

# A comparison of shear bond strength of orthodontic brackets bonded with four different orthodontic adhesives

Sudhir Sharma, Pradeep Tandon, Amit Nagar, Gyan P Singh<sup>1</sup>, Alka Singh and Vinay K Chugh

## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** The objective of this study is to compare the shear bond strength (SBS) of stainless steel (SS) orthodontic brackets bonded with four different orthodontic adhesives.

**Materials and Methods:** Eighty newly extracted premolars were bonded to 0.022 SS brackets (Ormco, Scafati, Italy) and equally divided into four groups based on adhesive used: (1) Rely-a-Bond (self-cure adhesive, Reliance Orthodontic Product, Inc., Illinois, USA), (2) Transbond XT (light-cure adhesive, 3M Unitek, CA, USA), (3) Transbond Plus (sixth generation self-etch primer, 3M Unitek, CA, USA) with Transbond XT (4) Xeno V (seventh generation self-etch primer, Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany) with Xeno Ortho (light-cure adhesive, Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany) adhesive. Brackets were debonded with a universal testing machine (Model No. 3382 Instron Corp., Canton, Mass, USA). The adhesive remnant index (ARI) was recorded. In addition, the conditioned enamel surfaces were observed under a scanning electron microscope (SEM).

**Results:** Transbond XT (15.49 MPa) attained the highest bond strength. Self-etching adhesives (Xeno V, 13.51 MPa; Transbond Plus, 11.57 MPa) showed clinically acceptable SBS values and almost clean enamel surface after debonding. The analysis of variance ( $F = 11.85$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ) and Chi-square ( $\chi^2 = 18.16$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) tests revealed significant differences among groups. The ARI score of 3 (i.e., All adhesives left on the tooth) to be the most prevalent in Transbond XT (40%), followed by Rely-a-Bond (30%), Transbond Plus with Transbond XT (15%), and Xeno V with Xeno Ortho (10%). Under SEM, enamel surfaces after debonding of the brackets appeared porous when an acid-etching process was performed on the surfaces of Rely-a-Bond and Transbond XT, whereas with self-etching primers enamel presented smooth and almost clean surfaces (Transbond Plus and Xeno V group).

**Conclusion:** All adhesives yielded SBS values higher than the recommended bond strength (5.9–7.8 MPa), Seventh generation self-etching primer Xeno V with Xeno Ortho showed clinically acceptable SBS and the least amount of residual adhesive left on the enamel surface after debonding.

**Key words:** Adhesive remnant index, orthodontic adhesives, self-etching primer, shear bond strength

## INTRODUCTION

Since the advent of the acid-etch technique by Buonocore<sup>[1]</sup> and the bonding of orthodontic brackets by Newman,<sup>[2]</sup> various bonding adhesives were developed. The first and most popular bonding resins were chemical curing bonding systems. A major drawback of the self-cure adhesive systems is the inability to manipulate the setting time of the composite resin.<sup>[3]</sup>

Departments of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics, Faculty of Dental Sciences, CSM Medical University, <sup>1</sup>CSM University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

**Address for correspondence:** Dr. Sudhir Sharma, B-922, Sector-B, Mahanagar, Lucknow - 226 006, Uttar Pradesh, India. E-mail: dr.sids24@gmail.com

Tavas and Watts<sup>[4]</sup> first described the use of light-cured materials *in vitro* for orthodontic bonding. In the direct bonding technique, the material is cured under metal-based brackets by direct illumination from different sides and by trans-illumination because the tooth structure transmits visible light. Rapid polymerization occurs when visible light is applied, producing a “command set” that is of great advantage; such setting “on

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demand” results in a nearly unlimited working time, allowing more accurate bracket placement.

Newer self-etching adhesive materials have been introduced recently in orthodontics to simplify the bonding process by reducing the bonding steps and eliminating the need for etching and priming, thus lessening the risk of contamination and reducing the bonding time. These self-etching primers combine the conditioning and priming agents into one acidic solution and have shown advantages such as reduced loss of enamel, prevention of saliva contamination and less chair time.

