

# Comparative Analysis of Shear Bond Strength of Steel and Ceramic Orthodontic Brackets Bonded with Six Different Orthodontic Adhesives

Análisis Comparativo de la Resistencia al Corte de Brackets de Ortodoncia de Acero y Cerámica Unidos con Seis Adhesivos de Ortodoncia Diferentes

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**ABSTRACT:** Orthodontic accessories bonding in tooth enamel has been a critical step since the introduction of direct bonding techniques due to the importance of bracket stability. The aim of this study was to evaluate adhesion strength of different adhesive systems used for bracket bonding on dental surface. The present *in vitro* study was made from the analysis of shear strength of steel and ceramic brackets bonding with six different types of orthodontic adhesives. The brackets were bonded to 120 human extracted first premolar teeth with Orthocem®, Orthocem® + Ambar Universal® primer, Orthobond Plus®, Biofix®, Transbond XT®, Ortholink VLC®. Shear strength tests were performed on a universal testing machine EZ-Test-Shimadzu® and the data were analyzed using ANOVA test with Post-Hoc Bonferroni and 95 % statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ). Transbond XT® and Ortholink VLC® resin values showed greater shear resistance for steel brackets bonding and Transbond XT® and Orthobond Plus® adhesives showed better adhesion results for ceramic brackets bonding.

**KEY WORDS:** Adhesion; Orthodontics; Orthodontic adhesives; Shear bond strength.

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## INTRODUCTION

Recently, scientific and technological advancing has brought several benefits to the dentistry practical (Mondelli & de Feitas, 2007). Research in dental materials resulted in improvement and simplification of clinical procedures, which made them faster, more efficient and more effective (Mondelli & Feitas; Rocha *et al.*, 2014). Since the beginning of the use of fixed apparatus in orthodontics, great attention has been given to bracket fixation and stability on the teeth (Farina *et al.*, 2008; Bezerra *et al.*, 2015).

The development of acid etching technique by Buonocore (1955) led to replacement of orthodontic bands by accessories direct bonding to the surface of teeth (Buonocore; Sharma *et al.*, 2014). However, failures in bonding processes or low resistance of

orthodontic adhesives can result in undesirable bracket detachments, which generate delays in treatment, inadequate biomechanical effects, patient discomfort and additional cost (Powers *et al.*, 1997; Klocke & Kahl-Nieke, 2005).

Adhesive systems used for bracket bonding are a critical factor for accessory fixing on teeth (Wang *et al.*, 2004; Henkin *et al.*, 2016). Besides of orthodontic adhesives must be resistant and have good adhesion, they should have a working time compatible with clinical needs, be non-toxic, have a thermal expansion coefficient similar to the tooth, do not damage the tooth surface, be insoluble to oral fluids, do not suffer change in color and allow bracket removal without causing damage to enamel (Queiroz Tavares *et al.*, 2018).

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Several researches related to bracket adhesion strength on the tooth have been carried out in order to create and identify the best materials capable of resisting to masticatory and orthodontic forces (Fleischmann *et al.*, 2008; Neves *et al.*, 2011; Hammad *et al.*, 2017). However, in clinical practice, the range of available bonding materials is wide and information about their effectiveness is still scanty. In this context, the objective of the present work was to analyze, comparatively, shear strength of six different adhesive systems used for steel and ceramic brackets bonding on dental surface.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

**Study design and sample.** The present *in vitro* experimental study was approved by the local Research Ethics Committee under protocol number 2.663.969. 120 healthy human extracted premolar teeth, without dental enamel formation defects or coronal cracks and fractures were selected. The teeth were acquired through the Human Teeth Bank of Universidade Federal dos Vales do Jequitinhonha e Mucuri, in the city of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Initially, teeth were randomly divided into two groups according to the type of bracket. After, all teeth were redistributed into groups according to the types of adhesive system used (Table I).

**Preparation of specimens and shear test.** The specimens were manufactured from filling PVC tubes with acrylic resin (40mm in diameter and 20mm in height) followed by insertion of the dental root in the tubes for teeth fixation. Dental crowns were positioned 90° with PVC tube base according to a set-square measurement. After polymerization, the specimens were kept in distilled water at 37°C for 72 hours (Bishara *et al.*, 2000, 2001).

