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RESEARCH ARTICLE

COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF SHEAR BOND STRENGTH OF BRACKETS BONDED WITH SELF-PRIMING, COLOUR CHANGING, AND A CONVENTIONAL ORTHODONTIC ADHESIVE – AN IN VITRO STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Background: Enhanced durability and bond strength between the bonding material and the enamel is essential for the clinical success of the orthodontic treatment. Bonding failures are inconvenient, delays treatment, costly and might compromise the outcome of the treatment. Hence this study was undertaken to evaluate and compare the shear bond strength of orthodontic brackets bonded with 3 different composites viz the Transbond-XT, Ormco Grelgloo, and EZ-Bond.

Methods: 36 freshly extracted maxillary premolars was collected and stored. Then specimen was randomly divided into the following groups and bonded accordingly with the adhesives planned for the study.

1GROUP 1- Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer

2GROUP 2- Grelgloo with Ortho solo primer

3GROUP 3- EZ bond adhesive

Appropriately bonded samples were taken for shear bond test done using an Instron testing machine.

Results: The mean SBS of Grelgloo with Orthosolo primer, Transbond XT and EZ bond were 14.28 MPa, 13.99 MPa and 12.01 MPa respectively. There were no significant differences found in shear bond strength between Grelgloo and Transbond XT but significant differences found in shear bond strength between Transbond XT and EZ bond adhesive as well as Grelgloo and EZ bond adhesive.

Conclusion: Metal brackets bonded with color changing adhesive Grelgloo have shown superior shear bond strength. The color changing adhesives offer a viable alternative in cases demanding robust bond strength. Each presents unique advantages allowing the clinicians to select based on their preferences and specific requirements

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INTRODUCTION

Increasing knowledge related to bonding of adhesives to enamel surface in dentistry has caused developments in orthodontics as in other fields. With the advancement of new materials science of orthodontics is rapidly evolving with its research for improvements in its techniques and materials that benefit both the patients as well as the clinicians.

Before 1970s, orthodontic brackets were attached to teeth by stainless steel bands. This technique was painful and time-consuming. In addition, it could harm and damage the periodontal, dental tissue and oral hygiene. The enamel beneath the bands was more caries prone during the period of orthodontic treatment. Later, in 1970s, bonding gained popularity and it became possible to directly bond orthodontic brackets to an etched tooth surface with resinous adhesives.

A review of the long history of orthodontic bonding shows that many evolutionary developments have occurred since the first chemically-cured composite resins to the most recently introduced light-cured color-change adhesives (CCAs). There is still a demand for adhesives that have excellent physical qualities, minimal polymerization shrinkage, and ease of bonding attributes. The introduction of new materials that can help clinicians to achieve better results has always been intriguing. Color-changing adhesives are such an addition to orthodontic bonding which is very promising, and evaluation of their bond strength is required to gain knowledge of their clinical success. To directly attach orthodontic brackets with resin adhesive, Newman¹ modified the acid-etch process of Buonocore² in 1965 for orthodontics. When compared to the previous method of banding, this direct bonding procedure is better for the patient and the practitioner.

While chemically-cured composite resins have some shortcomings, such as incorporation of air bubbles during mixing and limitation in controlling the curing time accurately,^{3,4} light-cured composite resins provide controlled polymerization time, more accurate bracket placement, and easier removal of excess adhesive prior to curing.^{3,5} Another drawback of conventional composites is their poor color contrast with enamel, often resulting in the accumulation of resin remnants on the enamel surface after bracket debonding and polishing. Optimal color and shade match of adhesive and teeth makes it difficult to identify the adhesive-tooth interface and complete removal of adhesive remnants may not be easily achieved. An ideal bonding material should have optimal bond strength and minimal enamel loss after debonding.⁶ Shear bond strength (SBS) is the key factor, which has to be considered in the evolution of bonding materials. The bond strength of the orthodontic brackets must be able to withstand not only the forces applied during the orthodontic treatment but the masticatory forces as well. According to Reynolds 5.9-7.8 MPa is considered adequate strength that is clinically acceptable for performing orthodontics treatment.⁷ The maximum bond strength should be less than the cohesive strength of enamel, which is approximately 14 MPa, to reduce the extent of enamel loss on debonding.⁸ The color-changing characteristic of color-change light-cured composites enhances their complete removal after bracket debonding and facilitates easy removal of excess resin after bracket bonding, which is an added advantage.^{9,10,11}

