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# Dynamic mechanical analysis of particulate dental composites

Minu Parekh New Jersey Institute of Technology

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# **ABSTRACT**

# **DYNAMIC MECHANICAL ANALYSIS OF PARTICULATE DENTAL COMPOSITES**

# **by Minu Parekh**

Typically, dental composites are used in different configurations and situations. When a cavity forms at the occlusal surface **of a posterior** tooth, a class I and class II filling is used, depending on the extent **and nature of the cavity** formed. These fillings have to be designed to resist mechanical abrasion and occlusal stress during chewing, bruxing and other tooth **functions. Class IV** fillings are also designed to resist biting stress. In these applications composites **with** high filler loading with filler particles of size >0.6µm are used. These composites are typically known as **minifill** or midifill composites. When more than one **particle** size range is used, they are also refereed to as hybrid composites. When the restorations are prepared on interior tooth surfaces not subject to direct application **of occlusal** or biting stresses (e.g., class III and class V **fillings),** the composites are designed **with** less emphasis on the **abrasion** resistance and mechanical properties of the composites.

Typically, microfill composites with limited filler loading of colloidal silica (of 0.4 $\mu$ m size) is used for such applications. **It** has been reported in recent years that these fillings must be designed to flex with tooth **function** and hence should possess lower modulus of **elasticity. The** posterior restorations, on **the** other **hand, must** be **sufficiently stiff to** resist masticatory stresses. For these reasons, dynamic mechanical properties of **minifill/midifill**  and microfill composites need elucidation. The dynamic **mechanical** response **is best** 

studied under flexural mode of dynamic deformation. Among the properties considered important for composite resins are **viscoelastic** properties such as storage modulus (E'), loss modulus **(E") damping,** glass transition, etc. **In** this study dynamic mechanical analysis using flexural mode of deformation **in** the temperature range of -50 to 180°C has been used to characterize the viscoelastic properties of four composites at 37°C with visible light cure.

The results indicate that hybrid composites have higher viscoelastic properties than the microfill system. **The resin** is characterized by higher storage modulus mode and loss modulus across the entire range **of temperature** investigated. The results indicate that **the**  filler loading and cross **linking** effects may be responsible for the variation of viscoelastic properties as **a** function of different variables (e.g. filler loading, particle size).

# DYNAMIC MECHANICAL ANALYSIS OF PARTICULATE DENTAL COMPOSITES

by Minu Parekh

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of New Jersey Institute of Technology in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Science in Engineering Science

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May 1996

# APPROVAL PAGE

# DYNAMIC MECHANICAL ANALYSIS OF PARTICULATE DENTAL COMPOSITES

# Minu Parekh



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#### CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

Synthetic resins have been developed as restorative materials principally because of their esthetic properties. The early resin restorations were made by cementing heat cured acrylic inlays or crowns into the prepared cavity. However the low modulus of elasticity and lack of dimensional stability of the resin invariably resulted in a fracture of cement with subsequent **leakage and failure of the** restoration.

The development of the self **curing\_ acrylic** materials in **the late** 1940's made feasible **the** direct restoration of **the teeth** with resin. The monomer and polymer could **be**  combined and the resultant dough or **gel** inserted into the prepared cavity, where it polymerized in **situ.** The use of acrylic **resin** for tooth restorations has been the subject of much controversy. Certain properties such as **esthetic qualities and insolubility made** it superior to silicate cement.

Advancement in polymer research have resulted in the evolution of improved **resin systems for use** as restorative materials which would **also** adhesively bond to tooth structure. Thus **two** kinds of direct filling resins are currently in use, although there is a strong. preference **for the** composite resins. **The** unfilled resins are classified as type I and **composite** resins **are type II.** There are several classifications of composite resins, the so called "conventional" composite and newer mini,mide and microfilled resins. **In** the microfilled resins (composite) the amount **of filler** is much **less** than in the type II resins (composite) and the resin matrix of **the** latter is **also different.** 

**Type II** direct filling resins stipulates a working **time of at** least 1.5 minutes **and** a

maximum hardening time of 8 minutes, just as it does for type I resin. However, **the**  requirements for other properties such as diametrical tensile **strength** and watersorption, are more **stringent for the type II resin. It** is obvious **that** the composite resins are superior to the unreinforced acrylic resins, in respect to most mechanical and physical properties.

This would be anticipated because of the strengthening effect of the filler and the difference in the properties of the resin matrix. The molecular **weight** of the BIS-GMA molecule is approximately 512, while that of the methyl metacrylate monomer is only 100. Because of the higher molecular weight of the monomer and high concentration of **inorganic** filler, the polymerization shrinkage of approximately **1.4% for** the conventional composite is **much less than that** of the unfilled acrylic resin, which is in **the** range of **7%.** 

Thus **the** conventional composite resins should have **less** tendency to pull away from **the walls of the cavity.** For the same reason the coefficient **of** the thermal expansion is appreciably **lower** than that of an unfilled acrylic resin. The linear coefficient of the thermal expansion of the conventional resins is approximately  $37 \times 10^{-6}$  as compared to • 92 x 10-6for unfilled acrylic resin. Watersorption of **the** conventional composite is **also less** than that of unfilled acrylic **resins.** 

**The** conventional composite resins are appreciably stronger than unfilled resins when loaded in compression. The composite also **has** a higher tensile strength. The **fatigue limit is approximately 65% of the** compressive strength. The conventional composite resins also have a much higher modulus **of elasticity** than the unfilled acrylic resins. This **would suggest** that the **stiffer material would be less susceptible to elastic**  deformation when subjected to masticatory force. The composites are much **harder than the** unfilled acrylic resins. In **general the** properties of **these** "composite" **resins** are

superior to those of the conventional acrylic resin. There is a need to characterize the dynamic mechanical properties **of** composites.

#### 1.1 Objective

There is a need to characterize viscoelastic properties such as storage modulus, loss modulus, Tan Delta, Glass transition temperature, etc, **of typical** denture base composite materials.

**The** objectives of this investigation were:

. To characterize **the** dynamic mechanical properties of the currently available commercial composite systems, with special **emphasis** on the different filler materials of composites i.e.

