



## Fracture Resistance of Endodontically Treated Mandibular Premolars Obturated with Different Sealers an *In-Vitro* Study

Salma Abdo<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dental Department, Mediclinic Hospitals Middle East, Abu Dhabi, UAE

<sup>2</sup>Department of Dentistry, AlFarabi University College, Baghdad, Iraq

\*Corresponding Author: Salma Abdo, Dental Department, Mediclinic Hospitals Middle East, Abu Dhabi, UAE and AlFarabi University College, Baghdad, Iraq.

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** This study was design to compare the *in vitro* effects of different root canal sealers on the fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth.

**Materials and Methods:** One hundred and fifty extracted human mandibular single rooted premolars were selected. A total of 125 out of the selected teeth were prepared usig twisted adaptive file. Twenty five samples had no treatment and were used as a positive control group (Group +ve). The 125 test teeth were further divided into 5 groups of 25 samples each. One of the 5 groups was designated as negative control (Group -ve) where teeth were prepared and left without obturation. Remaining groups were filled with totalfill point-TotalFill BC (Group 1), gutta-percha-AH plus (Group 2), gutta-percha- Apexit (Group 3), gutta perch- Tubliseal (Group 4). Fracture resistance of all samples was measured using the Instron testing machine.

**Results:** The results showed that the highest fracture resistance was observed in positive control group (Group +ve), followed by Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 with values (in N) of 1279.3 (205.4), 958.1 (79.2), 888 (76.7), 736.1(66.5), 719.8 (56.8), respectively. The lowest fracture resistance force was seen in (Group -ve), which was measured at 493.5 (103.5). Statistical analysis for root fracture resistance showed highly significant difference between all groups with p value < 001.

**Conclusions:** Based on this *in vitro* study, TotalFill bioceramic based sealer with totalfill points enhanced the fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth when compared with other sealers.

**Keywords:** Fracture Resistance; Bioceramic; AHplus; Apexit; Tubliseal

### Introduction

The main reason of the reduction of fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth is the massive loss of coronal tooth structure [1], which was caused by caries, fractures, and access preparations [2].

Endodontically treated teeth need to be obturated in a manner that would reinforce the remaining root canal system and provide a tight seal. This certainly depends on the properties of the sealer and filling materials [3]. Various root canal sealers have developed

in the market to facilitate adhesion to root canal system, as adhesion and mechanical interlocking may reinforce the remaining root structure and reduce root fracture [3]. Zinc oxide-eugenol (ZOE) sealer (Kerr sealer-Rickert, California, USA) has been used successfully over an extended period of time, because it has antimicrobial activity, however, shrinkage on setting, solubility, and discoloration of the tooth structure are its main drawback [4,5].

Calcium hydroxide  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  sealers Apexit Plus (Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein) have a good antimicrobial activity. It

could form a calcific barrier at the apical foramen by the release of calcium hydroxide. However this process eliminate its efficacy as a sealer [6,7].

Epoxy resin-based sealer AH Plus (Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany) is characterized by very good mechanical properties, high radioopacity, low polymerization shrinkage and solubility. Resin-based root canal sealers have the ability to provide a tight seal between the root canal filling material and intraradicular dentin by penetrating into dentinal tubule [8,9].

A new group of root canal sealers based on mineral trioxide aggregate (Bioceramic) (MTA) (Totalfill BC sealer) have been recently developed. These sealers are based on tricalcium silicate, a hydrophilic sealer. They are bioactivity, biocompatibility, antibacterial, and have excellent physico-chemical properties [10,11]. They have the ability to expand slightly rather than shrink during setting and create a tight seal between the dentin and filling material. Totalfill BC sealer releases free calcium ions ( $Ca_2^+$ ) and stimulate tissue regeneration which enhance healing process [12].

TotalFill BC Points are coated with bioceramic nanoparticles. This combination between the TotalFill BC Sealer and TotalFill BC Points create a strong bond and adhesion, which eliminate any gaps may present between a cement and a standard Gutta Percha point.

Therefore, the aim of this *in vitro* study was to investigate the fracture resistance root canals obturated with different types of sealers.

## Materials and Methods

### Selection of teeth

150 single-rooted mandibular premolar teeth were extracted for orthodontic purpose from patient age ranged from 15 to 25 years. These extracted teeth were examined under digital stereomicroscope (Motic Digital Microscope, Micro-Optic Industrial Group Co. LTD, France) to rule out any pre-existing root fractures. The premolars sectioned at the cemento-enamel junction using a diamond disc at a high-speed handpiece under continuous water spray coolant, to remove the crown. All the root samples had the same curvature between 0°-5° (using Schneider technique) with apical foramen equals to K-file size 15/.02. Then the samples were randomly divided into 6 groups of 25 roots and kept in separate plastic container.

