

Effect of Stimulating Drinks on the Mechanical Properties of Composite Resin Provisional Restorative Materials

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The objective of the study is to examine the effects of the consumption of caffeinated drinks common to the Saudi population regarding the mechanical properties of composite resin restorative provisional materials.

Materials and methods: An *in vitro* approach has been utilized to analyze the flexural strength and microhardness of three different composite provisional restorative materials: Temphase™, Protemp™, and CAD Temp® monoColor, when immersed in three different caffeinated drinks: Arabic coffee, American black coffee, and cappuccino, distilled water was used as the control group for a duration of seven days ($n = 10$ for each test). Results were analyzed using two-way ANOVA and Tukey HSD tests.

Results: All beverages significantly reduced the flexural strength of different composite provisional restorative materials investigated in the study. All beverages significantly reduced the microhardness of the Temphase™ material. Arabic coffee did not significantly affect the microhardness values of the Protemp™ material and did not have an impact on the microhardness of the CAD Temp® material.

Conclusion: The surface microhardness and flexural strength of different composite resin materials were altered after emersion in different caffeinated drinks.

Clinical significance: As excessive consumption of caffeinated beverages have a negative effect on the durability and longevity of the different composite resin provisional restorative materials, dentists should counsel patients with provisional restorations to reduce the detrimental effect associated with excessive consumption of these beverages.

Keywords: Arabic coffee, Caffeinated beverages, Provisional composite restorative materials, Stimulating drinks.

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INTRODUCTION

While introducing a variety of widescale advertising, stimulating caffeinated drinks becomes increasingly popular across the globe. A common belief is that the consumption of these drinks can enhance peoples' focus, attention, performance, and energy.¹ Although most of those common beliefs are not scientifically proven, the consumption of these drinks has shown a consistent and persistent rise by amateur and professional athletes, adolescents, as well as adults.^{2,3}

Stronger variety of caffeinated drinks like cappuccino has excessive caffeine, low alkaline, and higher acidic content. Excessive consumption of acidic beverages and food increases the acidic challenge to teeth that results in the negative consequences to the oral environment.⁴ Moreover, all dental restorative materials have exhibited degradation over time, following experimentation under acidic conditions. It is almost impossible to isolate and segregate restorative materials that have successfully overcome the acidic challenges and subsequently retained their physical, chemical, and mechanical properties.^{5,6} The excessive consumption of caffeinated drinks and other beverages with high acidic content have significant negative effects on the quality, durability, and the longevity of the different restorative materials used in dentistry.^{7,8} Xavier et al. reported esthetic restorative material's microhardness loss associated with repeated exposure to acidic beverages.⁹ Badra et al. reported the significant deterioration of composite restoration surface roughness and microhardness when exposed to acidic beverages for prolonged period of time.¹⁰

The consumption of caffeinated drinks has come to be an existential part of food and drink consumption regimen all over the world. Each 100 mL (3-ounce) of cappuccino contains about 20 mg of

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caffeine. Therefore, an 8-ounce cup of cappuccino has about 50 mg of caffeine. According to Nescafe, each 6-ounce cup of their coffee contains about 65 mg of caffeine. However, Arabic coffee mainly contains cardamom that is mixed with lesser amounts of minimally roasted coffee. Other spices such as cloves, ginger, and saffron may be added.¹¹ The amount of caffeine in these stimulating drinks could have an impact on the physical-mechanical properties of the dental restorative materials. The microhardness and roughness of composite resin material may be altered with the consumption of strongly caffeinated drinks. All these factors may affect the durability and the longevity of the resin restorative materials.

Up to our knowledge, there are limited researches conducted to analyze the effects of consuming stimulating drinks like Cappuccino, Nescafe, Latte, Nespresso, Espresso, Arabic or Turkish coffee on the mechanical properties of dental restorative materials. Awliya et al. reported the insignificant effect of different types of

caffeinated drinks on composite resin fillings. However, according to Awliya et al. and AlSamadani et al., all composite restorative materials exhibited significant changes in color only with aging.^{12,13}

The objective of this *in vitro* study is to shed light on the effects of the consumption of common caffeinated drinks in Saudi Arabia regarding the flexural strength and microhardness of composite resin restorative provisional materials.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An *in vitro* approach has been utilized to analyze the effect of three variants of caffeinated drinks: Arabic coffee, American black coffee, and cappuccino on three provisional composite restorative materials: TemPhase™, Protemp™, and CAD Temp® monoColor. Table 1 lists the materials, their chemical composition, and manufacturers evaluated in the study. Table 2 lists the different caffeinated beverages, pH values, and their manufacturers used in the study. The pH of each beverage was measured using a portable pH meter (PH 500 pH/mV/TEMP Meter, Orion Research, Boston, MA, USA). Three readings were obtained for each beverage and the mean was recorded. The study was conducted at the Advanced Dental Research Laboratory Center of King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Specimens Preparations