2. To determine the glass transitions near **and** above **the** ambient temperatures in the oral environment and their relationships to the compositions of the **formulations.** 

3. To understand the **changes** in the viscoelastic properties as a function of temperature and correlate these changes with the structures and transitions in the materials.

4. To characterize the thermal expansion variations **and** softening at 37°C **(mouth**  temperature) including the **glass transition in** a thermomechanical **analyzer (TMA)** and weight loss measurements in a thermogravimetric analyzer (TGA) and correlate this information to **the** dynamic mechanical properties and their changes.

# 1.2 **Matrix Material**

**The majority** of diacrylates present in commercially **available** composite restorations **are**  based on a viscous resinous component having an aromatic backbone derived from

bisphenol - A, together with one or more aliphatic mono- and/or diacrylate for the purpose of viscosity reduction and occasionally to improve reactivity with regards to a snap cure in vivo. The bisphenol A based species may be obtained from the reaction of bisphenol A or its alkylhydroxy derivatives with methyl-acryloyl chloride, from the reaction of bisphenol A with glycidyl methacrylate, or from the reaction of methacrylic acid and diglycidyl either of bisphenol A, the latter two referred to as the BIS/GMA molecule.

In the composites marketed by many companies. use is made of the BIS/GMA molecule to impart aromaticity to the resinous backbone of the composite matrix. This species contains hydroxyl groups spaced along the chain and an equal number of ether links offering some rotational freedom to the structure.

# 1.3 BIS-GMA

It is a resin based upon an epoxy starting material which is being used as the matrix for the commonly used composite restorative materials. The resin formulation is actually a reaction product of the methaacrylic acid and diglycidal ether of bisphenol-A. The backbone of the molecule is similar to that of an expoxy resin, but the functional reactive group in the molecule are acrylic. This resin is often referred to as BIS-GMA system.

#### BIS-GMA (Dimethacrylate) monomer



**BIS-GMA also can be obtained by the reaction of glycidyl ether of bisphenol-A and methacrylic acid. This hybrid molecule is classified as a thermosetting methacrylic resin. It has** proved to **be suitable as** binder **for reinforcing fillers.** It has **a somewhat lower polymerization shrinkage than** does methylmetacrylate and hardens rapidly under oral conditions.

#### 1.4 Fillers

The **designation composite for this class of dental restoratives derives from the incorporation of reinforcing fillers** into the resinous matrix. In the general **plastic technology,** the term composite is most frequently applied to glass fiber **laminates** made **from epoxy, polyester, acrylic and** other more specialized **resinous binders.** In the **dental technology, the reinforcing fillers are silicates. such as lithium. aluminum silicate.**  hydroxy apatite **and various silica as well as** various kinds **of glass, quartz and other inorganic** materials. In form they **may be** irregular particles, **platelets,** rods **or breads.** 

**Optimization is accomplished in terms** of the proper fillers and blends **of fillers. the**  proper **particle size** and shape **and** blends thereof and the proper **total loading** volume **of the** selected combination. Filler **serves to modify a number of** important properties. **They reduce shrinkage of** the composites. **The** reduced **shrinkage** leads to **a distinct**  improvement **in marginal adaptation over** unfilled **systems in** direct proportion to **the filler** loading **volume. Filler increases** compression strength of the composite and in **optimized systems they provide compressive** strength at **oral temperatures greater than the average for** human tooth structure. Fillers **generally increase hardness of composites**  and also influence **favorably or** adversely **opacity, translucency and color** matching.

Fillers most generally adversely influence polishability of the composites but by proper formulation the adverse influence can be minimized. Fillers reduce thermal expansion and contraction rates and while it is not possible to obtain values as low as with tooth structure, their use nonetheless results in minimum wall separation during low temperature cycling. Fillers improve stability in oral fluids to the extent that they are completely insoluble in them. Fillers may be used to provide flow control for the composites when they are employed for specialized applications. Fillers, by reducing. shrinkage. permit greater retention of vander waals adhesive bonds between composites and enamel and by lowering thermal expansion rates permit better retention of the bonds with time in vivo. In the dental composites most commonly silicate glass filler is used.

#### **CHAPTER 2**

## **LITERATURE SURVEY**

With the invention of the redox initiator systems for polymerization of methacrylate monomers at room temperature, it was possible to make direct filling resins. However, the initial resin-based filling material had serious defects. These materials were of insufficient technical quality to replace **the** fluoride **containing** silicate cements, despite their apparent chemical and technical defects. **The** subsequent development **(2)** and introduction on the market of composite resin restorative material, **have** led to a replacement of the silicate cements and unreinforced direct filling resins as filling materials in anterior teeth. The introduction of the acid etch technique has improved the quality of composite resin restorations.

During the early development. several composites were introduced for use in the posterior region. The major problems associated with these posterior composite material were secondary caries (4) and inadequate resistance to wear. Composites are not at present as resistant to wear as amalgam (5). The problem of secondary caries is, at least in part, related to the insertion technique (6).

Dental composites are complex materials, composed mainly of ceramic fillers, an organic matrix and the interface between fillers **and** matrix. In addition, these materials contain an initiator system, pigments and stabilizers such as inhibitors, antioxidants and UV - stabilizers. **All** these components are important for the properties of the polymerized composite restorations.

## 2.1 Properties of Composites

It has become apparent that composite restorative materials had a notable short-coming; for instance a lack of wear resistance which leads to subsequent loss of anatomic form when used for class I and II restorations. Leinfelder et al. (7) observed that in general the loss of substance was uniform, i.e. the restoration appeared to be submerged below the original surface, exposing the enamel walls of the original cavity preparation. An even more serious shortcoming as a result of poor wear resistance could be approximal "flattening" of class II composite restoration, causing subsequent loss of contact with the risk of mesical drifting of adjacent teeth (7).

Different laboratory methods of evaluating wear have been reported (8-10). All these methods are based on the assumption that wear is due to mechanical or physical influence on the material (11-13). A porous layer has been observed beneath those surfaces of composite restoration that are exposed to the oral environment. It has been suggested that this phenomenon is caused by environmental softening of the composites (14). Furthermore, it has been indicated that  $\overline{in}$  vivo wear processes are partly due to hydrolytic degradation of filler particles (15,16).

