inLab SW, Sirona Dental Systems, Bensheim, Germany), then milled with a 5-axis milling machine (CEREC inLab MC XL, Sirona Dental Systems, Bensheim, Germany). PLVs were fired in a ceramic firing furnace (Programat CS, Ivoclar Vivadent/technical, Liechtenstein, Germany) at 840°C with vacuum according to the manufacturer's instructions.

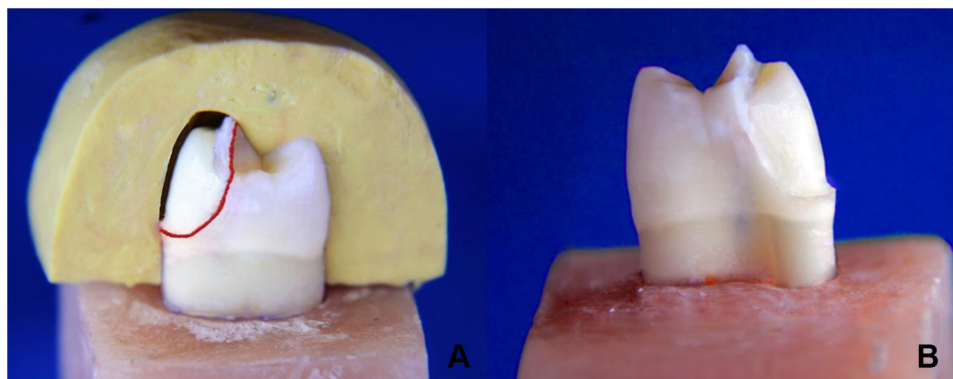


Figure 2 (A) Silicon index for visual reference during preparation. **(B)** Final tooth preparation.

In groups A1 and A2 with composite substrate, composite surfaces were sandblasted to facilitate the bonding procedure. Sandblasting was done with 29 μm alumina oxide (Al_2O_3) particles for 10 seconds with a sandblasting machine (AquaCare, Velopex, UK).¹⁷ A custom-made shield was made of additional silicon (Zhermack SpA, Italy), this custom shield contains an opening only over the area of composite restoration to prevent the detrimental effects of sandblasting of tooth structure.

Teeth preparations of all subgroup were etched with 35% phosphoric acid etchant gel (Scotchbond™ Universal Etchant, 3M ESPE, Germany) for 20 seconds, rinsed for 20 seconds, and then the excess water was gently air dried for 5 seconds. Immediately after drying, two consecutive coats of 5th generation bonding agent (Single Bond 2 Adhesive, 3M ESPE, USA) were applied to the etched tooth surface for 15 seconds with gentle agitation using a fully saturated brush, then was gently air thinned for 5 seconds to evaporate the solvents and left without curing.^{18,19}

The internal surfaces of fabricated PLVs of all groups were etched by using 5% hydrofluoric acid gel (IPS ceramic etching gel, 3M ESPE, Germany) for 20 seconds according to the manufacturer's instructions. The veneers were then washed thoroughly with air/water spray for 30 seconds and air dried. The veneers were silanated by application of ceramic primer (RelyX ceramic primer, 3M ESPE, USA) to the internal surface of the veneer and left to dry for 1 minute. One coat of 5th generation bonding agent (Single Bond 2 Adhesive, 3M ESPE, USA) was applied to the internal surface of the veneer and also left without curing.

A small increment of translucent shade light cured resin cement (RelyX Veneer cement, 3M ESPE, USA) was

dispensed directly from the syringe onto the internal surface of the veneers. The veneers were seated in place using gentle pressure with placement instrument with an adhesive tip (Optrastick, Ivoclar/Vivadent, Germany), then light cured (Radii-Plus, SDI, Australia) for 40 seconds. The margins were finished and polished with a finishing and polishing kit (Super-Snap Kit, SHOFU INC., Japan). Then, the specimens were stored at 37°C in distilled water for 2 weeks.

Simulation of Clinical Situation (Ageing)

In an attempt to simulate the clinical situation (eg, mastication and oral cavity environment), all the specimens were submitted to mechanical load cycling and thermocycling procedures. A custom-made device was used for the load cycling procedure (Figure 3A). The specimens were subjected to 50,000 cycles of 49 N at a frequency of 2.5 Hz. The specimens were kept moist during the procedure by using a cannula attached with a distilled water container, this cannula was constantly dripping distilled water on the specimens (Figure 3B). The thermocycling procedure was done using a custom made automatic thermocycling device. The specimens underwent 500 water cycles between 5°C and 55°C, with a dwell time of at least 30 seconds according to International Standardization Organization specifications (ISO/TS 11405:2015). Then, all the specimens were air-dried.

