

## POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE TAPE AS TEMPORARY RESTORATIVE MATERIAL: A FLUID FILTRATION STUDY\*

### Geçici Restoratif Dolgu Materyali Olarak Politetrafloroetilen Bant (Ptf): Sıvı Filtrasyon Çalışması

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#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to compare the sealing ability of temporary restorative materials at 24 hrs and 1 week.

**Materials and Methods:** Endodontic access cavities were prepared in 56 extracted lower incisor-teeth and divided into 5 groups (n=10). Standard 5 mm deep access preparations were completed and root canals were prepared to size ISO #30 file. The access cavities were restored as follows: Group 1: temporary restorative material (Ceivitron); Group 2: glass ionomer cement (Fuji II); Group 3: zinc oxide-eugenol cement (IRM); Group 4: zinc phosphate cement (Adhesor); Group 5: polytetrafluoroethylene tape (PTFE). The quality of the coronal sealing of each specimen was measured (24 hrs and 1 week) using fluid transport model. The data was analysed with repeated measurements of ANOVA, Tukey, Paired samples T-Tests.

**Results:** A significant difference was found among the groups at all time-periods (p<0.05). At 24 hrs, PTFE showed similar leakage with Ceivitron, IRM, and Fuji II but it showed higher leakage than Adhesor. At 1 week, Ceivitron showed higher leakage than PTFE, meanwhile PTFE showed similar leakage with IRM, Fuji II, and Adhesor (p>0.05). Sealing ability of IRM and PTFE groups significantly increased by time (p<0.05 and p<0.001 respectively).

**Conclusion:** Within the limitations of this study, PTFE showed an acceptable short-term sealing capability when compared to the other commonly used temporary restorative materials at 1 week measurements.

**Keywords:** Dental leakage; polytetrafluoroethylene; temporary dental fillings

#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmanın amacı, geçici restoratif materyallerin 24 saat ve 1 hafta süresinde sızdırmazlık kabiliyetlerinin karşılaştırılmasıdır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** 56 adet çekilmiş alt çene kesici dişin endodontik giriş kaviteleri açıldı. Dişler 5 gruba ayrıldı (n=10). Giriş kaviteleri standart 5 mm derinlikte olacak şekilde açıldı ve kök kanalları ISO #30 numaraya kadar genişletildi. Giriş kaviteleri şu şekilde restore edildi: Grup 1: geçici restorasyon materyali (Ceivitron); Grup 2: cam iyonomer siman (Fuji II); Grup 3: çinko oksit öjenol siman (IRM); Grup 4: çinko fosfat siman (Adhesor); Grup 5: politetrafloroetilen bant (PTFE).

Her örneğin koronal sızdırmazlık kalitesi sıvı filtrasyon yöntemi kullanılarak ölçüldü (24 saat ve 1 hafta). Veriler hesaplandı (Lp), tekrarlayan ölçümlerle ANOVA, Tukey ve bağımlı gruplarda P testi kullanılarak değerlendirildi.

**Bulgular:** Tüm zamanlar için gruplar arasında anlamlı fark bulundu (p<0.05). 24 saatte, PTFE; Ceivitron, IRM ve Fuji II ile benzer; fakat Adhesor den daha fazla sızıntı değeri gösterdi. 1 haftada; Ceivitron, PTFE den daha fazla sızıntı değeri gösterdi, aynı zamanda PTFE; IRM, Fuji II ve Adhesor ile benzer sızıntı değeri gösterdi (p>0.05). IRM ve PTFE gruplarının sızıntı değeri zamanla önemli derecede azaldı (p < 0.05 ve p < 0.001 sırasıyla).

**Sonuç:** Bu çalışmanın sınırları dâhilinde, PTFE, 1 haftalık ölçümlerde, diğer sıklıkla kullanılan geçici dolgu materyalleri ile kıyaslandığında, kabul edilebilir bir kısa-dönem sızdırmazlık kabiliyeti göstermiştir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Dental sızıntı; politetrafloroetilen; geçici dolgu maddeleri