# 2.2 The Organic Matrix

Erosion of the resin matrix and exposure of filler particles can be caused by accelerated aging using xenon light and intermittent water spray (9,17). Specimens submerged in water and exposed to xenon light with the spectral distribution of the sunlight also reveals degradation of the polymer matrix and exposure of filler particles (18). The formation of a groove between a ceramic inlay and tooth enamel caused by the disintegration of **composite** resin **material (19) also indicates that chemical degradation is an important factor.** 

**In general, it can be stated that no in** vitro **water tests have** been **found that will**  predict composite **wear performance accurately (20). This situation is** due to the **fact that in** vivo **wear is a complex process.** The **processes involved are probably of chemical. physico-chemical, thermomechanical and mechanical nature.** 

**The degree of** conversion after polymerization **may affect** the **resistance to chemical degradation of resin based** filling **materials. Residual double bonds in polymeric materials make them less resistant to oxidative** degradation reactions (21). The **molecular** structure **of the monomers and the quantity of the different monomers. as well as the quantity and type** of fillers **used** in **dental composite materials, will affect the** properties of the final. polymerized **materials.** 

**Current research focus as on the development of polymer systems with better conversion** than **those in** the **present systems.** Attention **is also being directed towards systems which have a structure which will prevent oxidative degradation.** 

The **composite tillers - As described** by Dr. **Leinfelder** and **others, the types of fillers**  can **be divided into groups according to** the size **of the filler particles.** The **tendency has been to reduce** the **size of** the particles **and to** increase the filler **loading** in the dental composites. The **first generation** of the **dental composites contained** mainly quartz particles. Now **there is a great variety in the composition of fillers. In** order to delineate the **composite restorations against** both dentin and **enamel, X-ray** opaque **materials** have been introduced. Elements **like barium, strontium, and zinc have been incorporated** in **the**  respective **glasses in quantities sufficient to give radiopacity.** 

It is difficult to predict the optimal properties for filler particles, especially with regard to particle size. Undoubtedly, composite systems with a high filler loading( $=70$ )  $vol.–\%$ ) appear desirable. Fillers which are hydrolytically stable should be used in order to assure a stable filler/matrix interface.

# 2.3 Monomers used for the Resin Matrix

Resin-based restorative materials usually contain dimethacrylate monomers. Analyses of proprietary dental resin and composite materials have demonstrated variation in composition of such materials (22-24). Most of them contain the high-viscous and the relatively rigid aromatic monomer 2,2-bis 4-(2-hydroxy-3-methacryloylaxypropoxy)phenyl propane (BIS-GMA). The commercially used BIS-GMA can be resolved into several components. The main components have been identified as a linear BIS-GMA and a branched BIS-GMA. The ratio of linear to branched BIS-GMA is 3:1. In some composites the presence of derivatives with a higher molecular weight than the linear and branched BIS-GMA also have been observed (25).

Other high-viscous aromatic dimethacrylate monomers similar to BIS-GMA are also used in dental composite materials (22-24,26). Such dimethacrylates are 2,2-bis 4 methacryloyloxyphenyl propane (BIS-MA), 2,2-bis 4-(2-methacryloyloxyethoxy)-phenyl propane (BIS-EMA) and 2.2-bis 4-(3-methacryloyloxypropoxy)phenyl propane(BIS-PMA).

To decrease the viscosity of the resin systems, monomers with low viscosity. such as triethyleneglycol dimethacrylate (TEGDMA) and ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate (EGDMA) are used. Other oligaethyleneglycol dimethacrylates, such as diethyleneglycol

dimethacrylate (DEGDMA) and tetraethyleneglycol dimethacrylate (Te-EGDMA) are present in trace amounts. Other types of monomers have also been identified. The filling material Visio-dispers (VD) (ESPE) contains various isomers of bis(arryloyloxymethyl) and bis(methacryloyloxymethyl)tricyclo decane (27). Several dental restorative materials contain the diurethane dimethacrylate 1,6-bis(methacryloyloxy-2-ethoxycarbonylamino) - 2,4,4-trimethyl-hexane (UEDMA) as the only monomer, whereas other products contain this monomer in combination with other monomers, such as BIS-GMA and TEGDMA.

The very first proprietary visible light activated dental composite Fotofil (FF) (ICI) contained the monomer EGDMA together with a urethane dimethacrylate system (TUDMA) with several isomers and derivatives (23,25). This monomer system contained di(urathanophenyl)methane groups which remain as such in the polymerized material. It is known that such a system is susceptible to photo-oxidation with formation of quinoid groups (28,29). This formation of quinoid structure is accompanied by intense yellowing which can be observed with the composite FF without added UV-stabilizer (18). In the composite Occlusin (OC) (ICI) the sensitive di(urethanophenyl)methane group has been substituted by a hexamethyl-enediurethane group. The composition of OC has been determined by means of high performance gel permeation chromatography (HP-GPC) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy (25). OC contains TEGDMA and a mixture of oligomeric urethane dimethacrylates. Other composites Nuva-Fil (NF), Prisma-Fil (PF) and Ful-fil (Fu-F) (Caulk) contain TEGDMA and a linear poly- urethane synthesized from BIS-GMA and hexamethylenediisocyanate (23,25).

When assessing clinical and biological properties, as well as laboratory data, the variations in composition and purity of commercial resin systems should be taken into consideration. It is difficult to predict which monomer system or combination of monomers will give optimal properties for dental composite resins. Emphasis must be placed on obtaining a high degree of conversion, a highly crosslinked system and a system which is resistant to hydrolytic and oxidative degradation. "Snap set" systems are needed for dental uses, and they must have a low volume contraction during polymerization.

## 2.4 Initiator Systems

Most commercial, chemically activated composite materials contain the initiator benzoyl peroxide, which is activated by the tertiary aromatic amine N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-ptoluidine. The polymerization-initiating benzoyl radicals are formed by a multistep process  $(30)$ .

A few commercial composite materials employed external energy in the form of ultraviolet (uv) light for activation. Upon exposure to UV light a photoinitiator. e.g. benzoin methyl ether, undergoes photofragmentation with formation of polymerization initiating radicals (31).