Measurements of Microleakage

The specimens were immersed in 2% methylene blue dye in a container for 48 hours at 37°C. Then, the specimen's crowns were blocked with clear cold cure acrylic (Paladur, Kulzer GmbH, Germany) with a custom-made circular mold (15 mm in diameter) and sectioned bucco-palatally at the center into two pieces using a microtome (MT-4

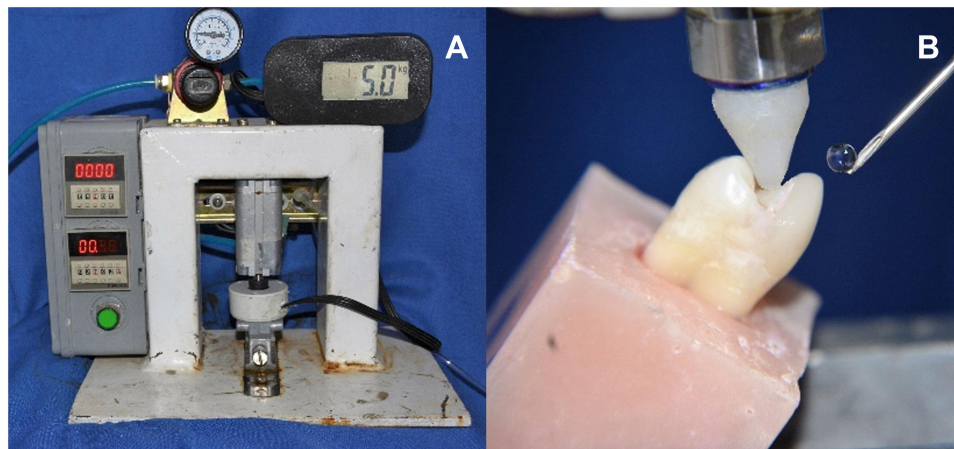


Figure 3 (A) Custom made cyclic loading device. (B) Cycling loading tip in contact with the tooth.

Diamond cut-off saw, USA) with a disk thickness of 0.35 mm cutting at high speed with water coolant.

The presence of microleakage was confirmed by the visualization of a blue dye extent into the adhesive interface (occlusal and cervical) with a stereomicroscope (Meiji Techno Co. Ltd, Japan). Microleakage measurement is done by using an image processing program (ImageJ software, National Institutes of Health, <https://imagej.nih.gov>). Measurement calibrations were done by using a millimeter graph paper as a guide to measure the length in micrometers (Mm) (Figure 4A). At first, the total measurements of the adhesive interface were recorded (Figure 4B), then occlusal, cervical microleakage measurements were recorded (Figure 4C and D).

The following mathematical formula was used to calculate the microleakage percentage:

Microleakage%=[occlusal reading (Mm)+Cervical reading (Mm)/Total measurement of adhesive interface (Mm)]x100% (The mean of both halves of each specimen is taken as a record).

The workflow of the current research is illustrated in Figure 5.

Statistical Methods

Statistical analysis was performed by using IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Package for Social Science, version 24.0; IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) to calculate descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. Initially, checking for distribution of data by statistical method was done by using both Kolmogorov–Smirnov and Shapiro–Wilk test. Analysis of variance (Two-way ANOVA) was performed as we wanted to evaluate the effect of the two factors (type of ceramic and type of substrate) on the microleakage of aged PLVs. Separate analyses were used in each condition separately (independent sample *t*-test) was used. *P*-value≤0.05 was considered as statistically significant. *P*-value≤0.01 was considered as statistically significant. *P*-value>0.05 was considered as statistically non-significant.