### Sample preparation

Working length of all root canals was established using a size 15 K Flex file (Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties, Tulsa, OK, USA). File was placed and advanced into the root canal until its tip was visualized at the apical foramen. The working length was set at 1 mm shorter of the apical foramen. In Group 6 positive control group n =25, the root canals were cleaned from pulpal residuals and sealed the orifice with temporary filling (cavit). While the other five root canal groups were instrumented with Twisted File Adaptive (TFA; SybronEndo, Orange, CA, USA) up to a size 35 taper 0.04 master apical file following manufacturer's instructions. During preparation and between each TFA file, the canals were irrigated with 1 mL of 5.25% Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCL). After instrumentation, the canals were rinsed initially with 5 mL of 17% ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (EDTA) to remove the smear layer and followed by 2 mL of saline. The canals were dried using paper points. Then the root canal samples were randomly divided into five experimental groups of 25 roots each. Group 5 negative control was prepared and the orifice of the canal was closed with cav. While the other four groups were divided according to the root canal sealer used and obturated with 35/.04 Gutta-percha points using lateral compaction technique.

- **Group 1:** Totalfill BC root canal sealer (FKG Dentaire, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland) and Totalfill points (FKG Dentaire, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland).
- **Group 2:** AH Plus (Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany) root canal sealer and Gutta-percha points
- **Group 3:** Apexit Plus (Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein) root canal sealer and Gutta-percha points.
- **Group 4:** Tubli-Seal (Kerr Italia S.p.A., Salerno, Italy) root canal sealer and Gutta-percha points.
- **Group 5:** (negative Control); prepared roots unobturated.
- **Group 6:** (positive control): cleaned roots unprepared and unobturated.

All the roots were mounted in self-cured acrylic resin (Sofa Dental, Kerr Company, Germany) blocks exposing 4 mm of the coronal portion (Figure 1). The acrylic blocks were placed on the lower plate of the universal testing machine (Instron 5982, UK). The upper plate was fitted with 3mm diameter steel spherical. The steel spherical tip was lowered to engage the entire coronal surface of the roots and subjected to a gradually increasing force (1 mm/

min), and directed parallel to the long axis of the roots (Figure 2). The force level at which the fracture occurred was measured and recorded in Newton (Figure 3).



Figure 1: The acrylic resin block.



Figure 3: Fracture of the root.



Figure 2: Instron universal testing machine.

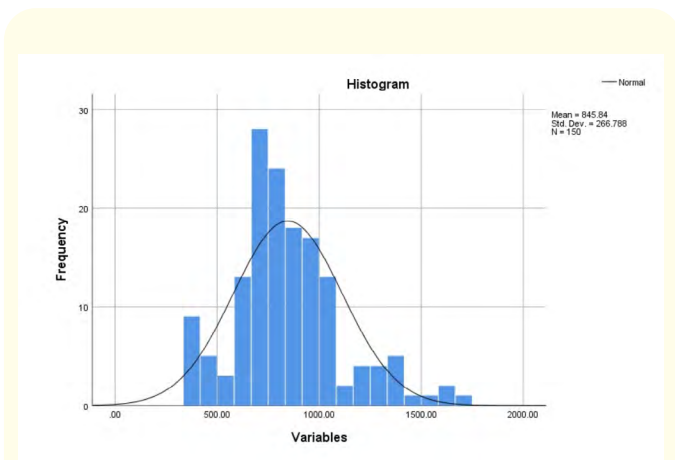
### Results

SPSS V.25 (IBM, New York, USA) was used to perform the analysis. Descriptive analysis was shown that the highest mean of fracture resistance with values (in N) was observed in Group 6 (positive control) 1279.3 (205.4), followed by Group 1 (Totalfill BC) 958.1 (79.2), Group 2 (AH plus) 888 (76.7), Group 3 (Apexit Plus) 736.1(66.5), Group 4 (Tubliseal) 719.8 (56.8). While Group 5 (negative control) shows the lowest mean value 493.5 (103.5).

The ANOVA test (Table 2) showed a significant difference among groups by setting a level of significance at  $P \leq 0.001$ . Post hoc Tukey’s test was done for multiple comparisons showing difference between each pair of the groups (Table 3). It was seen that Group (1) showed statistically nonsignificant difference when compared with Group (2), however Group (1) has statistically significant difference with the other groups. There was no statistically significant difference between Group (3) and Group (4). The negative control group showed a significant difference with all other groups ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). At the same time there is statistically significant difference between positive control group and the other groups ( $p \leq 0.001$ ).

**Statistical analysis results**

Descriptive analysis (means and Standard deviations) and normality results of all groups are shown in table 1 and figure 4.



**Figure 4:** Normal distribution of all groups.

Groups	Mean/SD
All groups	845.84 ± 266.78
TotalFill BC Sealer	958.16 ± 79.20
AH+Sealer	888 ± .76.78
Apexit Sealer	736.16 ± 66.56
Tubliseal Sealer	719.84 ± 56.85
positive group	1279.32 ± 205.47
negative group	493.52 ± 103.58

**Table 1:** Mean/SD of all groups.

One way ANOVA was used to determine the difference between groups and the result was; There is significant difference between groups  $P \leq 0.001$  (Table 2).

