Comparison of Shear Bond Strength of Three Types of Glass Ionomer Cements Containing Hydroxyapatite Nanoparticles to Deep and Superficial Dentin

Farahnaz Sharafeddin, DMD, MScD 1; Ali Asghar Alavi, DMD, MScD 1; Saba Siabani, DMD, MScD 2; Mina Safar 2, DMD, MScD;

1 Dept. of Operative Dentistry, Biomaterials Research Center, School of Dentistry, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran.
2 Postgraduate Student, Dept. of Operative Dentistry, School of Dentistry, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran.

KEY WORDS
Glass ionomer cements; Hydroxyapatites; Nanoparticles; Shear strength;

ABSTRACT
Statement of the Problem: The clinical success of glass ionomer cement (GIC) restorations depends on the strength of its bonding to dentin, yet the bond strength of nanohydroxyapatite (nHAp) added GIC to dentin needs to be investigated.

Purpose: This study aimed to assess if the type of GIC containing nHAp and dentin depth can affect the shear bond strength (SBS).

Materials and Method: In this experimental study, 60 freshly extract intact third molars were randomly divided into two main groups of flat occlusal dentin with different cuts as superficial (S): just below the dentinoenamel junction (DEJ) and deep (D): 2mm below DEJ. After conditioning with 20% polyacrylic acid, each group randomly assigned to the tested GIC (n=10) subgroups as 1: Fuji IX Extra+nHAp, 2: Fuji II LC+nHAp and 3: Zirconomer+nHAp. Plastic tubes were placed on the pre-treated surfaces and filled with one of the GIC, then stored in an incubator at 37 oC under 100% humidity for 24hr. The specimens were thermocycled at5/55 oC for 500 cycles and subjected to shear bond strength (SBS) test using a universal testing machine (1 mm/min). The data analyzed by Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis test (p< 0.05).

Results: The means of SBS of Fuji II LC+nHAp was significantly higher than Fuji IX+nHAp and Zirconomer+nHAp both in superficial and deep dentin (p< 0.05). The means of SBS of Fuji IX Extra+nHAp and Zirconomer+nHAp subgroups in superficial dentin were higher than deep dentin, this differences was statistically significant (p= 0.0001 and p= 0.009, respectively).

Conclusion: It can conclude that SBS was influenced by type of GIC, and depth of dentin.


Introduction
Glass ionomer cement (GIC) is widely used in clinical dentistry due to its unique properties which include low coefficient of thermal expansion, fluoride release, good biocompatibility and chemical adhesion [1-2]. Despite these attractive features, GICs have some disadvantages such as poor mechanical properties that limited their use in stress-bearing areas [1, 3-4]. Since GICs were introduced, in order to improve its physical and mechanical properties and to make it more suitable for clinical use, GIC has undergone several formula changes, that led to produced resin modified glass ionomer (RMGI) and zirconia reinforced glass ionomer (Zirconomer), but sufficient enhancements in mechanical and chemical properties have not yet been achieved [4-6].

The research for more biocompatible material led to the use of hydroxyapatite (HAp) as a biocompatible...
strengthening material, it has great biocompatibility and a composition similar to dental apatite, which is the main component of the tooth structure [1, 7-9]. Therefore it has attracted much interest as biomaterial filler for use in dental materials to improve the mechanical and chemical properties. Nowadays, HAp is manufactured in many forms as required for the certain applications, as nHAp with appropriate morphology, stoichiometry and purity stimulated great interest in dental material scientific researches [3, 9-10].

According to the result of previous studies, it seems that incorporation of 5 wt. % nHAp improved the mechanical properties of conventional and resin modified glass ionomer [11-15].

Adhesive ability of restorative materials to tooth structure is an important factor in current restorative technique and it has been cited that the most important advantage of GIC is its chemical adhesion to enamel and dentin. The nHAp is soluble in acidic solution so that calcium ions may be extracted from the surface of the nHAp during mixing with polyacrylic liquid. The reaction mechanism that is accomplished between nHAp and GIC may be similar to the mechanism of adhesion of GIC to dentin where the interaction of apatite found in the tooth structure with the polyacrylic acid produce polyacrylate ions that form strong ionic bonds [10, 14].