Grengloo is a color-changing adhesive, which is green in color at temperatures lower than the body temperature. This facilitates easy removal of excess composite during bracket bonding. At body temperature, the green color vanishes and the composite becomes transparent during the treatment period. After bracket debonding, mild air spray or cold water composite changes in color to green again. This enhances adhesive remnant removal.¹² EZ Bond is a newly launched single-component light-cure paste system specifically designed for bonding metal and ceramic orthodontic brackets to enamel. It is formulated by a unique chemistry that ensures better adhesion to the tooth surface. It has an excellent workable consistency which gives a hassle-free practice. Since it does not require a separate priming step, it reduces chair-side time for operators. It includes a fluorescent tracer to aid in the removal of excess adhesive material. It is hydrophobic and must be used on teeth that are completely

dry, without any contamination from saliva or oil, as these can interfere with its adhesion to the enamel.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

SAMPLE SIZE: Sample size calculated using data obtained from the previous study conducted by S Sharma et al¹³. The calculated effect size is 0.73 with an alpha error probably of 0.05 and power of 0.80. The sample size was calculated using G*Power 3.1.9.4. So, the calculated total sample size is 36.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Maxillary premolars
- Non-carious
- Intact tooth surfaces
- No visible fracture lines on the enamel surface,
- No pre-treatment with chemical agents (eg: hydrogen peroxide)

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Extracted premolars with visible distortion
- Fillings
- hypoplastic lesions including Fluorosis,
- with history of orthodontic bonding

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

36 samples were divided into three groups such that there are twelve samples in each group. The samples were grouped based on the type of adhesives used; Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer, Grengloo with Ortho Solo primer and EZ bond adhesive

Classification of samples into three groups

Sl No.	Adhesive material	Total number of samples	Color
GROUP 1	Transbond XT (with Transbond XT primer)	12	red
GROUP 2	Grengloo (with Ortho Solo primer)	12	blue
GROUP 3	EZ bond	12	white

BONDING PROCEDURE

Prophylaxis: Each tooth's buccal surface was cleaned and polished with, oil-free pumice paste applied with a rubber cup on a slow speed handpiece for 10 seconds, rinsed with water and dried with an oil and moisture free airstream for 20 seconds

Etching: The enamel surface on the buccal aspect of teeth was etched using 37 percent ortho phosphoric acid (Scotchbond – 3M ESPE) for 30 seconds, rinsed with water for 20 seconds and completely air dried for 30 seconds with compressed air.

Priming: A thin, uniform film of Transbond XT primer was applied to GROUP 1 and Ortho Solo primer was applied to GROUP 2.

Applying bonding adhesive:

GROUP 1: Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer was placed onto the metallic bracket base.

GROUP 2: Grengloo with Ortho Solo primer was placed onto the metallic bracket base.

Group 3: EZ bond adhesive was placed onto the metallic bracket base. And the bracket was firmly pressed on to the prepared enamel; the excess adhesive was then removed with an explorer.

Curing: Brackets were light cured for 10 seconds on occlusally and gingivally for a total of 20 seconds per tooth using (3M™ Elipar™ DeepCure-L LED Curing Light(3M ESPE St. Paul,MN, USA) Intensity-1470mW/cm²). The teeth were then stored for 24 hours in distilled water at 37°C before debonding

SHEAR BOND TESTING PROCEDURE

The 20 samples from each group were tested for shear bond strength using Instron machine (AG-X plus,10kN, Shimadzu) series from Department of Mechanical Engineering, centre of biomechanics for strength measurements (NIT calicut). Embedded specimens are secured in a jig to the base plate of an Instron testing machine. The crosshead speed is set to 1mm/min and the maximum load necessary to debond by pushing method is recorded. The shear bond strength tests are measured using an Instron machine and the force values (in Newton) required to debond each bracket is registered. The force values (in Newton) recorded at the point of failure was converted to shear stress by dividing by the bracket surface area (mm²) and was reported in megapascals (N/ mm²) for all 36 samples.

RESULTS

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: Data was analyzed using the statistical package SPSS 26.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) and level of significance was set at p<0.05. Descriptive statistics was performed to assess the mean and standard deviation of the respective groups. Normality of the data was assessed using Shapiro Wilkinon test.