Shear bond strength (SBS) is the main factor, which has to be concerned in the evolution of bonding materials. The bond strength of the orthodontic bracket must be able to withstand the forces applied during the orthodontic treatment. Reynolds<sup>[5]</sup> stated that 5.9–7.8 MPa resistances are sufficient to withstand masticatory forces. Bishara *et al.*<sup>[6]</sup> compared bond strengths of an acidic primer and composite resin with a conventional adhesive system and found mean bond strengths of 10.4 and 11.8 MPa, respectively. The SBSs of self-etching primers can vary widely, ranging from 2.8 to 16.6 MPa.<sup>[5]</sup>

An ideal orthodontic adhesive should have adequate bond strength while maintaining unblemished enamel after debonding. Therefore, researchers have been working hard to achieve the best quality and gentlest procedures for bonding orthodontic brackets. A gentler etch pattern has been obtained with self-etching primers, and scanning electron microscope (SEM) studies have shown that these conditioners yield shorter resin tags. In their study Hosein *et al.*<sup>[7]</sup> they found that the least enamel loss occurs when a self-etching primer is used for conditioning and the enamel is cleaned up with a slow-speed tungsten carbide bur.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate and compare the SBS of orthodontic brackets bonded with four different orthodontic adhesives.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Research Cell, King George Medical University, Lucknow, India. Eighty newly extracted premolars were collected and stored in a solution of 0.1% (wt/vol) thymol. The criteria for tooth selection were similar to those described by Bishara *et al.*<sup>[8]</sup> The teeth were cleansed and pumiced by using a rubber cup with fluoride-free paste for 10 s, thoroughly washed with water, and air-dried.

Stainless steel Siamese premolar brackets (Ormco, Scafati, Italy) were used, with the 0.022 slot. The surface area of bracket base was 11.15 mm<sup>2</sup> and the mesh size was 80 gauge.

### Experimental Groups

The teeth were randomly divided equally into four groups based on the adhesive system used as follows [Table 1].

**Table 1: Orthodontic adhesives used in the study**

Groups	Etchant	Primer	Adhesive
I	37% Phosphoric acid (3M ESPE)	Rely-a-Bond primer (Reliance Dental products)	Rely-a-Bond composite paste (Reliance Dental products)
II	37% Phosphoric acid (3M ESPE)	Transbond XT primer (3M Unitek, Monrovia, Calif)	Transbond XT composite paste (3M Unitek, Monrovia, Calif)
III	Self etching primer Transbond plus (3M Unitek, Monrovia, Calif)	–	Transbond XT composite paste (3M Unitek, Monrovia, Calif)
IV	Self etching primer Xeno V (Dentsply, Konstanz / Germany).	–	Xeno Ortho composite paste (Dentsply-Sainkin, Japan)

1. Group I, teeth were etched with 37% phosphoric acid. The brackets were then bonded with Rely-a-Bond (Reliance Orthodontic Product Inc., Illinois, USA). It has two components: An activator primer liquid placed on the tooth and the adhesive paste placed on the bracket.
2. Group II, the teeth were etched (37% phosphoric acid for 30 s), washed with water, and dried to a chalky white appearance. An adhesive primer was applied to the etched surface; the bracket was placed on the tooth and bonded with Transbond XT (3M Unitek, CA, USA).
3. Group III, the teeth were conditioned with Transbond Plus self-etching primer (3M Unitek, CA, USA) which uses a lollipop system with two compartments: One that contains methacrylated phosphoric acid esters, initiators, and stabilizers; and the other contains water, fluoride complex, and stabilizers. Both compartments are squeezed out to activate the product, and the contents of each compartment are mixed. The resulting mix is then applied by continuously rubbing the self-etching primer on the enamel surface. The primer was applied for 15 s, lightly dried with compressed air for 1–2 s, and then brackets were bonded with Transbond XT.
4. Group IV, the teeth were conditioned with 7<sup>th</sup> generation light-cure self-etching primer (Xeno V, Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany). It is a light-curing, self-etching, one-component adhesive. According to the manufacturer’s recommendations it was applied in two layers, photopolymerized for 15 s, light application of an air jet was then used, and it was light-cured for 10 s. The brackets were then bonded with Xeno Ortho light-cure adhesive resin (Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany).