Various factors can influence the adhesive properties of a material, one of which is the type of dental substrate [11]. It has been reported that the dentin surface varies from tooth to tooth and due to the change in the size of dental tubules from the DEJ to the pulp chamber, bonding strength, depending on the bonding site, can also vary within the tooth [16]. This issue may be one of the parameters contributing to the different result in the various studies or standard deviation for each experimental group. However, there is no report to notice the effect of dentin depth in the bond properties on nHAp added GIC.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the influence of dentin depths on SBS of three types of latest commercialized GIC, include conventional, resin modified and zirconia reinforced GIC, containing nHAp. The hypotheses tested were: 1) in both dentin depths resin modified GIC+nHAp has higher SBS compared to conventional and zirconia reinforced GIC subgroups; 2) dentin depth differences do not affect the bonding effectiveness of the tested GIC.

**Materials and Method**

In this experimental study three commercial available GIC, including a resin modified, a zirconia reinforced and a conventional GIC, and nHAp particles were used. A list of experimental materials in this study and their compositions was shown in Table 1. First the nHAp powder was weighed carefully by a digital scale (AND; GR+360, Japan) and added to glass powders in order to achieved the 5 wt. % of nHAp in glass powders. In order to obtain a homogenous distribution of particles, powders were mixed initially by hand, then were transferred into specific capsules and mixed by an amalgamator (Ultramat 2; SDI, Australia) for 20 seconds.

Sixty freshly extracted caries-free intact human third molars were selected for this study. Residual soft tissues were removed carefully, and teeth were stored in distilled water with a 0.1 % thymol as disinfectant at 4°C for one week, then stored in distilled water at 4 °C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Composition of the materials used in the study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Material</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuji IX GP Extra™</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuji II LC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zirconomer Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nHAp Hydroxyapatite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavity conditioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varnish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
until required. Teeth were mounted at 2 mm below the cementoenamel junction (CEJ), in self-polymerizing acrylic resin (Acropars, Iran) in a rectangular shaped epoxy resin mold (30 mm x 25 mm x 15 mm) as their occlusal surface were available for bonding. The teeth were randomly divided into two groups, to remove the occlusal surface at two depths, superficial (SD) and deep (DD) dentin. The occlusal surfaces of the teeth were transversally sectioned by diamond discs (D&Z, Germany) under water cooling to expose the flat superficial dentin just beneath the dentinoenamel junction (DEJ) in group SD and 2 mm below the central groove to expose the deep dentin in group DD [8]. The exposed dentin surface of all teeth was wet grounded with 600 grit silicon carbide abrasive papers in order to achieve homogenous surface. Then the dentin surfaces were conditioned with cavity conditioner (GC, Tokyo, Japan) using a microbrush for 10 seconds, then were rinsed by distilled water for 20 seconds, and dried by cotton pellets.

The specimens in each group divided into three subgroups (n=10) according to the type of GIC and following test subgroups prepared:

Subgroup SD1: Conventional glass ionomer (Fuji IX GP Extra) containing nHAp powder was mixed with liquid on glass slab by a plastic spatula according to manufacturer’s instructions (powder to liquid ratio of 3.4:1 gr) for 25 seconds. The prepared paste was placed in cylindrical plastic molds (3 mm diameter and 2 mm height) on center of superficial dentin specimens and a Mylar strip and a glass slab were placed on the top surface of the mold for compressing until the mixture were completely set after six minutes.

Subgroup SD2: Resin modified glass ionomer (Fuji II LC) containing nHAp was used and mixed with liquid by powder to liquid of 3.2:1 gr as the same manner. The specimens were restored similar to previous group and light cured for 40 seconds to ensure a perfect setting by using an emitting diode (LED) polymerizing unit (Demi Plus; Kerr, Switzerland) at a light intensity of 1200 mW/cm².

Subgroup SD3: Zirconia reinforced glass ionomer containing nHAp was used and mixed with liquid by powder to liquid of 3.6:1 gr as the same manner. The specimens were restored similar to subgroup S1 and waited three minutes to complete setting.

