INTERACTION BETWEEN ENAMEL, PORCELAIN AND A GOLD ALLOY: AN IN VITRO WEAR STUDY



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Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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The University of Adelaide

February 2011

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PREFACE

This thesis reports on research work that was carried out during my PhD candidature at the School of Dentistry, The University of Adelaide, from August 2006 to 2010. The work initially aimed to investigate wear between enamel and different indirect materials including four porcelain systems (a porcelain bonded to metal veneering system, a leucite-reinforced glass ceramic used for veneering, a leucite-reinforced pressable ceramic, a machinable ceramic) and a type III gold alloy under various pH conditions. However, an interesting finding from qualitative analysis of the machinable ceramic has lead to a more detailed examination of this system. In addition, over the years for the project to be accomplished, zirconia has become more popular, therefore a preliminary study on the wear behaviour of this relatively new material has been conducted to make the thesis more complete.

This thesis consists of seven sections, starting with a review of the literature, leading to the aims and rationale of the study (Section 1). The next three sections (Section 2, 3 and 4) present on the studies of enamel/ceramic wear, effect of acid on machinable ceramic and preliminary study of zirconia wear, respectively, that have been carried out. Each of this section composes of four chapters including an introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion for that specific study. These were followed by a section of general conclusions (Section 5), references (Section 6) and appendices (Section 7).

ABSTRACT

In dental practice, wear of the natural dentition is commonly seen in patients of all ages. It can have a mild effect on teeth, or be severe enough to affect patients' quality of life. Although different indirect restorative materials such as gold alloy or porcelain have been used for many years to restore excessively worn teeth, the procedures are generally complex and challenging to the dentists as well as costly and time-consuming for the patients.

A good restorative material should be aesthetic, durable and not be abrasive to the opposing dentition. Gold has been reported to be "enamel-friendly", but the colour makes it un-aesthetic. On the contrary, porcelain is aesthetic, biocompatible, durable and has become a popular choice for both clinicians and patients. However, previous studies have shown that some of the porcelain systems can be abrasive to the opposing natural enamel. The use of such abrasive porcelain systems would therefore be harmful to a patient's dentition in the long term.

Four porcelain systems and a gold alloy have been selected for this study:

- a veneering porcelain normally used in porcelain bonded to metal restorations (PBM-veneering porcelain)
- a leucite-reinforced glass ceramic used for veneering (LR-veneering ceramic)

- a leucite-reinforced pressable ceramic (LR-pressable ceramic)
- a machinable ceramic
- a type III gold alloy (gold).

The aims of the study were to determine the wear rates of the selected porcelains and opposing enamel under controlled conditions which simulated two clinical conditions:

- heavy attrition at near neutral pH (pH 6.1)
- heavy attrition with gastric regurgitation (pH 1.2)

In addition, preliminary studies on the wear of zirconia and enamel were conducted.

In this study, electro-mechanical tooth wear machines were used to simulate wear. Wear volume loss was measured by scanning specimens with 3D profilometers and evaluating the data using a purpose-written software. The surface micromorphology of wear facets was also observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). As a result of this analysis a more detailed investigation of the machinable ceramic was undertaken.

The results revealed that at pH 6.1, while enamel wear caused by the PBM-veneering porcelain, LR-veneering ceramic, machinable ceramic and gold alloy were not significantly different to the control group in which enamel specimens were worn against each other, significantly increased enamel wear was associated with the LR-pressable. Although enamel wear rates increased dramatically in conditions simulating attrition combined with gastric regurgitation, the gold alloy did not wear the opposing

enamel more than the enamel controls. In addition, in this study the machinable ceramic became porous under acidic conditions.

The findings presented in this thesis have implications for selection of porcelain for specific clinical cases. Although the findings should be cautiously extrapolated to <u>in vivo</u> conditions, they contribute to the understanding of new porcelain materials in terms of wear and erosion. In addition, results from preliminary experiments with zirconia will provide data to inform the development of protocols for future research.

DECLARATION

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other

degree or diploma in any other university or other tertiary institution to Uyen Tran Kieu

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to many people who have provided their assistance in the production of this report and throughout my time at the School of Dentistry, the University of Adelaide.

I would like to sincerely thank my supervisors Professor Lindsay Richards and Associate Professor John Kaidonis for their wise and thoughtful advice and support. I greatly appreciate their precious time they offered to give me a hand whenever I was in need.

My thanks also extend to staff of the O.F. Makinson Laboratory (Victor Marino), the East Laboratory (Chanthan Kha, Kathryn Pudney) and the Technician Laboratory (Greg Natt, Greg Hamlyn, Kien Nguy) at the Adelaide Dental Hospital for their great advice, material and technical support with sample preparation. My sincere thanks are to Dr Massimiliano Guazzato (The University of Sydney) for the advised idea and the provision of zirconia material. I also thank 3M ESPE Australia for support through the supply of impression materials.

I wish to acknowledge the help given to me by the staff of CEMMSA (Center of Electron Microscopy and Microstructure Analysis) at the University of Adelaide. My

thanks also go to Andrew Robinson (Ian Wark Research Institute, the University of South Australia) for X-ray diffraction analysis. Thanks to Dr Chinh Dang for the help with statistical analysis and Dr Hai Tran for proofreading of this thesis.

In addition, I extend my gratitude to Associate Professor John Abbott for his advice and guidance in the implant clinic. My benefit from his broad experience and knowledge is greatly appreciated.

The financial support from the government of Vietnam gave me the opportunity to complete this course, and is greatly appreciated. This project was also supported by a grant from the Australian Dental Research Foundation.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my friends, Dr Sarbin Ranjitkar, Dr Nattira Suksudaj, Ms Jactty Chew, Ms Syatirah Abdullah and Dr Jimin Xiong for their wonderful friendship. It has been a great pleasure to know you all.

I wish to dedicate this thesis to my parents, Manh-Thu Ha and Trung-Moc Tran,	for
continued support and encouragement of their three daughters	