Within the last eight years composite resins utilizing visible light for activation of polymerization have become popular. A commonly used photoinitiator.system is based on a diketone and a reducing agent, e.g. camphoroquinone and a tertiary amine like N.Ndirnethylaminoethyl methacrylate (32,33). It is assumed that the diketone absorbs radiation energy and is transferred to excited states. At the appropriate excited state (triplet state) the diketone should then combine with the reducing agent to form an excited state complex (epiplex) which breaks down to give reactive free radicals (31,32.34.35).

During the initial stage of a polymerization process with methacrylate monomers,

e.g. during the working time of chemically activated restorative resins, the polymerization is inhibited by oxygen. The reactivity of oxygen to a radical is much higher than that of a monomer (36-38). Length of the inhibition period is proportional to the initial concentration of oxygen, and the added inhibitor (39,40). The concentration of dissolved molecular oxygen in liquid methacrylate monomers is about 60 ppm (37). During the inhibition period this oxygen is consumed by the radicals formed. Restorative resins in contact with air during polymerization contain unpolymerized surface layers caused by diffusion of atmospheric oxygen into the liquid resin (41,42,38). The thickness of the unpolymerized film on the surface is dependent on the viscosity of the resin and on the initiating system used. For chemically activated systems the structure of the tertiary aromatic amine is of importance. UV-light polymerized resins have thinner inhibited layers than chemically activated resins of comparable composition. This is because the rate of radical formation is much higher in UV-light activated (38). Improvement of the visible light sources is needed.

# 2.5 Conversion to a Polymeric System in Composites

Ten years ago the incomplete conversion in dental sealant was demonstrated (43). The degree of conversion or extent of polymerization of dimethacrylate monomers, can be determined by measuring the quantities of unreacted methacrylate groups using transmission infrared (IFk) spectroscopy and the more rapid method of Fourier Transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy.

After polymerization, proprietary dental sealant have different quantities of unreacted methacrylate groups (UM). i.e. they exhibit different degrees of conversion

 $(\%DC = 100-\%$ UM). For the materials containing the aromatic dimethacrylate monomers BIS-GMA and BIS-MA as well as the low-viscous monomer TEGDMA, the quantity of unreacted methacrylate groups (UM 22 -36%, i.e.  $DC = 64 - 78\%$ ) could be correlated with the quantity of the rigid dimethacrylates BIS-GMA and BIS-MA. The relationship between degree of conversion and the ratio between TEGDMA and aromatic monomers of BIS-GMA based unfilled resins has been confirmed in several publications (40,44.45). The degree of conversion decreases with increasing concentration of the rigid aromatic monomers and the degree of cure increases with increasing concentration of the lowviscous TEGDMA. It has also been shown that inhibitor concentrations higher than those commonly used in resin systems have an adverse effect on conversion (40,45). More effective inhibitors also have a similar adverse effect (46). The duration of the inhibitor period (working time) is proportional to inhibitor concentration (46).

A UV-cured resin. Nuva Seal (NS) (Caulk), contains the monomer methyl methacrylate (MMA) in addition to BIS-GMA. The high conversion of 85% with this monomer system is probably due to the presence of the monomethacrylate MMA. which is small and able to diffuse and react with the active ends of the growing macroradicals even after the sealant has hardened. It has been shown that the conversion of the individual mono-, di- and trimethacrylate monomers varies (47-49). Such investigations reveal that the degree of conversion decreases with the number of methacrylate groups. The conversion is also dependent on molecular weight and molecular structure of the monomers.

It has also been demonstrated that the mechanical properties (tensile strength, compressive strength, flexural strength modules, dynamic mechanical properties and

hardness) of **unfilled resins increase with increasing** degree of conversion (50,51,45). With respect to degree of conversion in the organic matrix of composite materials **containing**  the two monomers T**EGDMA** and BIS-GMA a similar correlation as for **the** unfilled **resins can** be made. The composite material Epolite (GC) contains TEGDMA (44 wt-%) and BIS-GMA (54 wt-%) **and after** the chemically induced polymerization the degree of conversion has been determined to be approximately **70%.** The pastes of Concise (3M) contain TEGDMA (22-24 wt-%) and BIS-GMA (72-73 wt-%) and the **degree** of **conversion** is approximately 58% after curing. The degree of conversion is of the same magnitude for the chemically activated composites **P-10 (3M) (61%)** and Profile (5.5. White) (55%) recommended for posterior restorations, as for the conventional anterior composites (Ruyter and Oysaed. **1986).** The poor conversion of the monomers in composite restorative materials with chemically induced polymerization has been confirmed by several research groups (52,5324).

In restorative resins with chemically induced polymerization the reaction takes place almost uniformly throughout the bulk of the material, and curing is not generally dependent on ale thickness of the restoration. However, composites which are activated by UV or visible light polymerize only to a certain **depth** (54,35). The depth of cure is dependent on the depth of penetration of **the activating light in** the composite, i.e. **the depth** of cure is dependent **on** material composition, tight source and exposure time. Incomplete polymerization in the inner part of the restoration may lead to retention failures and also to adverse pulp tissue reactions.

By means of infrared multiple internal reflection spectroscopy (IR-MIR) the conversion in different depths of UV and visible light activated composite materials can be

determined (35). At shallow depths (less than 0.5 mm) the conversion varies for the different materials (35,25). This optimal conversion is mainly dependent on the monomer composition. The monomer systems of the visible light cured composites P-30 and P-10 with chemical initiation are almost the same. After polymerization both these posterior composites exhibit a degree of conversion of approximately  $62\%$  (18,25). It has also been reported that unfilled resins formulated with BIS-GMA and TEGDMA have the same degree of conversion irrespective of whether chemical activation or visible light activation is used (45). The light-cured posterior composite DC with the complex resin system of relatively flexible monomers and oligomers exhibits a conversion of  $70\%$  after polymerization. The oldest visible light activated material FE contains EGDMA with a short link between the two methacrylate groups and the relatively rigid TUDMA oligomer system. After polymerization this composite exhibits the low conversion of  $55\%$ . The UV-activated material Estilux Microfill (ELM) (Kuizer) was based on a relatively small amount of BIS-GMA (39 wt-%) in addition to the flexible monomers TEGDMA (33 wt-  $\%$ ) and UEDMA (24 wt- $\%$ ) (23). The conversion in different depths shows a region with only minor changes in degree of conversion. Below a certain depth. approximately I mm, there is an abrupt decrease in the conversion with no polymerization below 1.3 mm when a 40 s exposure to a UV-light source is applied. The shallow curing depth of the microfill material ELM is due to light scattering of the UV-light caused by the particles in the composite. The optically effective particle size of the silica particles in ELM (approx. 0.15 pm) is close to half the wavelength of the effective activating UV-light. which is the optimal size for maximum light scattering (35). Better results with respect to curing depth are obtained for the visible light activated material Durafill (DF) (Kuizer) with practically the same monomer system as ELM, probably because the wavelength of the effective activating visible light is more than twice the diameter of the agglomerated microfill particles. The conversion at shallow depths of DF, however, is poorer than that of ELM. 62 and 70% respectively. UV-light activation is more efficient than visible light activation. The three materials NF, PF and Fu-F all have the same resin system. The better conversion of 70% for the UV-activated material NF compared with 59% for the visible light activated anterior material PF and posterior material Fu-F is demonstrated (35.25). The reason for the better conversion with UV-light than with visible light might be that the quantum yield for radical formation by UV-light is higher than for a visible light photo initiator system.