For the experiments, edgewise steel and ceramic brackets, slot .022mm (Morelli®, Sorocaba, São Paulo) for premolars were bonded in center of clinical crown of buccal teeth surfaces. Steel brackets were 3.80mm in width by 3.90mm in height with total base area 14.82mm<sup>2</sup>; while the ceramics were 3.70mm wide by 3.50mm high and total base area was 12.95mm<sup>2</sup>.

The specimens were cleaned and brushed with pumice paste and rubber cup (Microdont®, São Paulo, São Paulo) for 10 seconds, followed by washing for 30 seconds and surface drying. Subsequently, the enamel surface was conditioned with 37 % phosphoric acid (Condac 37®, FGM, Joinville/Santa Catarina) according to the manufacturer's specifications and washed thoroughly. Teeth drying were carried out with air jets. Then, brackets were bonded with orthodontic adhesives according to manufacturers' specifications by a single operator.

For bonding performing, orthodontic adhesives were applied on bracket base, by compressing against the tooth surface and surplus was removed with a clinical probe. The photoactivation of the adhesives was carried out by a calibrated photopolymerizer (Gnatus-Ld Max®, Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo) and it was performed for 10 seconds on each bracket face (mesial, distal, cervical and occlusal). After bonding, the specimens were stored in distilled water for 48 hours at 37°C until the mechanical tests.

The mechanical tests were carried out on a universal testing machine, EZ-Test-Shimadzu®, with 200Kg load cell and speed of 0.5 mm/min in occlusal-gingival direction with an active chisel tip (Pignatta *et al.*, 2009). The force required to take off each bracket was recorded and expressed in Newtons (N). The results were divided by the area of the bracket base in square millimeters (mm<sup>2</sup>) and converted into Megapascal (Mpa).

**Data analysis.** The data were tabulated in the SPSS 17.0 for Windows software. Shapiro-Wilk test was performed to verify data normality, and later, they were treated with ANOVA test with Post-hoc Bonferroni. In all tests, the level of significance was considered 95 % (p ≤0.05).

Table I. Characterization of experimental groups.

Group (n)	Type of bracket	Adhesive	Manufacturer
Group 1 (n=10)	Steel	Orthocem®	FGM
Group 2 (n=10)	Steel	Orthocem® + Ambar Universal®	FGM
Group 3 (n=10)	Steel	Orthobond Plus®	MORELLI
Group 4 (n=10)	Steel	Biofix®	BIODINÂMICA
Group 5 (n=10)	Steel	Transbond XT®	3M
Group 6 (n=10)	Steel	Ortholink VLC®	ORTHOMETRIC
Group 7 (n=10)	Ceramic	Orthocem®	FGM
Group 8 (n=10)	Ceramic	Orthocem® + Ambar Universal®	FGM
Group 9 (n=10)	Ceramic	Orthobond Plus®	MORELLI
Group 10 (n=10)	Ceramic	Biofix®	BIODINÂMICA
Group 11 (n=10)	Ceramic	Transbond XT®	3M
Group 12 (n=10)	Ceramic	Ortholink VLC®	ORTHOMETRIC

## RESULTS

Descriptive analysis of shear strength for steel brackets revealed mean values of  $7.8 \pm 3.6$ Mpa,  $11.3 \pm 2.7$ Mpa,  $9.2 \pm 3.2$ Mpa,  $12.1 \pm 6.5$ Mpa,  $16.0 \pm 5.3$ Mpa and  $16.2 \pm 3.5$ Mpa respectively for the Orthocem®, Orthocem® + Ambar Universal®, Orthobond Plus®, Biofix®, Transbond XT® and Ortholink VLC®. For

ceramic brackets, average values were  $14.3 \pm 9.3$ Mpa,  $12.7 \pm 2.8$ Mpa,  $26.4 \pm 10.6$ Mpa,  $10.0 \pm 4.5$ Mpa,  $31.7 \pm 11.6$ Mpa and  $20, 3 \pm 7.0$ Mpa respectively for Orthocem®, Orthocem® + Ambar Universal®, Orthobond Plus®, Biofix®, Transbond XT® and Ortholink VLC®.