Subgroup DD1: All the procedure was similar to those in subgroup SD1 and cylindrical molds were placed on center of deep dentin surfaces.

Subgroup DD2: All the procedure was similar to those in subgroup SD2 and cylindrical molds were placed on center of deep dentin surfaces.

Subgroup DD3: All the procedure was similar to those in subgroup SD3 and cylindrical molds were placed on center of deep dentin surfaces.

After setting of types of GIC, plastic molds removed. The bonded specimens were painted over with varnish (Kimia, Iran), then were stored in an incubator (Nuve, Turkey) at 100% humidity at 37°C for 24 hr before they subjected to thermocycling [9]. The specimens were thermocycled (PC300; Vafaei, Iran) 500 cycles at 5/55°C, with a dwell time of 30 seconds and transfer time of 30 seconds between baths.

The SBS of each specimen was tested using a universal testing machine (Zwick Roell, Germany) by a steel wedge-shaped blade and crosshead speed of 1 mm/minute (Figure 1). The SBS values calculated and reported in MPa.

Steremicroscopy with magnification of 40x (Bestscope, China) used to determine the mode of failure. The stereomicroscope was performed by two calibrated postgraduate students whom were blind to the study.

Figure 1: The specimen under the SBS test in the universal testing machine.
The modes of failure (Figure 2) classified as the adhesive (fracture at the dentin and GIC interface), cohesive (fracture within the dentin or GIC) and mixed (fracture at the bonded interface extending into the dentin and/or GIC) failure [17].

**Statistical analyses**

The obtained SBS values were analyzed with SPSS software (version 16) using Kruskal-Wallis H test, Dunn test and Mann-Whitney test at significance level of \( p < 0.05 \).

**Results**

Table 2 reveals the mean, median values and standard deviation of SBS for experimental groups. For both superficial and deep dentin specimens, the lowest and highest means of bond strength were observed in subgroups 3 and 2, respectively (Figure 3).

Kruskal-Wallis H test showed that there was a statistically significant difference among superficial dentin specimens, SBS value for nHAp added RMGI (subgroup SD\(_2\)) was higher than the other subgroups, with significant difference (\( p < 0.001 \)). Also among deep dentin specimens, nHAp added RMGI (subgroup DD\(_2\)) was higher than the other subgroups, with significant difference (\( p < 0.02 \)). The results of Mann-Whitney test showed significant differences between subgroups SD\(_1\) and DD\(_3\) (\( p < 0.009 \)), subgroups SD\(_1\) and DD\(_1\) (\( p < 0.000 \)) and no significant difference between subgroups SD\(_2\) and DD\(_2\) (\( p < 0.481 \)).

The results of the stereomicroscope investigation at the different subgroups are shown in Figure 4. When observed under the stereomicroscope, almost all fractures were mixed and cohesive in the GIC, in subgroups 1 and 3, in superficial groups, while, adhesive failure was more frequent in deep dentin groups. One the other hand, adhesive failure was the most common finding within subgroup 2 in both superficial and deep dentine.

**Discussion**

Adhesiveness of a restoration can predict its durability. As the conventional shear and tensile tests are easy to perform, requiring minimal equipment and specimen preparation, a lot of the available data on material adhesion still comes from the "macro" tests, particularly regarding the GIC, which present low bond strength [18-21]. In the present study, the macro SBS test was used because of the fact that in oral cavity, the major dislodging forces have shearing effect at interface of tooth and restoration [19, 21-22].