Table 1. Shear bond strength

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	Grengloo with orthosolo primer	EZ bond adhesive
15.39	16.02	11.31
14.34	16.2	11.83
14.05	12.28	12.4
13.74	14.15	11
15.69	13.21	12.85
13.07	13.68	11.7
13.61	14.34	11.5
14.12	13.44	11.49
12.85	13.79	13.1
14.68	14.9	12.22
14.09	14.76	12.95
12.35	14.62	11.88

Inferential statistics to find out the difference within the group was done using ONE WAY ANOVA (3 groups) followed by BONFERRONI POSTHOC TEST. CHI SQUARE test will be used for analysis the difference in proportion. Shapiro wilkinon test for normality did not report significant difference (p>0.05). Hence Parametric tests are used for the analysis.

Regarding 'SHEAR BOND STRENGTH', Between group analysis by ONE WAY ANOVA reported significant difference (P<0.05). POSTHOC Bonferroni test reported statistically significant difference BETWEEN the pair group comparisons(P<0.05) as given below. Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer vs EZ bond adhesive (P<0.05). Grengloo with orthosolo primer vs EZ bond adhesive (P<0.05). POSTHOC Bonferroni test did not report statistically significant difference BETWEEN the pair group comparisons(P>0.05) as given below. Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer vs Grengloo with orthosolo primer (P>0.05)

DISCUSSION

Since the introduction of direct bonding to the enamel, significant advances have been made and different light-cured composites and several generations of bonding systems were introduced to the market.¹⁴ Today, there are various orthodontic bonding materials available like self-cure adhesives, light cure, bonding material with primers, self-etch primers, color change adhesive, etc. These materials are introduced to clinical use after certain quality tests; one of the important tests is shear bond strength to dental enamel. Bond strength of orthodontic adhesives has been the subject of study for many researchers since a long time. Clinical bonding has been demonstrated to be effective for orthodontic operations when shear bond strengths range from 5.9 to 7.8 MPa.⁷ In order to prevent bracket failure during treatment, the adhesive's shear bond strength must be high enough to prevent bracket failure during treatment and low enough to prevent enamel damage during debonding. Color-changing adhesives are an innovative modality for bracket bonding. They were introduced to the market to enhance facilitate effortless removal of remnant adhesive after bracket debonding because of its color contrast.^{9,10,15}

More adhesive material attached to the base of the bracket while debonding, less time required for residual adhesive removal. However, bracket-adhesive interface can be considered, most favorable failure site for safe debonding, leaving most of the adhesive on the enamel surface, since there is less chance of enamel fracture.¹⁶ In orthodontic procedures, the debonding of brackets either by accident or by an orthodontist is a frequent event. The adhesion between orthodontic composite resins and the tooth enamel should be temporary, but it should last enough to withstand masticatory and orthodontic forces at the same time. Iatrogenic damage to enamel on debonding is inevitable, in scenarios where the tensile bond strength was above 14.5 MPa on debonding, enamel damage was reported. When selecting an adhesive for an orthodontic procedure, shear bond strength, the location of bond failure, the amount of enamel loss, cost, and chair time must all be considered. Products have been marketed to improve bond strength, decrease chair time, and reduce unwanted effects to the enamel surface. Orthodontic bonding adhesives with color change capability have been developed to facilitate the removal of excess adhesive during bracket placement and identify remaining adhesive after bracket removal. In the present study the properties of one color-changing adhesive- Grengloo and self-priming adhesive EZ bond were compared with conventional light-cured orthodontic bonding adhesive- Transbond XT. Bond strength and debonding nature of Transbond XT have been

Table 2. Descriptive Details of The Groups (Shear Bond Strength)

Descriptives								
SHEAR BOND STRENGTH								
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	12	13.998	.97797	.2823	13.3770	14.6197	12.35	15.69
Grengloo with orthosolo primer	12	14.282	1.12474	.3246	13.5679	14.9971	12.28	16.20
EZ bond adhesive	12	12.019	.68480	.1976	11.5841	12.4543	11.00	13.10
Total	36	13.433	1.37401	.2290	12.9684	13.8982	11.00	16.20

Table 3. Descriptive details of the groups (shear bond strength)

		Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	Grengloo with orthosolo primer	EZ bond adhesive
Mean		13.9983	14.2825	12.0192
95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	13.3770	13.5679	11.5841
	Upper Bound	14.6197	14.9971	12.4543
5% Trimmed Mean		13.9959	14.2872	12.0157
Median		14.0700	14.2450	11.8550
Variance		.956	1.265	.469
Std. Deviation		.97797	1.12474	.68480
Minimum		12.35	12.28	11.00
Maximum		15.69	16.20	13.10
Range		3.34	3.92	2.10
Interquartile Range		1.39	1.37	1.25
Skewness		.120	.190	.326
Kurtosis		-.233	-.002	-1.089