The optimal conversion of visible light activated restorative materials also depends on the quality of the light source. The spectral distribution of several proprietary dental photopolymerization light units has been determined (55). The performance characteristics of proprietary light sources vary. The two lamps which first entered the market, the Fotofil lamp (FL) (ICI) and Translux (TL) (Kulzer), are examples of differences in light performance. The light source FL emits light in the visible part of the spectrum only, 400- 550 nm. The light unit TL, however, also emits radiation below 400 nm. The degree of conversion at a depth of 0.5 mm, i.e. the region of optimal conversion varies when using these two different light sources. The optimal degree of conversion for the material Silux (3M) was  $65\%$  with the TL lamp and  $54\%$  with the FL lamp. The polymerization and therefore also the quality of the cured filling material is better with the TL lamp than with the FL lamp. Activating the composite PF revealed a 60% optimal degree of conversion with the TL lamp and 51% with the FL lamp. Similar differences were also observed for

several composite restorative materials. Such results indicate that the spectral distribution of the light is important for the degree of conversion after polymerization. It is probably crucial that there is sufficient energy in the shortwaved part of the visible light. The TL lamp emits more energy at for example 420 nm than the FL lamp.

The total curing depth after polymerization, i.e. the depth which appears hardened. varies somewhat with the different light sources. With an exposure time of 40 s the total curing depth varies between 3.6 and 4.7 mm for the material DF. Usually only 1/2 to 2/3 of the total curing depth is optimally polymerized (35). i.e. with this relatively long exposure time the optimal curing depth may vary between 1.8 to 2.4 mm for this microfill material. The depth of cure is not only dependent on the light intensity. but also on how the lamp focuses the light (56). Increasing exposure time increases the curing depth. The curing depth increases considerably with exposure times up to one minute. The pigmenting of the materials is of great importance for the curing depth. Yellow pigment absorbs shortwaved blue light. i.e. this is the light which induces the polymerization reactions. Filling materials with yellow pigments must be irradiated for a much longer time than light pigmented materials.

Visible light activated materials are sensitive to ambient light (57). Exposed to direct sunlight, they harden within 10 to 15 s (58). Because modern operating lights use quartz halogen bulbs of similar quality to the activator lamp units, the handling period of the light activated restorative materials is limited.

# 2.6 Mechanical Properties under Dry and Wet Conditions

Due to the complex stress situation composite restorative materials are subjected to in

vivo, it is difficult to predict which mechanical properties are the most important. In addition to the complex stress situation, the effects of the environment are important for the properties of the materials (59,60,14,61). Water sorption may affect composite materials by reducing the wear resistance (62). The water absorbed by the polymer matrix could cause filler-matrix debonding or even hydrolytic degradation of the fillers (16).

In composite material used in load bearing areas, especially if bruxism exists, the creep properties are of interest. The creep properties of dental composites under conditions of optimal conversion are influenced by the content and type of filler as well as the final structure of the organic matrix (63-65). The inclusion of inorganic fillers and particularly silane treated filler particles appears to reduce creep and increase stiffness (66,67). The stress/strain behavior in compression of dental composites reveals considerable differences between a material with a high filler content like P-10 (71 vol.-%) and a material with a lower inorganic filler content like the microfill material Heliomolar  $(KM)$  (Vivadent) (45 vol.- $\%$ ). It has been claimed that posterior composites are brittle materials (Lloyd. 19830. However, in compression the stress/strain curve of HM reveals a yield point indicating that HM behaves more like a tough material. whereas P-10 appears to be a brittle material. On the basis of the assumption that the matrix phase breaks at the same deformation whether filled or unfilled (i.e. good adhesion between filler and matrix) a decrease in observed nominal strain with increasing quantity of fillers is predicted (68). This means a decrease in ductility with increasing quantity of inorganic particles. In general, the elastic modulus increased with increasing volume fraction of inorganic fillers-When stored in water until saturation, a decrease of elastic modulus and ultimate strength of dental composites can be observed (65).

Creep characteristics of dental composites have been determined (63-65). Uniaxial compressive creep experiments with different loads can be expressed as strain/time functions. If the Boltzmann superposition principle, which implies that strain is proportional to stress, holds, the strain/time functions can be transformed to one single creep compliance/log time function. if there is good adhesion between the silanized rigid fillers and the polymer matrix, all deformation occurs in the polymer phase (63). i.e. the true deformation of the polymer phase is much greater than the observed nominal strain. Creep results of dental composites indicate that creep properties are dependent on the volume fraction of inorganic particles, water uptake and the structure of the polymer matrix.

Creep measurements indicate increased creep after water saturation. Water absorbed by the polymer matrix may act as a plasticizer on the materials (69), and thereby increase creep. It has been reported that soaking in water slightly increases the creep of filled polyethylene. especially if the filler particles are not silanized (70). The extent to which properties of composites could be improved by optimizing interfacial bonding between filler matrix, and reported that tensile strength and water resistance varied with silanization conditions. Therefore, differences in creep increase after submersion in water could also be due to variations in bonding between filler and matrix in dental composites. Fillermatrix debonding can also be caused by hydrolytic degradation of the fillers (71,72). Leaching of inorganic ions from the fillers may adversely affect the hydrolytic stability of the bonding between the polymer and filler by the organo-siloxane layer. As expected. the creep compliance increases with decreasing content of inorganic filler. revealing that the microfilled materials have the highest creep values (63,65).