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## Introduction

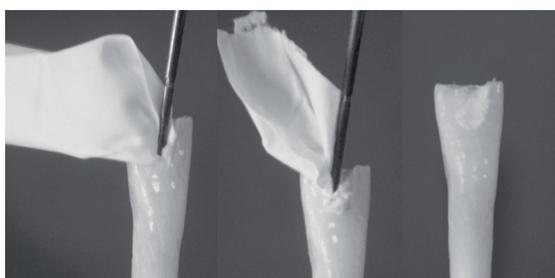
The importance of the coronal leakage on the results of root canal treatment has been widely accepted (1-3). Microbial infection is one of the principle factors associated with endodontic failure (4). Therefore, the major aims of the root canal treatment are removing microorganisms from the root canal by chemomechanical debridement, and sealing of the root canal system against irritants such as; percolation of fluids, microorganisms, saliva and other debris from the oral cavity (5). These irritants may induce periapical pathosis (6, 7), thus all effort should be spent to prevent microbial contamination of the pulp space in every step of endodontic treatment. Previous studies have demonstrated that the coronal seal as important as the quality of root canal filling for periapical health (2, 8). Microorganisms may be able to pass root canal filling (9) and coronal leakage may occur within a few days (8). Consequently, temporary restorative material has to be applied. Temporary restorative materials are often used during endodontic treatment to seal the root canal between sessions or until a permanent restoration is placed. An ideal temporary restorative material should exhibit minimal or no leakage, good abrasion and compression resistance, lack of porosity, lack of dimensional changes, good aesthetic appearance and it must also be easily manipulated or removed while being effective in a moist environment (10). Cavit and IRM are the most commonly used temporary restorations among specialists (11), followed by glass-ionomer cement (GIC) (10) and zinc phosphate cement (12). Conventional GICs were considered as suitable materials for temporary sealing (13) especially because of their adhesive properties (14). In recent publications, the use of polytetrafluoroethylene tape (PTFE) has been advocated in dentistry in several fields such as management of access channels in implant-supported prosthesis (15), for repairing abutment teeth (16), matrix to prevent etching and bonding of the adjacent teeth (17), spacer material (18), for repairing a damaged cast post and core restoration (19), for eliminating subgingival cement adhesion to implant abutments (20), guided bone regeneration barrier material (21) and dental floss (22). The purpose of this study was to compare short-term sealing ability of PTFE with four commonly used temporary restorative materials. The tested hypothesis was there is no significant difference among the sealing ability of the tested materials.

## Materials and Methods

Single-rooted sound permanent human mandibular incisors with straight root canals stored in physiological saline solution were used in the study. Root canal morphologies were radiographically examined; tissue remnants and calculus were removed. Fifty six teeth with similar dimensions were selected ( $14\text{mm}\pm 0.5\text{mm}$  long root;  $7\text{mm}\pm 0.5\text{mm}$  crown length). Five mm deep standard access cavities were made with #4 bur (Detsply Tulsa Dental, Tulsa OK). Patency of the root canals was verified with #10 K-file (Dentsply Maillefer, Tulsa, OK). The working lengths were determined by placing #10 K-file into the root canal until it was visible at the apical foramen and subtracting 1mm from the working length. Six mm coronal part of roots was flared using Gates Glidden drills (sizes 2-3, Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). The roots were instrumented with K-file (Dentsply Maillefer, Tulsa, OK) to size #30 using step-back technique. After completing the instrumentation, in order to standardize the leakage, each root was exited 1 mm out of the apical foramen with #20 K-file (Dentsply Maillefer, Tulsa, OK). Between each file use, the canals were irrigated with 1 ml, 5.25% NaOCl solution. The canals were dried with paper points and all specimens were randomly divided into five groups (n=10). The access cavities were then restored as follows:

- Group 1: Ceivitron (Triune Med Tec, Cambridgeshire, UK);
- Group 2: Fuji II (Fuji II LC, GC Corp, Tokyo, JAPAN);
- Group 3: IRM (IRM; Dentsply Caulk, Milford, DE);
- Group 4: Adhesor (Adhesor, Spofa Dental, Frankfurt, Germany).
- Group 5: Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) tape (Oatey Co, Cleveland, OH, ABD).

In group 1, the access cavity was filled with Ceivitron totally by using a hand plugger. In group 2, Fuji II was prepared with mechanical mixer (ProMix, Dentsply International, York, PA, USA). After inserting into the access cavity, Fuji II light cured for 20s using a curing unit (Bluephase 800  $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$ , Ivoclar, Vivadent AG, Liechtenstein, Austria) under moisture free environment. In group 3 and 4, IRM and Adhesor cements were applied as recommended by the manufacturer. In the last group, 8mm long PTFE tape was used. The material was cut and the access cavity was filled with PTFE by compacting the material with hand plugger (Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland) until the cavity was totally filled (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** The access cavity was filled with PTFE by compacting the material with plugger until the cavity was totally filled.

**Negative control (n=3)** The cavities and apical openings were filled with Clearfil AP-X (Kuraray, Tokyo, Japan) after cavity conditioning with Clearfil SE Bond (Kuraray, Tokyo, Japan) in negative control group and then covered with two layers of nail varnish.