Table 4. Normality testing

	Tests of Normality					
	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	.117	12	.200*	.975	12	.957
Grengloo with orthosolo primer	.125	12	.200*	.972	12	.927
EZ bond adhesive	.164	12	.200*	.944	12	.550

*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.
a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Table 5. Comparison Of Shear Bond Strength Using One Way Anova

ANOVA					
SHEAR BOND STRENGTH					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	36.482	2	18.241	20.340	0.0001*
Within Groups	29.595	33	.897		
Total	66.077	35			

*P<0.05 is statistically significant (Shapiro Wilk test, p>0.05); Shapiro wilkinson test for normality did not report significant difference (p>0.05), Hence Parametric tests are used for the analysis. Regarding 'SHEAR BOND STRENGTH', Between group analysis by ONE WAY ANOVA reported significant difference (P<0.05).

Table 6. Post hoc test for multiple comparison

Multiple Comparisons						
Dependent Variable: SHEAR BOND STRENGTH						
Bonferroni						
(I)	(J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	Grengloo with orthosolo primer	-.28417	.38661	1.000	-1.2593	.6909
	EZ bond adhesive	1.97917*	.38661	.0001*	1.0041	2.9543
Grengloo with orthosolo primer	Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	.28417	.38661	1.000	-.6909	1.2593
	EZ bond adhesive	2.26333*	.38661	.0001*	1.2882	3.2384
EZ bond adhesive	Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer	-1.97917*	.38661	.0001*	-2.9543	-1.0041
	Grengloo with orthosolo primer	-2.26333*	.38661	.0001*	-3.2384	-1.2882

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

POSTHOC Bonferroni test reported statistically significant difference BETWEEN the pair group comparisons(P<0.05) as given below
Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer vs EZ bond adhesive (P<0.05)

Grengloo with orthosolo primer vs EZ bond adhesive (P<0.05)

POSTHOC Bonferroni test did not report statistically significant difference BETWEEN the pair group comparisons(P>0.05) as given below
Transbond XT with Transbond XT primer vs Grengloo with orthosolo primer (P>0.05)



1. Transbond XT light cure adhesive
2. Grelgloo color change adhesive
3. EZ bond adhesive paste

Figure 1. Adhesives



Figure 2. Armamentarium used Pumice prophylactic paste, rubber cup, micromotor, bracket holder, explorer, applicator brush

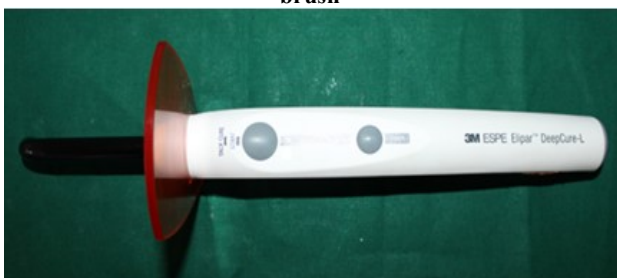


Figure 3. 3m Elipardee cure L-LED curing light

extensively investigated and reported to have optimum bond strength with wide clinical acceptance. Saleh et al¹⁷ conducted an invitro study in which the mean shear bond strength of metal bracket bonded with Transbond XT adhesive was 18.6MPa and similar results were obtained for Sinha et al¹⁸ 18.9 MPa. Arnold et al¹⁹ study, which showed Transbond XT's mean shear bond strength to be 9.7 MPa. Grelgloo is a two-way color change adhesive which polymerizes faster than other light-cured orthodontic bonding adhesives providing a higher percent of total bond strength at initial force loading.

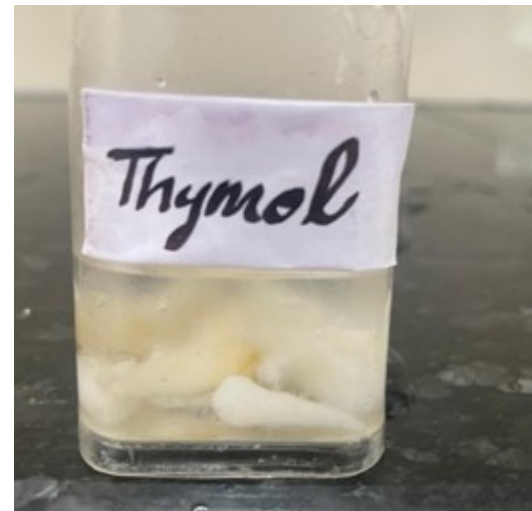


Figure 4. Teeth sample stored in Thymol



Figure 5. Prophylaxis with rubber cup and pumice



Figure 6. Etching

It is also designed with patented ingredient which increases impact resistance by 118 percent and has a chemical affinity for metal brackets which can ensure reliable bond strength.