**Creep results of dental composites indicate that creep properties are dependent on the volume fraction of inorganic particles, water uptake and the structure of the polymer matrix. The structure of the polymer matrix is dependent on the structure of the monomers and oligomers used** and their conversion after the polymerization reactions. **The**  conversion is also dependent on the **structure of** the monomers and **oligomers as well as**  on the method for **initiation of** polymerization.

**It is difficult to** predict **which mechanical properties** should be emphasized for **composite dental resins. A need for studies** correlating various **mechanical properties to clinical performance** is needed, **especially** the establishment of optimal requirements.

# 2.7 **Remarks**

**As pointed** out by **Dr. Leinfelder, there are no laboratory** methods **which reflect** the **wear stability** in vivo. Laboratory testing methods for this purpose should **include influences of environmental.** oxidative, dynamic, **mechanical and thermo-mechanical nature.** Due to the **diversity in composition,** and **therefore in** the properties of **dental composites, it is difficult to predict which factors are most important to determine** for these **types of materials. Presently no short-term tests, whether laboratory or clinical, are** suitable for **predicting the long-term** clinical **behavior of** dental composites. It is unlikely that a clinically relevant **laboratory test** may be found. Thus, **emphasis** must be **placed on clinical assessments to evaluate** wear, **especially methods for determining the interproximal** wear.

**A prediction of the long-term clinical behavior of non-microfill materials** based on **short-term clinical investigations with** indirect **evaluation may appear possible. It** has been indicated by Dr. Leinfelder that the **mechanism of wear for microfill materials. as well as**  for some selected composites. is different from the wear of nonmicrofill materials. i.e. a localized type of distraction occurs.

The quantitative difference in wear of occlusal contact areas and contact-free areas should also be considered when predicting the long-term clinical behavior of dental composites. There has been demonstrated a threefold difference in wear between the contact and noncontact areas (73).

Poor long-term durability of **dental** composite resins. especially the extensive degradation/wear due to occlusal and approximal attrition in class **II** restorations, has resulted in several changes to improve **the** properties of restorative composites. Several types of fillers, reduction in size of the fillers and higher filler loading have been introduced to improve **the** in vivo wear properties. The hydrolytic stability of the fillers. which is closely related to the hydrolytic-stability of the bond between matrix and fillers, must be considered.

Both clinical and laboratory studies indicate that **the** resistance to degradation of the organic matrix is of great importance **for the** stability of composite resin restorations. Poor conversion in dental composites leaves a large amount of reactive methacrylate groups in the polymerized restoration. **The** carbon-carbon double bonds of these pendant methacrylate groups (PMG) can make the polymer matrix susceptible to degradation reactions.

The need for short term tests which are predictable **for** long-term performance is present. However it seems that the type of **filler** will have a decisive effect on the prediction, and specific tests may therefore be needed for different types of composite dental resins. Several new di- and oligo- methacrylate systems have been introduced.

However, new resins systems should be developed with the aim of achieving better conversion. Also low polymerization contraction and good mechanical and biological properties must be considered. An important factor which also determines the degree of conversion is the initiating system. Good clinical results in posterior teeth have been obtained for UV-activated composites. UV-activation is more effective for radical formation than for chemical initiation. UV-activation also yields better optimal conversion than visible light activation. It is further observed that the conversion of visible light activated materials is dependent on the spectral distribution of the light source. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that the conversion, as well as the structure of the monomers/digomers and type and quantity of the filler particles determine mechanical properties, in casu creep, of the polymerized composite materials.
## **CHAPTER 3**

# MATERIALS **AND EXPERIMENTAL METHODS**

Polymers used for **restorative and** other **uses in** dentistry cover a **wide** spectrum of materials from **elastomeric** types on the one **hand (e.g., soft liners** and m**axillofacial materials) to rigid and** hard **materials on** the other (e.g., filled **resins and** denture **base resins). Because of a** wide **range of mechanical** behavior **involved, and** the close **relationship of this mechanical behavior to the viscoelastic properties centered around** one **or more glass transition phenomena,** dynamic **mechanical analysis (DMA) is a very valuable** method to characterize dental polymeric **systems. The** sensitivity of the DMA **(figure I) for** the **detection of** glass **transitions is well** known and **many investigators have used the technique to characterize viscoelastic properties of different dental polymers.** The **information provided in** DMA **tests such as storage modulus. loss modulus and tan delta**  have been used to study **heat cure** denture resins **in the past.** While the storage **modulus (E') represents the stiffness or rigidity of a material** by defining the stress **to strain** ratio during **elastic deformation (i.e., the** proportionality **constant between stress and strain), the**  loss **modulus is associated with** the energy absorbed by **the resin to increase its segmental**  molecular vibration **or translation of** chain **positions** during dynamic deformation. Such absorption **of** energy **for molecular segmental vibration or again translation** rather than **for elastic deformation results in** damping of the amplitude of specimen oscillation during **dynamic deformation. Tan delta, the ratio of loss modulus to storage modulus (i.e., E"/E') is also** used to define damping in the **system. Composites are subject to stress cycles**  during **mastication. The** composite resin should **be sufficiently stiff (i.e., possess** adequate

flexural modulus) without at the same time being too stiff which may make the denture brittle and cause its premature failure during mastication. There is also potential influence of transitions and damping effects on creep behavior of composites. For these reasons. flexural modulus and other dynamic mechanical properties of composite resins are of importance to ensure durability of restorations composites during their clinical service. DMA analysis provides valuable information not only on these properties, but also on the transitions and structural changes in the resin formulations, with differences in their compositions.