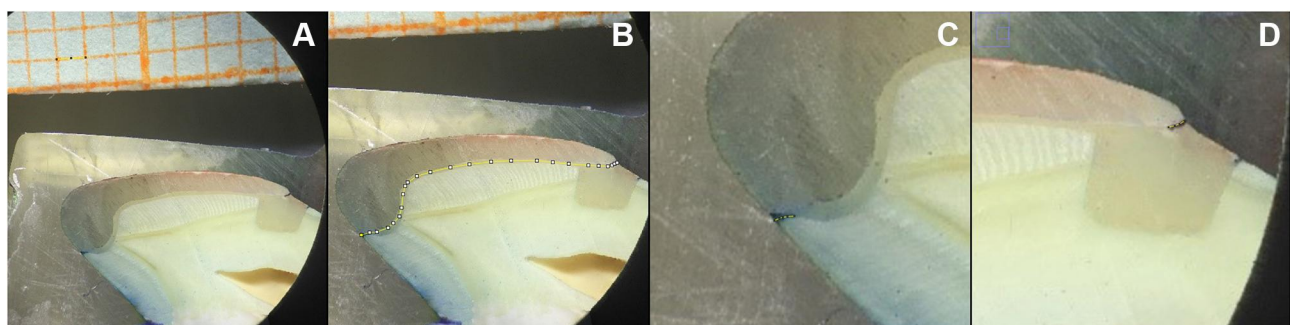


Figure 4 (A) Length measurement calibration. (B) Measurement of total adhesive interface (Mm). (C) Occlusal microleakage (Mm). (D) Cervical microleakage (Mm).

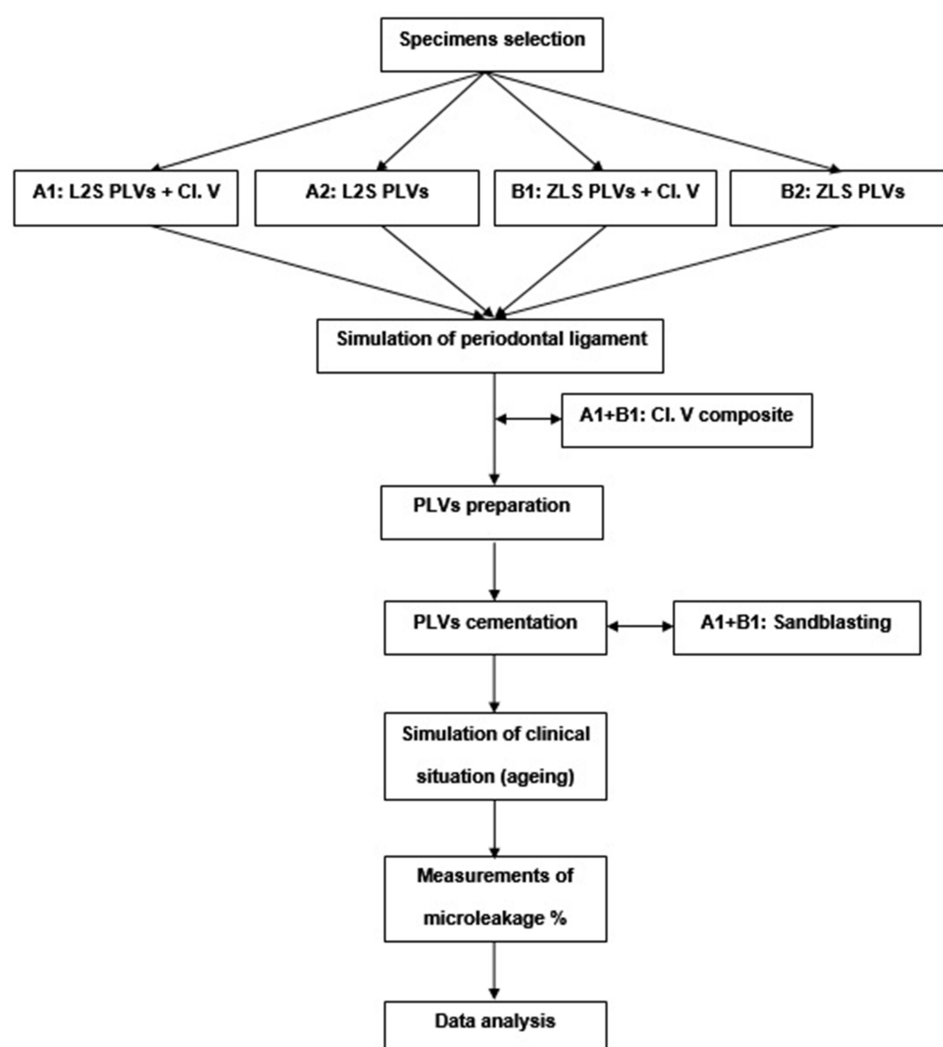


Figure 5 Flowchart of the research protocol workflow.