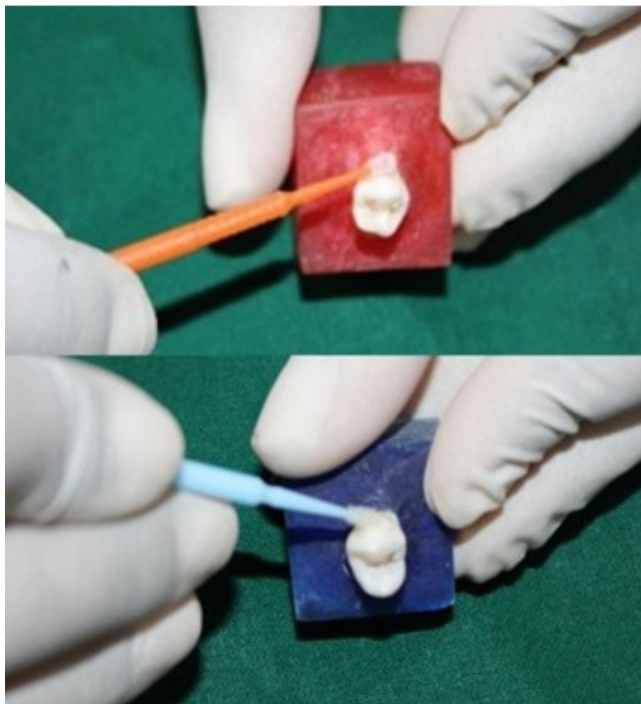


Figure 7. Primer application

1. Transbond XT primer application
2. Orthosolo primer application



Figure 8. Adding Adhesives

1. Adding Transbond XT adhesive
2. Adding Grelgloo adhesive
3. Adding EZ bond adhesive

The green color contrast at lower temperatures during bonding facilitates accurate bracket placement and easy removal of excess adhesive.¹² EZ bond is a self-priming orthodontic bonding adhesive which ensures a better adhesion to the tooth surface. It has an excellent workable consistency which gives a placid practice. It does not require primer after etching. This technology helps dental professional to etch and do the bonding straightway.



Figure 9. Stainless steel brackets

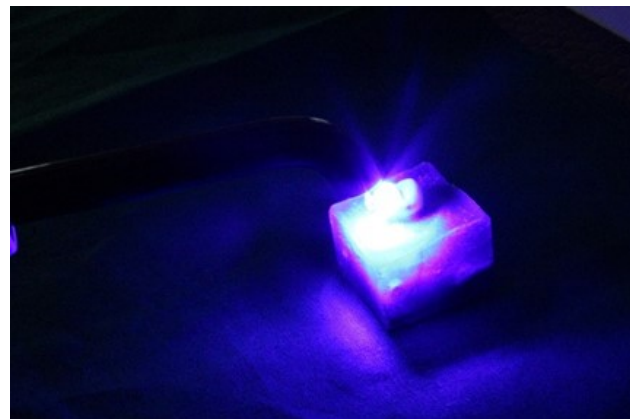


Figure 10. light curing

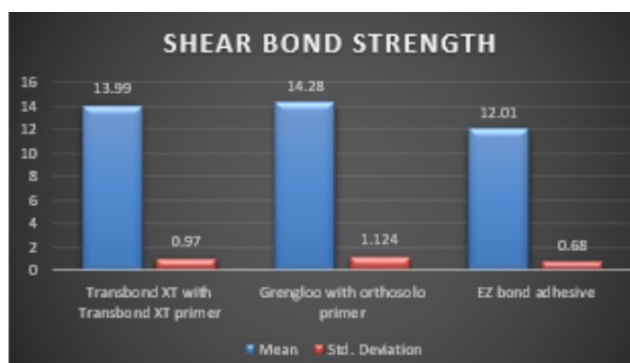


Figure 11. Bonded samples

It saves a lot time. It comes with a fluorescent tracer and helps to remove the excess adhesive material. In the present study the mean SBS of Transbond XT with conventional primer and that of Grelgloo with Orthosolo primer was 13.99 MPa and 14.28 MPa respectively. GROUP 2 had a higher shear bond strength compared to GROUP 1 which is comparable with the results of Delavarian et al,¹⁶ reported 22.95±5.20 MPa as mean shear bond strength of Grelgloo when compared to Transbond XT which had a mean shear