#### 3.1 Thermogravimertric Analysis

Thermogravimertric analysis (TGA figure 2) is one of the most widely used thermal analysis techniques. It specifically measures the weight changes (gain or losses) in the materials. Such analysis provides information about the material's thermal stability as well as the material's compositional makeup. TGA operates on a null-balance principle, using a highly sensitive transducer coupled to a taut-band suspension system to detect minute changes in the mass of a sample. An optically actuated servo loop maintains the balance arm in the horizontal reference (null) position by regulating the amount of the current flowing through the transducer coil. An infrared LED light source and a pair of photosensitive diodes detect movement of the beam. An optically actuated servo loop maintains the balance arm in the horizontal reference (null) position by regulating the amount of current flowing through the transducer coil. An infrared LED light source and a pair of photosensitive diodes detect movement of the beam. A flag at the top of the balance arm controls the amount of the light reaching each photosensor. When weight is

**lost or gained, the beam** becomes **unbalanced, causing the light to strike the photodiodes unequally.** The **unbalanced signal is fed** into the **control program, where it** is zeroed. **This changes** the **amount of the** current supplied to the meter movement, **causing the balance to rotate back to its null (zero)** position. the amount **of current is directly** proportional to **the change in** the **mass of** the sample.

# 3.2 **Thermo Mechanical Analysis**

Thermo **mechanical analysis (TMA figure 3) measures linear or volumetric** changes **in** the dimensions **of a sample as a** function **of time,** temperature and force **(thermal expansion).**  The **value of thermomechanical analysis stems from its ability to** measure **linear or volumetric changes in the samples as they are** subjected to heat and **mechanical** distortion. The heart of the TMA is a movable **-core linear variable** differential **transformer (LVDT) whose output** is **proportional to the linear variable displacement of the core caused by changes in** the **sample dimensions. Force is applied by an electromechanical coil, and the**  heat by a **precisely controlled low - mass furnace.** The sample **chamber.** located in **the core of** the **furnace, also has provision for** cooling **and atmosphere** control. .A **thermocouple adjacent to the sample assures accurate measurement of sample** temperature.

#### 3.3 Thermal Expansion

Thermal Expansion **is an important criteria to be tested** for **dental** composites. Clinical **significance of thermal expansion:** (a) As **the temperature fluctuates within the oral cavity,**  the **restorative expands** and **contracts at different rates. (b) Fluctuations as** a **result of expansion** and **contraction will** not only **break** bonds **between** the **restorative materials** and **tooth structure. but also result in penetration of oral fluids and debris into the margin.** 

**When a molecular model of a solid** isotropic **material is** considered. it is seen **that the molecules are held together in a regular array by forces** of electrical origin: i.e. **vander walls** forces. These forces are **weak when** compared to chemical bonds, but are strong enough to prevent dissociation of the molecules into a gaseous **state. At** any temperature thermal forces result in vibrating of the molecules. As the temperature increases more energy is pumped into the system, **the** amplitude of vibration increases and as a direct consequence **the average** distance between molecules increases. This leads to expansion of the body as a whole as the temperature is increased and the resultant change in any linear dimension of the solid such as length, width or thickness is called linear expansion. The amount of **linear** expansion of a material is found to be proportional to the original length of the material and the change in the temperature.

$$
\Delta L = \alpha L \Delta T
$$

Where

 $\Delta L$  = the change in length

 $\alpha$  = coefficient of linear expansion

 $L =$  original length

 $\Delta T$  = change in temperature

which may be **expressed** in terms of

$$
\alpha = \Delta L / L \Delta T
$$

The **volumetric coefficient** is roughly **three times the magnitude of linear coefficient**  over equivalent temperature ranges and both are usually **expressed in the unit ppm/**◦**c.**  Thermal Expansion can be measured by TMA.

**Three composite systems were evaluated in this investigation and are listed in table 1 with information on their manufacturer and primary composition in the formulation. The materials were selected from popular commercial brands to include two different types of**  filler **loading. The hybrid system i.e. pertac hybrid and conquest crystal** have filler particle size 2.5µm **maximum and** the minimum 0.1µm. It is a universal radiopaque hybrid **composite system. It contains bi-functional methacrylates.** The volume portion **of organic fillers is nearly about 75-80% . 28mm** x 10mm x 3mm **rectangular** bars **were fabricated from the different composites studied. All the** specimens were prepared in a **metal mold. The fabrication** procedures followed the manufacturer's recommendations. The **specimens were visible light cure.** the **specimens were cured** from **one side,** then turned over **and cured from the other side as well to ensure** adequate curing. The specimens were **cured for 40 seconds. Then** the **specimens** were kept into a **humidifier which was set to 37°C for** 24 **hours. Next day specimen was checked** for **viscoelastic properties.** 

The dynamic mechanical properties of the four **composites studied were** determined in a **TA Instruments DMA model 98.** The instrument **was interfaced to** a **computer** control **station Thermal Analyst 2000. Instrument control was carried out by the analyst system software. Dynamic mechanical analysis was carried out in fixed frequency flexural** mode (1 **Hz) with a pre-optimized oscillation** amplitude of 0.4mm. Temperature range studied varied **from** -50 to **180°c using a** liquid **nitrogen reservoir.** A sample **size of** N-7 **was used.**  TA instruments software DMA version 4.2 was **used for analysis, where appropriate.** 

**TMA analysis of** disc specimens (6mm dia x **3mm thick) was also carried** out in **the temperature range of 0 to 140°C in TA Instruments TMA** model to **study**  thermomechanical **behavior in selected** cases to better understand the DMA curves and

thermal expansion of composite at 37°C. Analysis was done with an expansion probe with no load to follow thermal expansion changes. In addition, TGA analysis was performed in the temperature range of 25 to 800°C and this was used to characterize weight change dependence on temperature and filler contents. TMA and TGA analysis were also conducted using Thermal Analyst 2000. TA Instruments TMA software version 4.0 and the general analysis utility version 4.0 were used for the TMA and TGA analysis. respectively, where appropriate.



Sample undergoing a flexural deformation.





## CHAPTER 4

# RESULTS

The results of the different investigated properties are listed in table 1. The four different composites are divided into two categories: Hybrid and Microfill composites. Examples of Hybrid composites are - Pertac Hybrid, conquest crystal and Prodigy. Visiofil is a microfill system. All four composites were analyzed using DMA, TMA, and TGA. Figures 4 to 7 show plots of DMA. Figures 8 to 11 show plots of TMA. And from figures 12 to 20 show TGA cures. Composites were analyzed in TGA using derivative curves also. From the table it has been observed that storage modulus is in the range of 2 to 9 Gpa. Loss modulus is in the range of 268 to 811 Mpa. and Tan Delta was in the range of 0.06 to 0.012. Thermal expansion coefficient from TMA was in the range of 46 to 77 µm/m°C. From the TGA curves for hybrid and microfill composites major breakdown temperature was observed in the range of 280 to 400°C.