A polytetrafluoroethylene mold (Fig. 1) was fabricated to provide 25 × 2 × 2 mm standardized bars from the provisional restorative

Table 1: Materials used in the study

Product	Material type	Manufacturer
Temphase™	Self-cure bis-methacryl resin composite	Kerr Corp., Orange California
Protemp™	Self-cure bis-acryl composite	3M-ESPE. Seefeld Germany
CAD Temp® monoColor	Micro filled, poly methyl methacrylate	Vita Zahnfabrik, Bad Sackingen, Germany

Table 2: Beverages used in the study

Product	pH value	Manufacturer
Distilled water	7	Control
Arabic coffee	6.8	AL Rifai, Saudi Arabia
American black coffee	4.8	Nescafe, Saudi Arabia
Cappuccino	6	Nescafe, Saudi Arabia

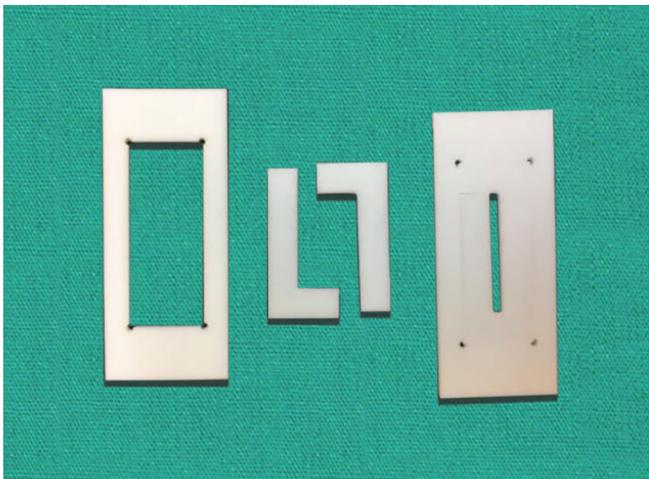


Fig. 1: Polytetrafluoroethylene mold provide 25 × 2 × 2 mm bars

materials used in the study, according to American Dental Association Specification no. 27. A total of 240 samples was provided, 80 samples from each provisional restorative material under investigation. TemPhase™ and Protemp™ specimens were prepared by mixing the material according to their manufacturer instructions; then injected into a slot created by the mold and held under compression with a glass slab for complete polymerization. CAD Temp® monoColor were milled into the standardized bars using the KaVo Everest® CAD/CAM System (Everes®t, KaVo Dental GmbH, Germany). Before testing, the specimens were reserved for one day in deionized water. After the completion of specimens' preparation, all specimens were carefully inspected, measured, and excluded for the presence of any defects. A flat surface was obtained by polishing the specimen with fine and ultra-fine aluminum oxide abrasive disks. A total of 240 samples, 80 samples from each material under investigation were retrieved. A set of 20 samples from each provisional material was stored in a container filled with 20 mL of each of the three drinks used in the study and the control group in distilled water for 7 days at 37° in a Memmert oven (Cooled vacuum oven V0200Cool, Memmert GmbH + Co. KG, Schwabach) before being tested. All the solutions were refilled, and the pH of those solutions was recorded on daily basis. All the samples were cleaned with water and dried using air stream after the immersion period before testing.

Flexural Strength Testing

To evaluate the flexural strength, a three-point test was performed for all the specimens using an Instron Universal Testing Machine (AGS-500; Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan). The bars were placed on a three-point fixture that has a 15 mm span where 10 kN load was applied at a crosshead speed of 0.5 mm/minute. Flexural strength was directly computed via a computer connected to the Instron Machine. The flexural strength values of 10 samples from each provisional material under investigation were recorded per specimen in MPa unit.

Microhardness Testing

A Micromet Buehler Microhardness tester (Buehler, Lack Bluff Illinois, USA) was used to measure Vickers microhardness. Each individual specimen was fixed in the apparatus in a 90-degree relation to the indenter. The load applied was 300 g in a duration of 30 seconds per indentation. Each specimen was tested in three different locations at the center of each specimen and there were 1 mm apart. The mean of the three readings was considered as the microhardness value of the specimen. The microhardness value of each specimen was calculated by taking the average of the three readings and then recorded. Vickers microhardness value was recorded for 10 specimens from each provisional material under investigation in the HV unit.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical Package for Social Sciences SPSS (IBM Corp. Released 2012. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 21.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp) was used as analysis software. Descriptive statistics were presented as means and standard deviations. To assess significant changes within each group, two-way ANOVA and Tukey HSD tests were used at a significance level equal to or less than 0.05.