The current study identified the lack of influence of dentin depth on bonding properties of three types of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIC Subgroups ((n=10))</th>
<th>Superficial Dentin Median (mean±SD)</th>
<th>Deep Dentin Median (mean±SD)</th>
<th>( p ) Value* **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuji IX Extra + nHAp</td>
<td>6.24 (6.21±0.72)</td>
<td>4.06 (4.07±0.66)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuji II LC + nHAp</td>
<td>10.75 (10.38±2.81)</td>
<td>9.11 (9.16±1.51)</td>
<td>&lt;0.481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zirconomer Improved + nHAp</td>
<td>6.24 (6.25±0.65)</td>
<td>5.53 (5.35±0.70)</td>
<td>&lt;0.009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*kruskal-Wallis H test; **Mann-Whitney U test
In each column median values with different capital letters were statistically significant (Dunn test)
GIC that containing 5 wt. % of nHAp. According our results, the SBS of RMGI plus nHAp was higher than other types of GIC with significant difference ($p < 0.05$), which was in agreement with most previous studies [20-21, 23-24]. This results could be due to dual mechanism of adhesion in RMGI, the presence of resin component hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA) with its superior wetting ability [23]. Therefore, the first hypothesis was accepted. One study showed that, the highest microleakage of Zirconomer compared to Fuji IX Extra and Ketac Molar [25]. Microleakage is a measure for predict the durability of restoration and in related to adhesive performance of material [4]. Conversely, the result of current study showed no significant SBS differences between Zirconomer plus nHAp and Fuji IX Extra plus nHAp subgroups to deep and superficial dentin, this may be due to addition of nHAp that improved mechanical properties of GIC and increase its adhesion to dental structures [12, 26-27]. It seems that calcium ion release of nHAp led to reinforce the GIC by increasing the acid-base and cross linking reactions within the GIC structure [10, 12-13, 27]. On the other hand, the formation of the strong ionic bonds between the apatite particles in GIC and calcium ions of the dental substrate enhanced the bond strength of GIC plus nHAp [10, 27-28].

Figure 3: Shear bond strength of material at Superficial and Deep dentin

![Image](image_url)

**Figure 4:** Frequency of fracture modes of three types of GIC + nHAp at Superficial (left) and Deep (right) dentin groups.
Although, Lucas et al. [29] reported that HAp does not interfere with the chemical bonding of GIC, they confirmed addition of HAp may result to a strength-enened matrix and subsequently improve bonding between glass core and matrix.

Lin et al. [30] in their study evaluated the effect of adding nanofluorapatite (nFAp) and nanofluorohydroxyapatite on fluoride release properties and bond strength of a resin modified GIC (Fuji Ortho LC), and reported an increase of fluoride release by optimum percentage of 25 wt. % but decreased SBS. The mean SBS values of nanoparticle added GIC in their study were lower than those obtained in present study. This difference in results could be due to using different type of RMGI. As well, lower mean SBS value in Lin et al. [30] study could be related to higher percentage of nHAp used, which serve as defect sites and decrease mechanical properties.

A study by Kim et al. [26] evaluated the effect of incorporated nHAp on the demineralization resistance, and bond strength of Fuji II LC GIC in comparison with micro HAp. They reported addition of nHAp to GIC lead to more resistant to demineralization and significant increased SBS. The mean SBS value obtained for GIC plus nHAp in this study (1.9 MPa) was significantly lower than those of in present study, which could be due to different in testing methodology. They used etched dentin as substrate and the specimens with larger bonded area, which lead to lower SBS [18, 31]. Also, SBS test was done after four week storage in pH 7.4 simulated body fluid that may be influenced on bond properties of GIC.

The obtained data of SBS values of conventional GIC in present study are almost lower than those of in Moshaverinia et al. [27] study that carried out with conventional GIC Fuji II containing 5 wt. % nHAp and nFAp (7 and 7.4 MPa for Fuji II plus nHAp and nFAp after 24 hr storage, respectively). This lower data may be due to three reason; first, difference in commercial types of used GIC. Second, difference in depth of dentin and another reason may be due to storage condition.

Another study by Lucas et al. [29], using a conventional GIC (Fuji XI GP) and added micro-HAp, yielded lower mean SBS to unconditioned dentin than those of the present study that may be due to the application of cavity conditioner and used nano size of HAp in present study. It has been reported that decreased size of HAp particles leads to increase the bond strength between the tooth and HAp added restorative materials [26, 32-33].

As well, our results showed all GIC had higher SBS values in superficial dentin than those of deep dentin. However, this was not significant for RMGI. So second null hypothesis was rejected. The same results were obtained by Tedesco et al. [16], who evaluated the influence of dentin depths and location on the micro shear bond strength of high-viscosity GIC. Due to chemical bonding of GIC, it could be explained that the best performance of the GIC in superficial dentin could be related to the highest amount of calcium available in this area of dentin to interact with carboxyl groups. Also, Yamakami et al. [34] found similar results in related to glass ionomer cement.