ANOVA					
Variables					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	8858415.440	5	1771683.088	146.053	.000
Within Groups	1746774.720	144	12130.380		
Total	10605190.160	149			

**Table 2:** The statistical difference between groups (one way ANOVA).

Groups	Groups	P Value	Significance
Totalfill BC Sealer	AH+Sealar	.412	Not significant
Totalfill BC Sealer	Apexit+ Sealer	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Totalfill BC Sealer	Tubiseal Seale	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Totalfill BC Sealer	Positive	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Totalfill BC Sealer	Negative	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
AH+Sealer	Apexit + Sealer	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
AH+Sealer	Tubiseal Sealer	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
AH+Sealer	Positive	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
AH+Sealer	Negative	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Apexit + Sealer	Tubiseal Sealer	.998	Not significant
Apexit+ Sealer	Positive	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Apexit+ Sealer	Negative	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Tubiseal Sealer	Positive	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Tubiseal Sealer	Negative	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant
Positive	Negative	$P \leq 0.001$	Significant

**Table 3:** Multiple Comparisons, Post Hoc, showing difference between each pair of the groups.

**Discussion**

The prime objective of root canal sealer are to lubricate, obliterate discrepancies such as lateral canals and grooves that cannot be filled with Gutta-percha and facilitate adhesiveness to enhance the seal and stability of the root canal filling [13-16].

A golden requisite for a sealer to be ideal is to reinforce the remaining root structure by having a high fracture resistance and adhesiveness in conjunction with the obturating material. Therefore, in this study the universal testing machine was used to measure the fracture resistance of the several root canal sealers. The result of this study showed that root obturated with group 1 (Totalfill BC) sealer had higher resistance ( $P < 0.001$ ) to fracture when compared to groups 3 (Apexit Plus) sealer and group 4 (Tubliseal) sealer. Although group 1 (Totalfill BC) sealer has higher fracture resistance than group 2 epoxy resin (AH plus) sealer but there were statisti-

cally non-significant difference which agreed with Yendrembam, *et al.* study [17].

This result in agreed with the previous study of Nagas, *et al.* [18], where they found that MTA-Fillapex, iRoot SP had the highest adhesion and can't be detached from the root dentin when compared with AH Plus. They concluded that wet canal increase the bond strength and adhesion of bioceramic sealer to radicular dentin.

Bioceramic-based sealers created a strong bonds between the dentin and core filling materials [19] which is comparable to that of AH Plus and better than either Sealapex or EndoREZ sealers [20]. A study found that the presence of smear layer has no significant difference on dislocation resistance of Bioceramic sealer and AH Plus sealer [21].

During setting, bioceramic sealer forms apatite as a result of releasing calcium and hydroxyl ions. This apatite is deposited along collagen fibrils and increases the formation of inorganic nucleation. This creates formation of interfacial layer with tag-like features in dentine. The chemical bond thus formed may strengthen the tooth obturated with bioceramic sealer.

It was suggested that the particle size could improve the bonding by increasing the micromechanical retention of the sealer [22].

In the current study epoxy resin (AH Plus) sealer indicated higher with significant difference in fracture values than those Ca (OH)<sub>2</sub> Apexit plus group sealer and ZOE Tubliseal group.

AH Plus has the ability to form covalent bond between the resin and amino groups in the collagen. AH Plus has a creeping and viscosity properties, as a result it can penetrate into dentinal tubule, increase the flowability and the mechanical interlocking between the sealer and root dentin [23,24].

In this study ZOE (Tubliseal) group showed lower fracture resistance values as compared to Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> (Apexit plus) group with statistically insignificant. The difference because Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> has less micro-leakage value than ZOE [25]. In addition, initial release of hydroxyl ions from Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> might induce a biological formation of hard tissue apically, which minimize long-term dissolution [26].

In the current study ZOE (tubiseal) group demonstrated the lowest fracture resistance among the four sealers studied. These

results are in agreement with the studies of McComb and Smith, who concluded that ZOE sealer showed no adhesive properties [27].

In addition, it was observed that sound roots has the highest statistically significant difference to fracture resistance among the groups, followed by TotalFill BC Sealer. This is because Totalfill BC sealer has a special Totalfill BC obturating points which are coated and impregnated with bioceramic nanoparticles. The combination use of the sealer and TotalFill BC Points obtains homogenous adhesion and bond to dentine, thereby this might increase the fracture resistance propriety. This findings agrees with Mohammed and Al Zaka [28] and disagreed with Phukan, *et al.* [29].

## Conclusion

- Roots obturated with TotalFill BC Sealer and TotalFill points showed the highest loading force value to fracture amongst the sealer groups followed by AH plus.
- It can be concluded that TotalFill BC sealer may strengthen the root canal treated tooth.
- This high fracture resistance of TotalFill BC sealer might be due to the special Totalfill point, which made a good adhesion
- Further studies are required to clarify and to compare the fracture resistance outcomes associated with the use of other bioceramic sealers.

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## Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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