**Positive control (n=3)** Three of roots were instrumented to size #30 using step-back technique and each root was exited 1 mm out of the apical foramen with a #20 K-file and no coronal restoration was performed.

**Evaluation of the leakage** A fluid transport system (23) was used. Coronal parts of the teeth were inserted 3mm into silicone tubing having an internal diameter of 3mm and attached to the outer surface of the tube with cyanoacrylate-adhesive. The tube was then connected to fluid transport model as described by Derkson *et al.* (24) and as modified by Wu *et al.* (25). A polyethylene tubing (Fisher Scientific, Pittsburg, PA) was used to connect the pressure reservoir to a 25  $\mu$ l micropipette (Microcaps, Fisher Scientific, Philadelphia, PA). Additional tubing was used to connect the micropipette to a microsyringe (Gilmont Instruments Inc, Great Lakes, NY) and the silicone tube to the attached root. An air bubble was introduced into the system using the micro syringe and the bubble was moved inside the micropipette.

All tubing, pipette and syringe were filled with distilled water under a pressure of 220 kPa via use

of  $O_2$  gas. The sealing capability of the samples was quantitated by following the progress of this tiny air bubble traveling within the micropipette. System leakage is determined as 5 minutes for each sample depending on negative control teeth which do not leak. The cavities and apical openings were filled with Clearfil AP-X (Kuraray, Tokyo, Japan) in combination with Clearfil SE Bond (Kuraray, Tokyo, Japan) in negative control group and then covered with two layers of nail varnish. The fluid flow rate through the three unsealed roots which were prepared for positive control was measured by weighing the amount of water that could flow through the needle in 1 min. This value served both as a positive control and as 100% leakage case. The samples were kept in 100% humid conditions at 37°C throughout the experimental period. 0.02% sodium azide was added to the storing solution to prevent bacterial colonization. Measurements of fluid movement were recorded at 2min intervals for 8min and the results were averaged. The sealing quality of each specimen was measured at 24 hrs and 1 week.

#### Statistical Analysis

The data was calculated as Lp. Repeated measurements of ANOVA and Tukey tests were performed to evaluate the difference among the leakage values of the groups at 24 hrs and 1 week. Paired Samples T-Test (SPSS 16.0) was also completed to evaluate the differences in each material's leakage by time.

#### Results

The positive controls had grossly leaked ( $40 \pm 0.5 \mu$ l); the varnish-coated negative controls had no measurable bubble movement at all time periods. The mean and standard deviations of the leakage values are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Coronal leakage measurement values expressed in Lp ( $\mu$ L /  $\text{min}^{-1} \text{cm}^2 \text{cm H}_2\text{O}^{-1}$ ) for all test groups at 1 day and 1 week.

Material Period	Ceivitron	IRM	Fuji II	Adhesor	PTFE
1 day	4.184 $\pm$ 1.636 ab $\alpha$	4.706 $\pm$ 2.84 a $\alpha$	2.818 $\pm$ 2.105 ab $\alpha$	2.288 $\pm$ 1.564 b $\alpha$	4.698 $\pm$ 0.657 a $\alpha$
1 week	2.912 $\pm$ 0.571 b $\alpha$	1.964 $\pm$ 0.584 ab $\beta$	2.005 $\pm$ 0.459 ab $\alpha$	2.058 $\pm$ 1.337 ab $\alpha$	1.423 $\pm$ 0.7811 a $\beta$

Values are means  $\times 10^4 \pm$ SD (n=10). Different letters in the same line and different symbols in the same column show significantly different groups ( $p=0.05$ ).

A significant difference was found among the groups at all time periods ( $p < 0.05$ ). PTFE showed similar leakage with Ceivitron, IRM, and Fuji II ( $p > 0.05$ ) but higher leakage than Adhesor at 24 hrs ( $p < 0.05$ ); and it showed less leakage than Ceivitron at 1 week ( $p < 0.05$ ). No significant difference was found among the leakage of PTFE, IRM and Fuji II at the end of 1 week ( $p > 0.05$ ). Sealing ability of IRM and PTFE groups significantly increased by the time ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$  respectively). Leakage of the groups sealed with Ceivitron, Fuji II and Adhesor did not change from 24 hrs to 1 week ( $p = 0.113$ ,  $p = 0.306$  and  $p = 0.756$  respectively).

## Discussion

In this *in vitro* study, sealing ability of PTFE was compared with four commonly used temporary filling materials using a fluid transport model. Coronal leakage values for all test groups are shown in Table 1.

