



Enhancement of Conventional Glass-Ionomer Cement by Nanozirconia- Hydroxyapatite-Silica

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Opinion

Since decades ago improvement of materials is always the aims of researchers to fulfill needs in many areas such as engineering, biomedical and also dentistry. Glass-ionomer-cement (GIC) is one of the most commonly used materials in dentistry where it is highly used as restoration in deciduous teeth and as lining material or temporary restoration for adult. The conventional GIC (cGIC) was introduced in 1972 [1] which is an acid-base material and the latter type is with addition of HEMA that is cured by light, called resin modified GIC. Conventional GIC is well liked due to its properties including anticariogenic, good adhesion to tooth structure, biocompatible, ability to release and reservoir fluoride and easy to handle [2]. Despite, it is limited by weaknesses such as low hardness, easily worn down and too opaque. Due to this limitation many studies had been done aiming to enhance and improve GIC by modification or addition of material such silver-cermet, stainless steel powder, titanium dioxide, silver tin alloy, carbon and alumina-silicate fibers [2-5].

A number of studies have been carried out to evaluate the effect of the addition of HA powders to restorative dental materials such as glass ionomer cement (GIC) and composite resin [6,7]. In a study by Moshaverinia et al. incorporation of hydroxyapatite and fluoroapatite nanobioceramics into conventional glass ionomer cements was found improved the mechanical and bond strength to dentin [6]. Different study used bioactive glass and result shown that there is an increase of surface micro hardness of the cGIC [8]. An addition of highly crystalline HA/ZrO₂ into GIC especially the composition of 4 and 12 volume exhibited superior mechanical properties than the original GICs [9]. In 2014, a study done by Rahman et al. [10] where they had incorporated nanosilica hydroxyapatite (nano-Si-HA) in the cGIC Fuji IX GP (GC International, Japan) which improved the hardness by 73%. It is hypothesized that the fillers of nano-Si-HA reduce the voids in GIC, hence make it more compact and produced a stronger and harder GIC. The results obtained from Scanning Electron Microscope micrographs and magic angle spinning nuclear magnetic resonance

showed good distribution of the nano-sized particles and presence of high degree of cross linking between the silica and GIC [11].

Lately, the benefit of zirconia was incorporated to further improve the cGIC. Zirconia has high mechanical performance, high fracture toughness, not cytotoxic and has low corrosion potential [12-14]. In dentistry, three types of zirconia are commonly used which are: yttrium cation-doped tetragonal zirconia polycrystals, magnesium cation-doped partially stabilized zirconia and zirconia toughened alumina [15]. It is an excellent ceramic biomaterial with a dull white color which can mask the underneath structure [16,17]. In our current study, the nano-Zr-HA-Si was added by synthesized using one-pot technique which we found that it has significantly increased the hardness of the original cGIC. The one-pot technique used was able to produce highly homogeneous nanopowder distribution with lesser agglomeration which was confirmed by SEM dot-mapping assessment. Hardness property was significantly enhanced where Vickers microhardness result showed highest value was achieved at 5% addition of GIC-nano 25Zr-Si-HA which is (~79.38HV) and total increment is about 54% when compared with cGIC. Furthermore, CIELAB color test revealed that the color has improved shown by an increase of color difference; ΔE [18].

As conclusion, within the limitation of the study, the incorporation of Zr-Si-HA nanopowder is able to enhance mechanically the cGIC and also improved the aesthetics which is highly demanded nowadays.

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