Table II. Comparative analysis of shear strength between the different adhesives tested.

Steel brackets		Mean Difference	"p" value	Confidence interval (95%) Minimum Maximum			
Orthocem®	Orthocem® + Ambar®	-3,40587111	1	-9,8559282	3,044186		
	Orthobond Plus®	-1,37951511	1	-7,6662531	4,9072229		
	Biofix®	-4,29770211	0,602	-10,5844401	1,9890359		
	Transbond XT®	-8,12060611	0,003	-14,4073441	-1,8338681		
	Ortholink VLC®	-8,34539986	0,005	-14,9939665	-1,6968332		
	Orthocem® + Ambar®	Orthocem®	3,40587111	1,000	-3,0441860	9,8559282	
		Orthobond Plus®	2,026356	1	-4,260382	8,313094	
		Biofix®	-0,891831	1	-7,178569	5,394907	
		Transbond XT®	-4,714735	0,374	-11,001473	1,572003	
		Ortholink VLC®	-4,93952875	0,394	-11,5880954	1,7090379	
		Orthobond Plus®	Orthocem®	1,37951511	1	-4,9072229	7,6662531
	Orthocem® + Ambar®		-2,026356	1	-8,313094	4,260382	
Biofix®	-2,918187		1	-9,0372484	3,2008744		
Transbond XT®	-6,74109100		0,02	-12,8601524	-0,6220296		
Ortholink VLC®	-6,96588475		0,026	-13,4561295	-0,47564		
Biofix®	Orthocem®		4,29770211	0,602	-1,9890359	10,5844401	
	Orthocem® + Ambar®	0,891831	1	-5,394907	7,178569		
	Orthobond Plus®	2,918187	1	-3,2008744	9,0372484		
	Transbond XT®	-3,822904	0,897	-9,9419654	2,2961574		
	Ortholink VLC®	-4,04769775	0,904	-10,5379425	2,442547		
	Transbond XT®	Orthocem®	8,12060611	0,003	1,8338681	14,4073441	
Orthocem® + Ambar®		4,714735	0,374	-1,572003	11,001473		
Orthobond Plus®		6,74109100	0,020	0,6220296	12,8601524		
Biofix®		3,822904	0,897	-2,2961574	9,9419654		
Ortholink VLC®		-0,22479375	1	-6,7150385	6,265451		
Ortholink VLC®		Orthocem®	8,34539986	0,005	1,6968332	14,9939665	
	Orthocem® + Ambar®	4,93952875	0,394	-1,7090379	11,5880954		
	Orthobond Plus®	6,96588475	0,026	0,47564	13,4561295		
	Biofix®	4,04769775	0,904	-2,442547	10,5379425		
	Transbond XT®	0,22479375	1	-6,265451	6,7150385		
	Ceramic brackets	Orthocem®	Orthocem® + Ambar®	1,56183153	1,000	-11,3585450	14,4822081
Orthobond Plus®			-12,09347822	0,055	-24,3107013	0,1237449	
Biofix®			4,25030028	1,000	-8,6700763	17,1706768	
Transbond XT®			-17,40332122	0,001	-29,6205443	-5,1860981	
Ortholink VLC®			-6,01032222	1,000	-18,9306988	6,9100543	
Orthocem® + Ambar®			-1,56183153	1,000	-14,4822081	11,3585450	
Orthocem® + Ambar®		Orthobond Plus®	-13,65530975	0,024	-26,2680141	-1,0426054	
		Biofix®	2,68846875	1,000	-10,6064890	15,9834265	
		Transbond XT®	-18,96515275	0,000	-31,5778571	-6,3524484	
		Ortholink VLC®	-7,57215375	1,000	-20,8671115	5,7228040	
		Orthobond Plus®	Orthocem®	12,09347822	0,055	-0,1237449	24,3107013
			Orthocem® + Ambar®	13,65530975	0,024	1,0426054	26,2680141
Biofix®	16,34377850		0,003	3,7310741	28,9564829		
Transbond XT®	-5,30984300		1,000	-17,2012147	6,5815287		
Ortholink VLC®	6,08315600		1,000	-6,5295484	18,6958604		
Biofix®	Orthocem®		-4,25030028	1,000	-17,1706768	8,6700763	
	Orthocem® + Ambar®	-2,68846875	1,000	-15,9834265	10,6064890		
	Orthobond Plus®	-16,34377850	0,003	-28,9564829	-3,7310741		
	Transbond XT®	-21,65362150	0,000	-34,2663259	-9,0409171		
	Ortholink VLC®	-10,26062250	0,316	-23,5555803	3,0343353		
	Transbond XT®	Orthocem®	17,40332122	0,001	5,1860981	29,6205443	
Orthocem® + Ambar®		18,96515275	0,000	6,3524484	31,5778571		
Orthobond Plus®		5,30984300	1,000	-6,5815287	17,2012147		
Biofix®		21,65362150	0,000	9,0409171	34,2663259		
Ortholink VLC®		11,39299900	0,113	-1,2197054	24,0057034		
Ortholink VLC®		Orthocem®	6,01032222	1,000	-6,9100543	18,9306988	
	Orthocem® + Ambar®	7,57215375	1,000	-5,7228040	20,8671115		
	Orthobond Plus®	-6,08315600	1,000	-18,6958604	6,5295484		
	Biofix®	10,26062250	0,316	-3,0343353	23,5555803		
	Transbond XT®	-11,39299900	0,113	-24,0057034	1,2197054		