However, in this study, resin modified GIC showed the lower SBS to deep dentin than those of the superficial dentin, it was not significant. The same results were verified by Hong et al. [35] that reported SBS of resin modified GIC remained unaffected in deep dentin. It was also demonstrated pulpal pressure had a stronger influence on bond strength than regional differences of substrate [36]. A possible explanation is that as bonded material become more hydrophilic, the sensitivity of SBS to dentin depth was not significant [31]. On the other hand, due to utilize extracted teeth in this study that eliminated pulpal pressure and moisture arising from pulp chamber, it could be expected that after conditioning and drying of the dentin surface, the amount of moist reduced. Thus, differences in the hydraulic conductance and moisture of deep and superficial dentin were not contributing factor. So the slight decrease in SBS of RMGI plus nHAp to deep dentin may be due to decrease amount of inter tubular dentin and subsequently decrease the amount of calcium.

Pisaneschi et al. [24] evaluated SBS of GIC to deep and superficial dentin, they used Vidron R and ChelonFil as conventional GIC and Vitremer as light cured GIC. Specimens were thermocycled (500 cycles) and stored in distilled water for one week. They reported the higher SBS values in deep dentin, both for conventional and hybrid GIC in contrast with our re-
ults. These different findings could be related to difference in utilized methodology and materials. Also they utilized different protocol for obtained deep and superficial dentin, which may be lead to vary in dentin depth.

Failure analysis revealed more adhesive failures in the resin modified GIC plus nHAp than in the conventional and zirconia reinforced subgroups in both superficial and deep dentin. Also, more adhesive failures were observed in deep dentin specimens compared to those of superficial dentin. These results may be due to the fact that if an adhesive bond is weak relative to the strength of the GIC, failure would likely happen at the interface between the GIC and substrate [16, 18]. It is also interesting to note that the incorporation of nHAp may result in a strengthened matrix and subsequently better bonding to the bulk of the glass and matrix [27]. Although, no direct relationship between the amount of SBS and mode of failure observed in this study.

In Fuji IX and Zirconomer subgroups of the superficial group most failure modes were cohesive/mixed rather than adhesive. These results accord well with previous studies, which have reported that the strength of the GIC–tooth bond is higher than the inherent strength of the material [27, 29]. Also, this implies that the SBS between the GIC and the dentin could be greater than the present results. This type of failure has been commonly reported in previous studies for GIC. These findings may be related to the method of testing, which produced more cohesive failures due to its heterogeneous stress distribution [37]. It cannot be neglected, that under higher magnification, the incidence of mixed and cohesive failures may increase for all testing modes [16, 18, 38].

As nHAp added Zirconomer is a new material and not many of studies have been done on it, more research work is needed to be done to have a better vision of this new material. It seems appropriate to emphasize that it is difficult to compare the results of this study with those of others due to inconsistencies in the published literature and the lack of data regarding the adhesion of GIC plus nHAp to deep and superficial dentin. Therefore, to confirm these results, further studies are required in which different GIC categories to the different tooth substrates and other methods that simulate degradation of the bonding interface, including pH cycling and mechanical loading, as well long-term clinical trials, should be performed.

**Conclusion**

Based on these findings and within the limitations of an in vitro study, it can be concluded that, Fuji II LC plus nHAp yield significantly different bond strengths to both superficial and deep dentin compared to Fuji IX GP Extra and Zirconomer plus nHAp. Bonding to superficial dentin was higher than to that deep dentin.

**Acknowledgement**

The authors thank the Vice-Chancellery of Shiraz University of Medical Science for supporting this research (Grant #12014). This manuscript is based on thesis by Dr. Saba Siabani. We would also like to thank Dr. M. Vosoughi for statistical analysis.

**Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

**References**


[6] Sharafeddin F, Ghaboos SA, Jowkar Z. The effect of short polyethylene fiber with different weight percent-


[28] Khurshid Z, Zafar M, Qasim S, Shahab S, Naseem M,


