

## Bisphenol A Release from Composite Resins Measured In Vivo with Gas Chromatography

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**ABSTRACT:-** Some of resinous materials are based on bisphenol A, which is used as a precursor of bisphenol A glycidyl dimethacrylate or bisphenol A dimethacrylate during the production of many composite resins. Bisphenol A is one of the most common environmental endocrine disruptors, having an estrogenic action from competitive binding of estrogen like polymer molecules to natural hormone receptors.

The aim of this study was to assess in vivo bisphenol A releasing from orthodontic and dental restorative resins (Grenghloo, Blugloo, Transbond XT, Transbond LR, Clearfil ES-2, Clearfil ES Flow, Filtek Supreme XTE). One hour after resins placement in mouth, non-stimulated saliva was collected from patients to be analyzed by gas phase chromatography and mass spectrometry. The limit of quantification was 0.01 µg/mL. No bisphenol A has been detected in the saliva samples. Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate was present in two saliva samples, namely Grenghloo and Transbond LR. Bisphenol A might be present at concentrations below of the detection and quantification limits. It would therefore have been desirable to also assess bisphenol A amounts in patients' urines.

**Keywords:-** Bisphenol A, gas phase chromatography and mass spectrometry, Light-cured composite resin, saliva

### I. INTRODUCTION

BPA has been extensively studied as one of the most common environmental endocrine disruptors, having an estrogenic action from competitive binding of estrogen like polymer molecules to natural hormone receptors [1].

The environment-water, air, and soil-can be a route of exposure to BPA, but the primary source of exposure to BPA for most people is through the diet. BPA in food and beverages accounts for the majority of daily human exposure. BPA can migrate into food from food and beverage containers with internal epoxy resin coatings and from consumer products made of polycarbonate plastic such as baby bottles, tableware, food containers, and water bottles [2]. The daily human consumption of BPA is less than 1 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>, and greater doses may lead to destructive adverse effects on the endocrine system, especially during fetal development [1, 3, 4]. Dental composites are complex mixed materials which generally consist of an organic polymerizable matrix, reinforcing fillers, which are mainly inorganic and a silane-coupling agent [5].

The conversion of monomer to polymer during polymerization which is termed as the degree of conversion is always not complete. The unreacted monomers elute from resin-based composites as a result of chemical biodegradation in the presence of liquids such as water, saliva, ethanol, methanol, acetonitrile and bacterial enzymes [6-8].

In the intraoral environment, these materials are exposed to extreme thermal changes, pH variances, mechanical erosion, and degradation occurrence from bacterial and salivary enzymes, which can cause BPA release [9, 10].

The presence of BPA in human saliva, urine, and blood after use of resinous restorative materials and pit-and-fissure sealants has been demonstrated [11-16].

For traditional and flowable resin composites used as lingual retainers, BPA release was confirmed in vivo as well [17], with the highest values in saliva measured immediately after polymerization. The monomers also cause cytotoxicity [18-20], genotoxicity [21], mutagenicity [22] and toxic reactions to the reproductive system [23, 24]. It causes major cytotoxic reactions to the dental pulp and gingival fibroblasts [25-27].

BPA is never introduced intentionally in the composition of a composite resin. This compound can be a byproduct of degradation of bisphenol A-glycidyl methacrylate (Bis-GMA) or other components such as ethoxylated bisphenol A dimethacrylate (Bis-EMA), bis-dimethylaminopropyl (Bis-DMA), 2,2-bis-(4-(3-methacryloxypropoxy)phenyl)propane (Bis-PMA), and bisphenol a diglycidyl ether (BADGE) [11, 28].

There are some studies in the literature that have demonstrated the presence of BPA in human saliva, urine and blood after application of resin dental materials. The possibility of this chemical substance being absorbed systemically through the blood should be a concern to oral health care professionals [9, 10, 29].

Kang et al. [17] evaluated the release of BPA from a composite resin used to bond orthodontic lingual retainers, but no study has quantified the amount of BPA released either in vitro after different experimental periods or in vivo in the saliva and urine of patients after bonding of orthodontic brackets.