Results

The results of this study showed that the lowest mean of microleakage percentage was recorded for subgroup A2, followed by subgroup B2 and subgroup A1, while the highest mean value was recorded by group B1. Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk test were used to test the distribution of data in statistical methods. According to the results of both tests, normal data distribution was assumed (Table 1).

The two-way ANOVA test indicated the significant effect of the type of ceramic. Similarly, the type of substrate had a highly significant effect. However, the interaction of the effects between those two factors had a non-significant effect on the microleakage percentage (Table 2).

According to samples *t*-tests, the PLVs groups restored with L2S ceramic (A1 and A2) showed highly significant effects of presence of cervical composite substrate on the

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics (Mean, Standard Deviation of Microleakage Percentage) and Normality of Distribution Tests by Statistical Methods

Subgroup	n	$\bar{X}$	SD	K-S	S-W
A1	12	6.6075	1.32594	0.200	0.481
A2	12	4.6058	1.5091	0.200	0.447
B1	12	7.3158	1.38713	0.186	0.224
B2	12	6.105	1.456	0.200	0.999

Abbreviations: n, number of specimens; $\bar{X}$, mean; SD, standard deviation; K-S, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; S-W, Shapiro-Wilk test.

increase of microleakage percentage as compared to enamel substrate. Similarly, PLVs groups restored with ZLS (B1 and B2) showed the same significant effect. Within the PLVs groups with cervical composite substrate (A1 and B1), there was a non-significant effect between the two types of ceramics. On the other hand, within the

Table 2 Two-Way ANOVA Test of Mean Value of Microleakage Percentage of the Ceramic Type Related and Type of Substrate

Source	SS	DF	MS	F	P
Ceramic	14.62	1	14.62	7.23	0.0101
Substrate	30.96	1	30.96	15.31	0.0003
Ceramic * substrate	1.88	1	1.88	0.93	0.34
Error	89	44	2.02		
Total	136.46	47			

Abbreviations: SS, sum of squares; DF, degree of freedom; MS, mean square; F, F-ratio; P, probability value.

PLVs groups with enamel substrate (A2 and B2), L2S PLVs had significantly lower microleakage percentages compared to ZLS PLVs (Table 3).

Discussion

Although the ideal setting for the experimental study of dental materials and restorations is the oral cavity, clinical trials are time-consuming and not always cost-effective.^{20,21} To test materials and restorations in vitro, the test conditions should match the oral environment as closely as possible.²² Therefore, periodontal simulation, thermal cycling, and mechanical load cycling were used in the present study. Human teeth were used in this study because they have unique properties, such as bonding characteristics, elasticity, strength, thermal conductivity, ion transfer in dentinal tubules, and enamel thickness.²³

Bone support and the periodontal ligament are important for the mechanisms of stress distribution of teeth.^{14,24,25} When load is applied, periodontal fibers are compressed, the tooth dislodges slightly, and there is bone distortion in the direction of the root movement.²⁶ The mechanical response of periodontal ligament to external stress is non-linear and viscous,²⁷ which is similar to the characteristics of elastomeric impression materials. In this study, the simulation of periodontal ligament is done by creating a layer of 0.2–0.3 mm of silicon impression material between the root and the acrylic block.^{14,28}

Table 3 Independent Samples *t*-Tests of the Four Study Groups

Source	T	P
A1x A2	3.45176	0.002 (HS)
B1x B2	-2.0828	0.049 (S)
A1x B1	-1.27871	0.214 (NS)
A2x B2	2.47334	0.0215 (S)

Abbreviations: T, *t*-value; P, probability value.

When placing the margins of a porcelain veneer on an existing composite, it is important to consider that weak bonding may lead to microleakage and fracture. Microleakage could result from a difference in the flexure and thermal expansions of the tooth and the ceramic or resin composite.^{1,8,10} In order to avoid weak bond at the area of existing composite, alumina oxide sandblasting was done to the composite surface at the time of cementation.²⁹

Measurement of microleakage was done by measuring the incisal and cervical microleakage in Mm, then dividing them by the total bonded surface of the veneer and multiplying by 100% to yield the microleakage percentage. All the measurements were done digitally by computer software.¹⁸ This method of microleakage measurement is considered more objective and precise with less chance of bias compared to the scoring method which depends on the subjective decision of the observer.