In all groups, except Group I, the brackets were light-cured (377–490 nm of wavelength, Smartlite, Dentsply, Milford, DE, USA) for a total of 20 s, with the light beam directed for 10 s at each of the mesial and distal faces. These bonded teeth were fixed in acrylic resin, and stored in distilled water at 37°C for 24 h. An occluso-gingival load was applied to produce a shear force at the bracket-tooth interface. This was accomplished with

the flattened end of a steel rod attached to the crosshead of a universal testing machine (Model No. 3382 with max. load of 100 KN, Instron Corp., Canton, Mass, USA). A mounting jig was used to align the facial surface of the tooth to be parallel to the force during the SBS test. The bond strengths were measured at a crosshead speed of 1 mm/min, and the load applied at the time of fracture was recorded in Newton and then calculated by dividing the debonding force by the bracket base surface area yielding megapascals (MPa) as a unit.

### Assessment of the Adhesive Remnants on Teeth and Enamel Surface after Debonding

Once the brackets had been debonded, the enamel surface of each tooth was examined under by trans-illumination of the buccal surface of teeth using fiber optic light<sup>[9]</sup> ×10 magnification lens to determine the amount of residual adhesive on each tooth. The adhesive remnant index (ARI) scores were recorded according to the original description of Artun and Bergland,<sup>[10]</sup> with the following scale:

- 0, no adhesive left on the tooth.
- 1, less than half of the adhesive left on the tooth.
- 2, more than half of the adhesive left on the tooth.
- 3, all adhesive left on the tooth, with a distinct impression of the bracket mesh.

Selected surfaces of each group were also examined under SEM (ZEISS DSM 950, Germany) to observe enamel surface after debonding.

### Statistical Analysis

The mean SBS of the four groups was compared by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the significance of the mean difference between the groups was done by Tukey *post-hoc* test. Discrete (categorical) ARI scores of four groups were compared by Chi-square test. A two-tailed ( $\alpha = 2$ )  $P < 0.05$  was considered as statistically significant.

## RESULTS

The SBS values (in MPa) and descriptive statistics for all groups are shown in Table 2. One-way ANOVA revealed statistically significant ( $F = 11.85$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ) differences in SBS among various groups. Therefore, pairwise comparison between the groups was done by *post-hoc* Tukey test. Tukey test revealed that the mean SBS values for groups Transbond XT and Xeno V were significantly higher than those for groups Rely-a-bond and Transbond Plus.

The ARI scores for adhesive remaining of the four groups are summarized in Table 3. The ARI score of 3 (i.e., all adhesive left on the tooth) of Transbond XT was found to be the most prevalent (40%), followed by Rely-a-bond (30%), Transbond Plus (15%), and Xeno V presented with the least (10%).

On comparing, the ARI scores among the groups, Chi-square test revealed significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) different scores among

**Table 2: Mean SBS values (MPa) and descriptive statistics**

Groups	n	Mean	SD	Range	Post-hoc test
I (Rely-a-bond)	20	12.26	1.88	8.44-16.02	A
II (Transbond XT Primer + Adhesive)	20	15.49	2.55	11.76-22.26	B
III (Transbond Plus Primer + Transbond XT Adhesive)	20	11.57	1.99	9.13-15.78	A,C
IV (Xeno V Primer + Xeno Ortho Adhesive)	20	13.51	2.45	9.12-17.51	A

One way ANOVA showed a significant difference in mean SBS among the groups ( $P < 0.0001$ ). The Tukey test showed that mean with the same letter were not significantly different.

**Table 3: Distribution frequency and percentages of ARI scores**

Groups	ARI scores					n
	0	1	2	3		
I	3 (15%)	4 (20%)	7 (35%)	6 (30%)	20	
II	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	9 (45%)	8 (40%)	20	
III	6 (30%)	8 (40%)	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	20	
IV	6 (30%)	8 (40%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	20	

Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) = 18.16; Degree of freedom = 9;  $P = 0.0334$

the groups. In other words, all adhesives left on the tooth of Transbond XT group was significantly higher when compared to specially Transbond Plus group and Xeno V group.