#### 4.1 Discussion of Results

Composites have been available to the dental profession for many years. The results of this study reveal interesting differences between hybrid and microfill composites. The composites were analyzed for dynamic flexural behavior, thermal dimensional expansion including thermal expansion coefficient differences and thermal breakdown characteristics between the different composites studied.

DMA(model 983) was used to analyze viscoelastic properties of composites. Fix frequency mode was used from the table 1 and from fig. 4 to 7. we can observe that hybrid

composite has higher elastic modulus (E') than that of microfill composite. And again loss modulus is also higher in case of hybrid than that of microfill system. Higher loss modulus and higher storage modulus is due to higher filler content. Due to high storage modulus. hybrid composites are more rigid than that of microfill system. Damping characteristics observed as higher or lower delta peak also show interesting differences. Visio (microfill) composite has higher value than two other hybrid composites. Pertac and Conquest. Tan Delta is a ratio of loss modulus  $(E'')$  to storage modulus $(E')$ . It is a very useful parameter. because it expresses in a single number, the relative importance of viscous and elastic processes in a material. From the table we can see that at 37°C , microfill system has higher tan delta value than that of hybrid system. We can also observe that prodigy has higher tan delta value than conquest crystal and pertac hybrid. This can only be explained by, different particle sizes used by different manufactures (Kerr. Jeneric pentron, ESPE). Conquest crystal and pertac hybrid has tan delta values of 0.08 and 0.06 respectively. which are lower than the value of visiofill (0.13). Material with low tan delta is elastic, lively, bouncy, resilient, springy and often consider to be of high quality and applications requiring stable elastic behavior.

Temperatures corresponding to tan delta peaks were also evaluated for each composites. Microfill composites has lower tan delta peak temperature than that of hybrid composites. From the table 1 we can notice that viscofil has tan delta peak temperature of 58°C , but hybrid composites has tan delta peak temperature values in the range of 63 to 104°C , which is higher. Loss modulus peak (obtained at low frequencies) is often considered as a better glass transition temperature (Tg) than tan delta peak. But here in this study all the composites were analyzed at room temperature. so glass transition peak

at low frequency is not available. Tan delta also resembles glass transition temperature(Tg), but it always occurs at approximately 5 to 15°C higher. Higher temperature peak observed may result from two possible causes : 1) The higher degree of cross linking in composites. 2) And the presence of high filler content (about 65 to 80%). The above two factors also influences the dimensional and thermal expansion coefficient values observed in TMA analysis. because both filler concentration and cross linking would tend to lower the thermal expansion coefficient and overall dimensional changes. Visiofill shows a relatively higher (77  $\mu$ m/m<sup>o</sup>C) thermal expansion coefficient than all other hybrid composites (which is in the range of 46 to 72  $\mu$ m/m $\textdegree$ C). Tooth enamel has lower thermal expansion coefficient  $(14x10 - 6 \text{ m/m}^{\circ}\text{C})$ . From the table 1 we can observed that, prodigy, conquest crystal. and pertac hybrid has lower thermal expansion coefficient. Because of these thermal expansion matches with the tooth enamel thermal expansion. Thus there will be less microleakage. TMA curves (Figures 8 to 11 ) were also analyzed for dimensional change over a range of  $25^{\circ}$ C to  $60^{\circ}$ C. Hybrid composites has  $\%$ dimensional change in the range of 0.18 to 0.25 %, microfill composites has  $0.28\%$ dimensional change. This is because of hybrid composites has higher filler content than microfill composites. Therefore microfill has less dimensional stability than hybrid composites.

Furthermore, TGA curves were analyzed for filler contents and onset temperatures of breakdown. From TGA curves it has been observed that visiofill has approximately  $60\%$  filler content and pertac hybrid has filler content of about  $80\%$ . Furthermore, for TGA curves figures 12 to 15, it was noticed that visiofill and pertac hybrid shows two onset temperature breakdown, it is observed that only one set point is exists for conquest

crystal and prodigy. For pertac hybrid and visiofill initiation of onset breakdown temperature has higher temperature (around 430°C) than that of prodigy and conquest crystal (360 and  $311^{\circ}$ C respectively). From derivative curves (figure 16 to figure 19) it was noticed that visiofill and pertac hybrid has three temperature breakdown regions. One at lower temperature ( 180°C for visiofill and 200°C for pertac hybrid), which could be because of presence of plasticezers and major temperature breakdown at around 400°C for both pertac hybrid and visiofill. This can only be explained by the similarity of resin used by manufacturer (ESPE) in formulating visiofil and pertac hybrid composites. The basic resin used in both the composite is same (Bis (meta) acylates). The high temperature breakdown was observed at around 400°C. The appearance of two decomposition peaks at the higher temperatures may indicate heterogeneity involving two phases or domains of composition or cross linking difference. The other two composites has only. one major breakdown, for prodigy at 311°C and 360°C for conquest crystal.



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## CHAPTER 5

# **CONCLUSION**

Different restorations using composites require different properties. Class I and class II restorations (i.e., those on the occlusal or chewing surfaces) require higher rigidity and higher wear resistance. Hybrid composites are ideal for such use. On the other hand, class V restorations on the proximal surfaces of tooth are not subject to wear by chewing. However, they are subjected to flexural fatigue. These restorations should flex with tooth function to avoid brittle failure. Microfill composites are ideal for these purpose as it has lower modulus of elasticity. Microfill composites are having very fine filler size  $(0.4 \mu m)$ . Thus they gives high palatability. Hybrid composite has higher filler content than microfill composites. Therefore, storage modulus and loss modulus are higher for hybrid composites than microfill composites. Tan delta is higher for microfill than hybrid composites. Furthermore, thermal expansion coefficient at 37 °C (mouth temperature) for microfill is higher than hybrid composites.

Thus hybrid composites are ideal for Class I and class II restorations and Microfill composites are ideal for class V restorations on the proximal surfaces of tooth.

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