Based on these findings, the objectives of this study were to assess in vivo the levels of BPA in the saliva of patients after bracket bonding and after dental restoration placement from 7 contemporary composite materials.

## II. METHODS

### 1. Clinical procedures

For standardization purposes, the same practitioner (RB) performed all procedures. Patients received either fixed orthodontic appliances or restorative dental treatment. All patients signed an informed consent and do not have any composite restoration and have not had any prior orthodontic treatment. Each treatment was performed in two different patients.

The composite materials used for the procedures are listed in Table 1. After placement resin was cured for 20 seconds by using BA Optima 10 LED Curing Light.

One hour after resins placement in mouth, 1 mL of non-stimulated saliva was collected from each patient to be analyzed.

**Table 1: Specifications of resins used for study.**

Product (Lot)	Resin matrix	Manufacturer
Clearfil Majesty ES-2 (4D0069)	Bis-GMA, Hydrophobic aromatic dimethacrylate Hydrophobic aliphatic dimethacrylate	Kuraray
Clearfil Majesty ES Flow (A60239)	TEGDMA, Hydrophobic aromatic dimethacrylate	
Grengloo (6623923)	TEGDMA, UDMA, HEMA, Bis-EMA6, GMA, EO-TMPTA, 3-trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate	Ormco
Blugloo (6556174)	UDMA, Bis-EMA6, GMA, EO-TMPTA, 3-trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate	
Transbond XT (N921496)	Bis-GMA, Bis-MEPP	3M
Transbond LR (N919866)	Bis-GMA, TEGDMA	
Filtek Supreme XTE (N879475)	Bis-GMA, UDMA, TEGDMA, Bis-EMA6, PEGDMA	

### 2. Analytical method

The monomers were extracted using solid phase extraction (NH<sub>2</sub> cartridge) and then analyzed by gas chromatograph mass spectrometer (Agilent 6890 Series – Agilent 7673). A capillary column 30 m in length, internal diameter of 320 μm, and film thickness of 0.25 μm was used with helium carrier gas at a flow rate of 1.2 mL per minute. The column temperature program was set as follows: initially, 80°C for 1 minute, increasing to 150°C at a rate of 20°C per minute, and then increasing to 280°C for 2 minutes at a rate of 10°C per minute. The temperature of the injector was 280°C, and the transfer line was 280°C. Mass spectra were obtained using electron impact ionization (69.9 eV, 34.6 μA, 230°C).

Data were acquired by selected ion monitoring mode and processed with the software MSD ChemStation.

The calibration curve and response factor were computed with reference BPA in different concentrations from 0.01 to 50 µg/mL with caffeine as internal standard. Linear correlation with efficiency of 0.996 was obtained between the amount of BPA and the corresponding peak area.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Most resins used in dentistry contain BPA derivatives; for this reason, they have attracted the attention of dental researchers as an additional source of exposure to humans [13]. The release of BPA from composites may occur at 2 moments: during or just after resin placement, caused by incomplete monomer polymerization, and later, as a result of material degradation [14]. In the intraoral environment, these materials are exposed to extreme thermal changes, mechanical erosion, pH alterations, and enzymatic degradation from bacterial and salivary enzymes, which can cause BPA release. Incomplete polymerization of adhesive systems can also cause BPA release [15, 30, 31].

Some studies noted that 20-45% of monomer remains unpolymerized after curing and has the direct potential to leach into saliva [32-34].

In a study by Joskow et al. [13], which measured BPA amounts in saliva and urine using gas chromatography and high-resolution mass spectrometry, BPA was found in saliva immediately and 1 hour after placement of sealants.

The in-vivo assessment of BPA released from orthodontic adhesives was assessed in a study by Kang et al. [17] They evaluated the changes in BPA levels in saliva and urine before and after placing a lingual bonded retainer on the mandibular dentitions. Samples were obtained immediately before placement of the retainer and 30 minutes, 1 day, 1 week, and 1 month after placement. The only significant level of BPA was detected in the saliva collected immediately after lingual retainer placement.