## DISCUSSION

Enamel bonding for orthodontic applications was introduced in 1965 and is considered a significant milestone in orthodontic treatment. As reported by Owens and Miller,<sup>[11]</sup> direct bonding of orthodontic brackets to enamel was made a reality by Buonocore,<sup>[1]</sup> Bowen,<sup>[6]</sup> and Tavas and Watts.<sup>[4]</sup> These researchers were instrumental in developing procedures and materials that have led to present-day standards in orthodontic adhesives. Acid-etching, self-cure composite resins, glass ionomer cements,<sup>[12]</sup> and visible light-curing adhesives have evolved from these early efforts.<sup>[13]</sup> New technologies using novel materials are constantly evolving to improve the quality of the bond between the brackets and tooth or artificial subjects.<sup>[13,14]</sup>

Manufactures have introduced new self-etching primers, which reduce clinical bonding steps and chair time.<sup>[15]</sup> Self-etching primers, which combine acid and primer, simplify the bonding procedure and avoiding the side-effects of acid-etching.<sup>[16]</sup> It has been shown that etching with phosphoric acid produces greater loss of enamel.<sup>[17]</sup>

Contemporary two-step self-etching primer and the new one-step self-etching adhesive systems are attractive additions to the clinician's bonding armamentarium.<sup>[18-20]</sup> The bond strength of the orthodontic bracket must be able to withstand the forces applied during the orthodontic treatment. In orthodontics, an adequate bond, which fails at the enamel-composite interface, would be desirable because debonding and subsequent polishing would become much easier.

In this study, mean SBS of Transbond XT was 15.49 Mpa, which was the highest among all groups and correlates with other studies. Pickett *et al.*<sup>[21]</sup> and Arnold *et al.*<sup>[22]</sup> who reported SBSs of 11.2 and 9.7 MPa, for conventional acid-etch adhesive and Transbond XT, respectively. However, Scougall Vilchis *et al.*<sup>[23]</sup> compared Transbond XT (control group) with Transbond Plus and other three self-etching adhesives and found that the SBS of Transbond XT was highest (19.0 MPa), followed by Transbond Plus (16.6 MPa) and three other self-etching adhesives.

Mean SBS of Xeno V with Xeno ortho in the present study was 13.51 MPa. Pithon *et al.*<sup>[24]</sup> evaluated and compared conventional acid-etch conditioner with new self-etching primer (Xeno IV; 7<sup>th</sup> generation bonding agent). They revealed no significant difference in SBS of Transbond XT group with Xeno IV group; however, Transbond XT group attained higher SBS in comparison with the Xeno IV group.<sup>[25]</sup>

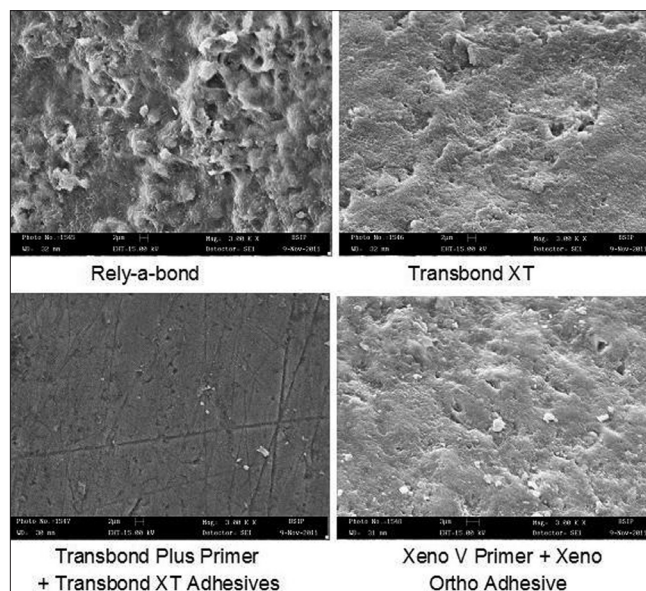
According to the present study, the SBS of Rely-a-Bond was 12.26 Mpa. The findings of this study are consistent with the study of Toledano *et al.*<sup>[22]</sup> who evaluated the SBS of different self-cure and light-cure composite and found that the SBS of self-cure composite was 13.71 MPa.