RESULTS

The results of two-way ANOVA test evaluating the flexural strength values of the different tested provisional materials in the different

Table 3: Two-way ANOVA of the effect of different beverages on the flexural strength of the provisional restorative materials

ANOVA						
Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F	p value	F crit
Materials	2085.713782	2	1042.856891	50.61311697	0.000	3.080387
Beverages	9045.014847	3	3015.004949	146.32765	0.000	2.688691
Interaction	410.7890583	6	68.46484306	3.322813648	0.005	2.183657
Within	2225.2837	108	20.6044787			
Total	13766.80139	119				

Table 4: Effect of different beverages on the flexural strength of Temphase™

	n	Mean (MPa)	SD	p value
Control	10	90.088	5.267	
Arabic coffee	10	75.732	2.923	0.000*
American black coffee	10	64.925	3.084	0.000*
Cappuccino	10	71.694	0.904	0.000*

*indicates statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Table 5: Effect of different beverages on the flexural strength of Protemp™

	n	Mean (MPa)	SD	p value
Control	10	89.071	3.229	
Arabic coffee	10	74.53	4.310	0.000*
American black coffee	10	60.597	11.175	0.000*
Cappuccino	10	67.493	1.592	0.000*

*indicates statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Table 6: Effect of different beverages on the flexural strength of CAD Temp®

	n	Mean (MPa)	SD	p value
Control	10	92.178	3.194	
Arabic coffee	10	84.753	2.333	0.000*
American black coffee	10	75.448	2.571	0.000*
Cappuccino	10	78.815	4.686	0.000*

*indicates statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

beverages are displayed in Table 3. Tables 4 to 6 show the mean flexural strength values in MPa, standard deviations, and significance difference of each provisional material after 7 days of immersion in the three tested beverages. *Post hoc* Tukey tests illustrated that all the used beverages in the study significantly reduced the flexural strength of Temphase™ (Table 4), Protemp™ (Table 5), and CAD Temp® (Table 6) when compared to the control. $p < 0.05$.

The results of the two-way ANOVA test evaluating the Vickers microhardness values of the different tested provisional materials in the different beverages are displayed in Table 7. Tables 8 to 10 show

the mean Vickers microhardness values in HV, standard deviations, and significance difference of each provisional material investigated in the study after 7 days of immersion period in the three tested beverages. *Post hoc* Tukey tests illustrated that all the used beverages significantly reduced the microhardness of the Temphase™ material (Table 8). Arabic coffee did not significantly alter the microhardness value of the Protemp™ material (Table 9, $p = 0.55 > 0.05$) and did not have an impact on the microhardness of the CAD Temp® material (Table 10, $p = 1 > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

As there is an increasing demand for esthetic restorative materials, resin-based composites are being used in dentistry as reliable restorative materials due to their esthetic value, mechanical strength, and their adhesive potential to the tooth structure.¹⁴ The physical and mechanical properties of the composite resin provisional restorative materials are substantively affected with the consumption of beverages like tea, coffee, aerated, and alcoholic drinks.¹⁵ Beverages with high acidic content not only affect the structure of the composite resin, but also the characteristic of its particles, leading to undermining the longevity and the quality of restorative materials used in dental procedures.^{16,17} Studies claim that the degradation of resin composites in acidic environment usually happens due to bond failure between the filler particles and matrix or due to the softening effect of the acidic solution.¹⁸

The acidity of coffee, which is considered a desirable flavor, is influenced by the growing region as well as the degree of beans roasting and processing.¹⁹ Arabic coffee has a bitter flavor but almost neutral pH value ($pH = 6.8$) as it uses the minimal quantity of lightly roasted beans cultured in Brazil, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan.²⁰ Although the American black coffee pH is rated as low acidic (pH range from 4.5 to 6) when compared to citrus fruit juices (pH ranges from 2 to 3), less is known about how different components of coffee react together.²¹ Addition of cream or milk usually increases the pH value of cappuccino to a reasonably higher pH value ($pH = 6$). As American black coffee, cappuccino, and Arabic coffee are beverages with a low pH factor when compared to saliva ($pH = 7.4$), they are expected not only to have a debilitating effect of the surface microhardness, but also are detrimental to the flexural

Table 7: Two-way ANOVA of the effect of different beverages on the Vickers microhardness of the provisional restorative materials