In our study, no BPA has been detected in the saliva samples.

Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate (TEGDMA) was present in two saliva samples, namely Grelgloo and Transbond LR. It is one of the most commonly released co-monomers by the composite resins. The eluted TEGDMA comes from un-polymerized molecules. It has been demonstrated [35, 36] that the amount of eluted TEGDMA decreases when a composite is subjected to a longer light irradiation.

Table 2 shows in vivo studies measuring BPA amounts released by resin composites and sealants in saliva.

**Table 2: In vivo studies evaluating BPA amounts in saliva.**

Author	Human sample that was analyzed	Product Name	Time of analyses	BPA measurement method	Highest amount of BPA traced in saliva
Olea et al., 1996 [16]	Saliva	Delton LC.	1 h before placement. 1 h after.	High performance liquid chromatography	30 mg/mL 1 h after placement.
Arenholt-Bindslev et al., 1999 [37]	Saliva	Delton LC. Visio-Seal.	Before placement. Immediately after. 1 h after. 24 h after.	High performance liquid chromatography	2.8 ppm for samples taken immediately after placement of Delton LC.
Fung et al., 2000 [11]	Saliva and blood	Delton LC.	Immediately before placement. 1 h after. 3 h after. 24 h after. 3 days after. 5 days after.	High- pressure liquid chromatography	105.6 ppb at 1 and 3 h after placement.
Joskow et al., 2006 [13]	Saliva and urine	Delton LC. Helioseal.	Before placement. Immediately after placement. 1 h after. 24 h after.	Gas chromatography and high-resolution mass spectrometry	42.8 ng/mL in Delton LC group immediately after placement.
Zimmerman-Downs et al.,	Saliva and blood	Delton LC.	1 h before placement.	BPA Elisa Kit	At all post-treatment time:

2010 [38]			1 h after. 3 h after 24 h after		3.98 ng/mL in low-dose group; 9.08 ng/mL in high-dose group.
Kang et al., 2011 [17]	Saliva and urine	Filtek Flow. Z250.	Before placement. Immediately after placement. 1 day after. 1 week after. 1 month after.	Liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry	5.042 ng/mL immediately after placement.
Han et al., 2012 [10]	Saliva	Not given.	Survey study. Not interventional sealant placement	BPA Elisa Kit	8.305 mg/L

Concerning the BPA safety issues, the European Food Safety Authority announced an initial risk assessment, based on a tolerable daily intake (TDI) of 50 µg/kg body weight/day [39]. Several scientists arguably disputed the use of TDI for risk assessments on endocrine disruptor chemicals, suggesting that their effects are observed at very low doses, non-monotonic dose-response curves, as well as on effects occurring from very specific windows of exposure [40].

The amount of BPA released from resin composites has been assessed in many studies [41]. Although much lower than the TDI, the 24-h release of BPA from dental materials was pertinent in patients with multiple or large restorations, representing a significant source of BPA in such patients [41].

Even though the patient may come in contact with considerable amounts of unpolymerized monomers during the placement of composites, the release of uncured monomers after polymerization has been postulated to cause most of the unwanted effects [42].

The aqueous environment of the oral cavity, encouraging chemical degradation and softening, and therefore corrosion-wear, is a critical factor that alters the mechanical properties of resin composites [43]. The salivary composition and the degradation of the material may be affected by physiologic variables such as time of collection of saliva, diet, and salivary flow rate [44].

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Although BPA is not used by itself as a raw material in composite resins, it is likely to be present as an impurity from the synthesis process [29, 41].

No BPA amount was detected in saliva but this compound might be present at concentrations below of the detection and quantification limits.

The usual biological matrix used to characterize exposure to BPA is urine [45]. It would therefore have been desirable to also assess BPA amounts in patients' urines.

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#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest.

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