The results of comparative analysis of shear strength were shown in Table II. For steel brackets, Transbond XT® and Ortholink VLC® adhesives showed better values when compared to Orthocem® and Orthobond Plus® ( $p < 0.05$ ). Other comparisons did not show statistically significant differences. For ceramic brackets, Transbond XT® adhesive showed superior results when compared to Orthocem®, Orthocem® + Ambar Universal® and Biofix® ( $p < 0.05$ ). Additionally, Orthobond Plus® showed better results when compared to Orthocem® + Ambar Universal® and Biofix® ( $p < 0.05$ ). Other comparisons did not show statistically significant differences.

## DISCUSSION

In the present study, it was observed that Transbond XT® and Ortholink VLC® resin presented higher shear resistance for bonding steel brackets. Additionally, Transbond XT® and Orthobond Plus® adhesives showed better adhesion results for ceramic brackets bonding.

Some researches related to orthodontic adhesives has described superior shear results of Transbond XT® in comparison to other materials for brackets bonding (Romano *et al.*, 2005; Kumar *et al.*, 2011; Lima *et al.*, 2015). However, the factors that result in improved adhesion of Transbond XT® are still unknown. It is also unclear which factors are related to the better performance of Orthobond Plus® and Ortholink VLC® adhesives. It is suggested that characteristics such as resin curing time, paste translucency and chemical composition could determinate

superior performance of these systems (Klocke & Kahl-Nieke, 2006; Yamamoto *et al.*, 2006; Finnema *et al.*, 2010).

Shear strength studies for bracket bonding indicate that forces between 5.0 and 7.9Mpa are considered clinically acceptable (Reynolds, 1975; Reicheneder *et al.*, 2009). In this context, all tested adhesives in the present study showed shear strength values over than 7.8Mpa, which characterizes them as clinically adequate for bonding of orthodontic brackets. However, the results of shear bond strength of orthodontic resins are quite heterogeneous and commonly divergent. The lack of standardized parameters for adhesion resistance analysis of orthodontic resins results in a limited comparison of results among the previous studies. Factors such as type of tooth, adhesion surface (buccal or lingual), enamel chemical composition, shape of bracket base, surface contamination and photopolymerization time can affect *in vitro* tests results and generate data dispersion (Al Qahtani *et al.*, 2010; Scribante *et al.*, 2013; Hattar *et al.*, 2014, 2015).