According to the results of the two-way ANOVA test, a significant effect was found for the type of ceramic restoration on microleakage percentage of porcelain veneers. This finding disagrees with Zaimoglu and Karaagaclioglu,³⁰ who concluded that the porcelain material had no significant effect on the microleakage of porcelain veneers. This may be attributed to the different ceramics used, different restoration fabrication methods, and different methods of record of the microleakage data.

According to the results of the samples *t*-test, the L2S veneers group A2 had a significantly lower microleakage percentage mean than the ZLS group B2. The same finding was noted when comparing between subgroups A1 and B1 (although non-significant), with the highest microleakage percentage recorded for ZLS group B1. There were no previous studies comparing microleakage of both ceramic materials.

The coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) has been suggested as an important factor that influences microleakage,^{31–33} it is influenced by the composition of the restorative material. A greater difference in the CTE between tooth and restorative material leads to the generation of excessive stresses with temperature fluctuation that may result in micro-cracks that propagate along the bonded interface, causing a gap to form and eventually microleakage. Lower CTE of L2S ceramic ($CTE=10.25 \times 10^{-6} K^{-1}$) compared to ZLS ceramic ($CTE=11.6 \times 10^{-6} K^{-1}$) may be the cause of the reported lower microleakage percentage of L2S veneers which translate into better performance during the thermal stressing of the material.³⁴

On the other hand, one of the methods to reduce microleakage of dental restorative materials reported in the literature is the use of a material with a lower modulus of elasticity (MOE).^{35,36} According to Elsaka and Elnaghy,³⁷ L2S ceramic had a significantly lower modulus of elasticity (60.61 GPa) compared to ZLS ceramic (70.44 GPa). The combination of lower MOE and lower strength of L2S ceramic translate into higher resiliency compared to ZLS ceramic.³⁸ This results in a better elastic buffer and compensation for resin cement shrinkage stress, which is another explanation of the lower microleakage percentage mean of L2S veneers.

This study showed a highly significant effect for the cervical composite substrate on the microleakage percentage of porcelain veneers. This finding agrees with Sadighpour et al,⁷ who concluded that ceramic veneers with class 4 composite filling had significantly higher microleakage compared to controls. The result of the study also agree with Lacy et al,³⁹ who demonstrated the complete leakage between the GIC restoration and the porcelain veneers. "However, microleakage records was lower in our study, this may be because of the adhesive behavior of different filling material and/or surface treatment.

According to results of the samples *t*-test, cervical composite substrate group A1 had a significantly higher microleakage percentage mean compared to enamel substrate group A2. The same significant effect is seen when comparing group B1 and group B2, with the first being significantly higher than the latter. These findings agree with Metz et al, who concluded that composite materials as finish lines that interact with resin cements and ceramic crown had significantly higher microleakage compared to controls.⁴⁰

The increased microleakage percentage of the cervical composite substrate groups (A1 and B1) may be attributed to the flexural difference between the tooth structure and ceramic materials which could cause gap formation and increase microleakage.⁷ Another cause may be due to the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion among the tooth structure, composite filling and ceramic veneer which reveal the different behavior of the various materials during thermocycling and load cycling procedures which may cause a larger gap and increased microleakage.

The recorded microleakage data of this study was consistent with other similar studies which used the microleakage percentage as a record method.^{18,41,42} There was no acceptable microleakage rank for porcelain veneers,

comparing against the acceptable microleakage score of ceramic crowns.

Further investigations are needed to study the microleakage between indirect restoration and composite substrate, possibly with various surface treatment, different bonding procedures, or different luting cements, since there is a lack of such research in the current literature.

Conclusion

Within the limitation of this study, it was concluded that:

- The type of ceramic material and the presence of class V filling both as a bonding substrate had significant effects on microleakage percentage of porcelain laminate veneers.
- L2S veneers had significantly lower microleakage compared to ZLS veneers.
- PLVs on teeth with class V composite filling within the cervical finishing line had a highly significant higher microleakage compared to PLVs on teeth without class V composite filling.
- The two types of ceramic veneers when bonded to teeth with class V composite filling did not have a significant difference in microleakage between them.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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