ANOVA						
Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F	p value	F crit
Materials	1493.216667	2	746.6083333	842.5673981	0.000	3.080386863
Beverages	69.625	3	23.20833333	26.19122257	0.000	2.688691468
Interaction	36.45	6	6.075	6.855799373	0.000	2.183656883
Within	95.7	108	0.886111111			
Total	1694.991667	119				

Table 8: Effect of different beverages on the microhardness of Temphase™

	<i>n</i>	Mean (HV)	SD	<i>p</i> value
Control	10	18.5	1.080	
Arabic coffee	10	17.4	0.516	0.009*
American black coffee	10	17.6	0.516	0.03*
Cappuccino	10	15.2	1.229	0.000*

*indicates statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Table 9: Effect of different beverages on the microhardness of Protemp™

	<i>n</i>	Mean (HV)	SD	<i>p</i> value
Control	10	14	0.667	
Arabic coffee	10	13.6	0.516	0.55
American black coffee	10	12.8	0.789	0.025*
Cappuccino	10	13.2	0.789	0.037*

*indicates statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Table 10: Effect of different beverages on the microhardness of CAD Temp®

	<i>n</i>	Mean (HV)	SD	<i>p</i> value
Control	10	23.2	1.619	
Arabic coffee	10	23.2	1.033	1
American black coffee	10	21.6	1.075	0.01*
Cappuccino	10	20.8	0.789	0.000*

*indicates statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

strength of the composite resin provisional restorative materials. This study has set a precedent and is one kind of research on the effects of different coffee mixtures commonly used in Saudi Arabia on the mechanical properties of composite resin provisional restorative materials.

These provisional restorative materials are continuously bathed in saliva, which is simulated by distilled water in the study.²² They are either exposed to the above-mentioned beverages continuously or intermittently. Intermittent exposure occurs while drinking the beverage until the teeth are cleaned, ordinarily by the washing effect of the saliva. However, continuous exposure that resembles the current study design may occur with the existence of defective restorations that facilitate plaque or calculus retention. Those adherent matter usually contain absorbed beverages remnants.²³ Kao reported that changes in composite resin hardness occur within 7 days of immersion in chemical agents.²⁴ For this reason, in the current study, the specimens were immersed in the tested beverages for 7 days.

Among the examined beverages, Arabic coffee did not affect the surface microhardness of Protemp™ and CAD Temp® materials, while American black coffee and Cappuccino had a negative effect on their surface hardness. All the beverages used in the study reduced the hardness of the Temphase™ material. Additionally, all the beverages examined in the study reduced the flexural strength of the tested provisional restorative materials. Caffeinated beverages may promote the leaching out of the filler particles because of the softening effect on the resin matrix.

The chemical composition of the composite resin material influences the material performance under oral condition. All dental composite restorative materials incorporate different types of inorganic fillers. According to Yak et al. and Soderhold et al.,

composites composed of glass fillers are more susceptible to deterioration by aqueous solutions than composites containing quartz fillers.^{23,25} Therefore, the variation in filler contents could contribute in the altered flexural strength and microhardness values of the studied composite resin provisional restorations in the beverages used.

Furthermore, the immersion elements and duration of the exposure of these restorative materials to the challenging beverages may affect the performance of these materials significantly. A study was performed to assess the effects of different beverages and thermocycling on tribological and mechanical properties of different dental restoration materials. The beverages were black tea and soft drink. It was concluded that the tribological and mechanical properties of nano-hybrid and nano composites were found to be less affected by beverage immersions and temperature change when compared to conventional dental restorative composites.²⁶ Another study was conducted to examine the effects of food-simulating liquids on the flexural strength and the hardness of a new silorane-based composite. This composite was compared with methacrylate-based composites. After polymerization, specimens were reserved in three different dietary simulating solutions for one week at 37°C. The flexural strength and hardness were measured after conditioning. It was concluded that the silorane-based composite group had significantly higher flexural strength and hardness values when compared to methacrylate-based composites group.²⁷

CONCLUSION

Within the limitation of the current *in vitro* study, the tested American black coffee, Arabic coffee, and cappuccino drinks have a significant negative effect on the durability and longevity of different composite resin provisional restorative materials over time. The surface microhardness and flexural strength of different composite resin materials were altered after emersion in the different caffeinated drinks. Furthermore, it was proven in the literature that caffeinated drinks produce discoloration of teeth as well as composite restorative materials. Future studies should be conducted to analyze the effects of variants of stimulating drinks on different restorative materials in regard to different mechanical and physical properties and the effect of thermocycling and different immersion periods.

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