The resin/tooth adhesion process is related to the morphological enamel structure and adhesive chemical composition, which are determined by depth and thickness of the projections of adhesive layers on dental surface (Guan *et al.*, 1998). Thus, the strength of resin adhesion to the tooth will always be individualized and difficult to standardize clinically. Besides of this, in the oral cavity, humidity and temperature variations tend to influence the stability of orthodontic brackets adhesion. These factors must be considered because environmental changes can influence physical properties of polymeric materials, especially rheological characteristics, mechanical rigidity and hardness (Min *et al.*, 1993; Haydar *et al.*, 1999; Pithon *et al.*, 2007; Feldon *et al.*, 2010).

In addition, the resistance force seems to be influenced by bracket material. Ceramic and steel brackets may have different adhesion interactions when the same adhesive systems are used. In this context, literature highlights that ceramic brackets have significantly higher resistance levels than steel devices, requiring greater shearing force for their removal (Joseph & Rossouw, 1990; Haydar *et al.*; Rocha *et al.* ). Such condition may be related to photoactivation effectiveness of orthodontic adhesives when ceramic brackets are used. Light penetration is more effective in ceramic materials

when compared to steel ones, due to translucency of ceramic materials, which consequently enhance the complete adhesive polymerization (Joseph & Rossouw; Haydar *et al.*; Mattos *et al.*, 2006; Feldon *et al.*; Rocha *et al.* ). Our results suggest that shear force for ceramic brackets removal is greater than for the steel ones.

The use of Orthocem® resin with and without Ambar Universal® primer did not generate significant differences in adhesion strength, confirming the manufacturer's recommendation that orthodontic resin paste can be used alone. This finding can be corroborated by other studies that also did not find statistical differences in the shear strength of bonded brackets with or without use of bonding primers (Moin & Dogon, 1977; Jassem *et al.*, 1981; Farquhar, 1986; Neves *et al.* ).

Besides of different properties of orthodontic adhesives and diverse brackets materials, others factors can contribute to heterogeneous shear strength results of orthodontic resins. According to Klocke & Kahl-Nieke (2005) extracted human teeth can undergo changes due to handling and storage prior to the experiment and, consequently, modify the surface adhesion energy (Klocke & Kahl-Nieke, 2005). In this sense, consecutive dehydration and rehydration phenomena could negatively interfere in extracted teeth experimentation model, resulting in important variations in research results.

At real clinical conditions, composites suffer degradation in the mouth through the action of salivary components, deleterious habits, chewing, feeding and temperature (Murray & Hobson, 2003). Due to it, more robust studies are needed simulating real oral clinical conditions. It is important to highlight that the present *in vitro* study has its design as a limitation and the results could not be extrapolated to clinical practice. In this sense, more studies are needed to better comprehension of clinical use of orthodontic adhesives.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that Transbond XT® and Ortholink VLC® showed higher shear resistance for steel brackets bonding and that Transbond XT® and Orthobond Plus® adhesives showed better adhesion results for ceramic brackets bonding.



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**RESUMEN:** La unión de accesorios de ortodoncia en el esmalte dental ha sido un paso crítico desde la introducción de las técnicas de unión directa debido a la importancia de la estabilidad del soporte. El objetivo de este estudio fue evaluar la fuerza de adhesión de diferentes sistemas adhesivos utilizados para la unión de brackets en la superficie dental. El presente estudio *in vitro* se realizó a partir del análisis de la resistencia al corte de brackets de acero y de cerámica unidos con seis tipos diferentes de adhesivos de ortodoncia. Los brackets se unieron a 120 primeros premolares extraídos con los adhesivos Orthocem®, Orthocem® + Ambar Universal® primer, Orthobond Plus®, Biofix®, Transbond XT®, Ortholink VLC®. Las pruebas de resistencia al corte se realizaron en una máquina de prueba universal EZ-Test-Shimadzu® y los datos se analizaron usando la prueba ANOVA con Bonferroni Post-Hoc y 95 % de significación estadística ( $p < 0,05$ ). Los valores de resina Transbond XT® y Ortholink VLC® mostraron una mayor resistencia al corte para la unión de brackets de acero y los adhesivos Transbond XT® y Orthobond Plus® mostraron mejores resultados de adhesión para la unión de brackets cerámicos.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** adhesión, adhesivos de ortodoncia, ortodoncia; resistencia al cizallamiento.

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