Figure 12. Instron universal testing machine



bond strength of 13.71 ± 3.57 MPa. Bayani et al²⁰ reported that Grelgloo provided an SBS higher as 31.25 ± 2.4 MPa and 27.55 ± 3.4 MPa after 40s and 20s of curing respectively which is in correlation with our study. The mean Shear bond strength of Grelgloo (GROUP 2) and EZ bond (Group 3) according to the current study were 14.28 MPa and 12.01 MPa respectively which was statistically significant. GROUP 2 had higher SBS compared to Group 3. The relatively higher bond strengths of Grelgloo may be due to the sealant, Ortho Solo, used in the groups. Ortho Solo is a fluoride-releasing universal sealant and it enhances the bonding ability. It comprises dimethacrylate resins, barium glass, fumed silica, sodium hexafluorosilicate, and ethanol. According to the manufacturers, Ortho Solo has a bond-enhancing property that improves adhesion to the tooth at the adhesive interface, which helps in markedly reducing bond failure rates. Ekhlassi et al¹⁰ reported the shear bond strength of Grelgloo to be 11.3 ± 2.8 MPa at 24 hours after bonding, which was lower than the value in the present study, which may be because of the difference in methodology and enamel preparation method. In their study, self-etch primer was applied on the enamel surface, which is believed to significantly reduce the bond strength compared to conventional adhesives. Furthermore, they used bovine teeth instead of human teeth, hence the difference in bond strength values. A similar result was reported by Duer et al⁹ who reported a lower shear bond strength value for Grelgloo at 24 hr. Lower amounts of shear bond strengths in their study compared to the current study may be attributed to the use of bovine teeth instead of human teeth or the use of ground enamel surface instead of natural

intact enamel. They used Transbond primer for all the study groups and chose 20s as curing time for adhesives.

In the present study the mean SBS of Transbond XT and that of EZ bond with conventional primer was 13.99 MPa and 12.01 MPa respectively. The shear bond strength of Group 1 was more than GROUP 3. On evaluation of the results of our study, following observations can be seen. The metal brackets bonded with Grelgloo color changing adhesive had the highest shear bond strength. There were no significant differences found between shear bond strength of Grelgloo and Transbond XT conventional adhesive. Significant result was found between shear bond strength of EZ bond with Transbond XT conventional adhesive and Grelgloo color changing adhesive. The color changing adhesives offer a viable alternative in cases demanding robust bond strength. Grelgloo has color contrast that facilitates easy composite removal than Transbond XT and EZ bond which lacks color contrast.

CONCLUSION

Ever since Buonocore revolutionized clinical orthodontics in 1955 by introduction of the acid etch technique, there has been numerous attempts to further improve the protocol. Products have been marketed to improve bond strength, reduce bonding steps, decrease chair side time, and reduces unwanted effects to the enamel surface. Orthodontic bonding adhesives with color change capability have been developed to facilitate the removal of excess adhesive during bracket placement and identify remaining adhesive after bracket removal. So, there is always a quest for an orthodontic bonding material which has better shear bond strength but minimal enamel loss while debonding. In this study shear bond strength following the use of Grelgloo color-changing adhesive, self-priming EZ bond adhesive and Transbond XT conventional adhesive were assessed and compared after debonding of metal brackets.

From the result of this study, it can be concluded that

- The metal brackets bonded with Grelgloo and conventional Transbond XT adhesive had the highest shear bond strength when compared to the EZ bond adhesive.
- The color changing adhesives offer a viable alternative in cases demanding robust bond strength. Each presents unique advantages allowing the clinicians to select based on their preferences and specific requirements.

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Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate. Ethics approval was attained from the Institutional Ethics Committee at the Educare Institute of Dental Sciences, Malappuram, Kerala. EC/2022/07

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
Bis-GMA	Bisphenol A-glycidyl Dimethacrylate
SBS	Shear bond strength
MPa	Mega Pascal
N	Newton
P- VALUE	Probability Value
SD	Standard deviation

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