In this study, SBS of Transbond Plus with Transbond XT was 11.57 MPa. Trites *et al.*<sup>[26]</sup> compared the SBS of two self-etching primers (Transbond Plus and First Step) with the control (Transbond XT) and found SBS of control (Transbond XT) was 12.71 MPa followed by Transbond Plus (10.96 MPa) and First Step (5.30 MPa).

The ARI is one of the most commonly used methods of assessing the quality of adhesion between the composite and tooth as well as between the composite and bracket base.<sup>[27,28]</sup> In this study, the ARI score of 3 (i.e., all adhesive left on the tooth) was found to be the most prevalent in Transbond XT (40%), followed by Rely-a-Bond (30%), Transbond Plus with Transbond XT (15%), and Xeno V with Xeno Ortho (10%).

Transbond XT showed higher ARI scores of 2 and 3, indicating that all or more than half of the adhesive remained on tooth surfaces. Therefore, the greatest percentage of mixed failures (85%) found in this group. Similarly, Rely-a-Bond also showed ARI scores of 2 and 3 (65%), whereas, less residual adhesive was found in Transbond Plus with Transbond XT and Xeno V and Xeno Ortho, and there were less ARI scores of 2 or 3 in these groups. This could be clinically advantageous, since, when brackets fail at the enamel-adhesive interface, less adhesive remains, and tooth cleanup is likely to be easier and faster.<sup>[29,30]</sup>

Higher ARI scores in Transbond XT and Rely-a-Bond could also be due to reason that enamel conditioning by 37% phosphoric acid was used. When acid-etching techniques were used, fewer bonding failures were at the enamel-adhesive interface, but,



**Figure 1:** Scanning electron microscope images (x3000) of enamel surfaces after debonding

rather, at the adhesive-bracket interface.<sup>[31]</sup> According to Jou *et al.*<sup>[32]</sup> for light-cured adhesive, 70% of the failures occurred at the adhesive-bracket interface. This is most likely due to incomplete polymerization of the resin below the metal base of the bracket because the curing light cannot reach the adhesive behind the bracket mesh.<sup>[33]</sup>

The SEM findings can be related to the values of the SBS and ARI, because, when the enamel surface was more affected by the conditioner, greater bond strength and more adhesive remnants were found, as in Transbond XT group. On the other hand, when the gentler etch pattern of self-etching primers was observed, there were lower mean values of SBS and ARI scores (Transbond Plus group and Xeno V group). Under SEM, enamel surfaces after debonding of the brackets appeared porous when an acid-etching process was performed on the surfaces of Rely-a-Bond and Transbond XT [Figure 1], whereas enamel that was treated with self-etching primers presented smooth and almost clean surfaces as in Transbond Plus group and Xeno V group [Figure 1]. The teeth in Transbond Plus group had the cleanest overall surfaces, often reflecting the original perikymata. In Rely-a-Bond, type II enamel etching pattern was found, which is indiscriminate and rough.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on this study, the highest SBS was observed in Transbond XT, followed by Xeno V with Xeno Ortho, Rely-a-Bond and lowest in Transbond Plus with Transbond XT. In Transbond Plus with Transbond XT group and in Xeno V with Xeno Ortho group, most of the adhesive remained on the bracket (ARI scores of 0 and 1), indicating failure at the enamel-adhesive interface. Whereas, in Transbond XT group

and Rely-a-Bond group, most of the adhesive remained on the tooth (ARI scores of 2 and 3), indicating failure at the bracket-adhesive interface.

Under the SEM, enamel surfaces of Transbond XT and Rely-a-Bond seemed more porous and rough with the type III etching pattern after debonding. However, in Transbond Plus with Transbond XT and Xeno V with Xeno Ortho, enamel surfaces presented smooth and almost clean surfaces after debonding. The latest generation self-etching primer Xeno V with Xeno Ortho showed clinically acceptable SBS and less amount of residual adhesive left on the enamel surface after debonding.

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