A good marginal seal between tooth and temporary restorative material to prevent the entry of saliva and microorganisms is a very important factor to minimize contamination during the endodontic therapy (26, 27). The thickness of the temporary filling material is another important factor which contributes to its sealing ability. In a previous study, 3.5mm thickness of temporary material was used as the minimum thickness necessary to prevent total leakage of the dye molecule (28). Temporary restorative materials need adequate retention to prevent dislodgement between sessions therefore a thickness of 5 mm restorative material was inserted in this study (29, 30). The roots were kept empty to disregard the effect of root canal filling material. There have been many studies comparing the sealing ability of temporary filling material Cavit, IRM, Fuji II and Adhesor cement (10, 13, 30-33). Some authors indicated that there is no difference in marginal leakage perspective between Cavit and IRM (30, 32), while others reported that IRM was able to seal against bacteria better than Cavit, possibly as a result of the antibacterial properties of eugenol (31, 34). In the studies where thermocycling was used (35, 36), Cavit showed better sealing than IRM. This is explained as a result of the hydrophilic property of the material that allowed compensation for microgaps that might open during the temperature changes (37). Cavit has hydroscopic properties causing it to expand and set when it comes to contact with moisture (38). This property permits the material to adapt better against dentinal walls (38).

Use of Cavit has been suggested because of its ease of use and the cost. In the present study, Ceivitron was used. Ceivitron is a calcium sulfate based filling material like Cavit and showed similar leakage at 24 hrs with PTFE ( $p > 0.05$ ). PTFE is also an inexpensive material and previously used in dentistry in different fields (15-22). It was reported that PTFE can be sterilized, it is radiopaque and easy to manipulate (15). Twenty four hours results indicated that this material can be an alternative to Ceivitron and 1 week results indicated that it can be an alternative to IRM, Fuji II and Adhesor as a temporary filling.

IRM is a reinforced zinc oxide eugenol material. It is known as hydrophobic as a result of its polymethylmethacrylate ingredient (37). Although some studies indicated that Cavit and Cavit like materials sometimes show better sealing than other temporary restorative materials (26, 27, 32, 39) Friedman *et al.* (40) found the opposite. In the present study, Ceivitron showed similar leakage when compared to IRM, Fuji II and Adhesor at 24 hours. However according to Friedman *et al.* (40), Ceivitron showed higher leakage than other tested materials after 1 week.

GICs are very effective biomaterials for adhesion to tooth tissue. Other important advantages of GICs include fluoride release and antimicrobial activity (13, 41). In this study Fuji II LC was used. Fuji II LC is resin modified glass ionomer cement formed by 2-hydroxymethyl methacrylate blended with a polyalkenoic acid liquid. The results indicated that the sealing ability of Fuji II LC did not change at the end of 1 week and showed a similar sealing performance with PTFE, IRM and Adhesor. Many factors in oral conditions may affect the performance of the materials such as thermal cycling and loading. This laboratory study did not mimic actual clinical conditions such as thermal changes or mechanical loading. Friedman *et al.* (40) did not use thermocycling and reported less leakage of IRM compared to Cavit. In the present study, Ceivitron showed similar leakage with IRM at 1 week. Under different conditions, calcium sulfate based sealers can lose their sealing abilities due to deterioration (42). The sealing performance of the materials is expected to be different if all these factors were added to the testing protocol.

This study evaluated short term leakage of temporary restorative materials. The rationale for testing the materials at 24h and 1 week was that these are frequently used time intervals in dental practice either between sessions or while the permanent

restoration is placed after the root canal is obturated. Siquiera *et al.* (43) used 1 week period between the visits to test calcium hydroxide/camphorated paramonochlorophenol paste as an intracanal dressing. Furthermore, the average time for both contaminations of access cavities closed with IRM and Cavit-G was reported as 12.95 and 9.80 days, respectively (32). On the other hand, sometimes the circumstances may change and the period between the visits may extend. Therefore long term sealing ability of PTFE should be tested. This is one of the limitations of this study. The other limitation is that the cavity of the tooth may change due to previous history of the tooth. PTFE retained by friction and may not be applicable in some other conditions. These factors should be evaluated with further studies.

### Conclusion

Within the limitations of this short term in vitro study, enclosed results were drawn:

PTFE showed an acceptable sealing performance when compared to the other commonly used temporary restorative materials;

PTFE showed similar leakage performance with IRM, Fuji II and Adhesor at the end of 1 week.

#### Source of funding

None declared

#### Conflict of interest

None declared

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