**Short Communication** 

ISSN: 2574 -1241



# Comparison of Compressive Strength of Four Restorative Glass Ionomers Used in Paediatric Dentistry

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ABSTRACT



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RMGI: Resin-Modified Glass Jonomer Cements

#### **ARTICLE INFO**

**Received:** March 01, 2022 **Published:** March 15, 2022

**Citation:** Samuel E Morales-González, J Paulina Ramírez-Ortega, Cecilia C Barrera-Ortega. Comparison of Compressive Strength of Four Restorative Glass Ionomers Used in Paediatric Dentistry. Biomed J Sci & Tech Res 42(4)-2022. BJSTR. MS.ID.006778.

# Introduction

The search for restorative materials that need fewer procedural steps, faster setting time and less cost is very important while dealing with children [1,2]. Glass ionomers (GI) in paediatric dentistry have been widely used for dental restoration due to their advantages as, biocompatibility, chemical adhesion to enamel [3]/ dentin and their abilities of fluoride release [4-6]. In the oral environment, GI must also withstand masticatory and parafunctional stresses [4]. These stresses vary markedly in different clinical situations. Thus, thresholds in the mechanical properties needed for success may vary considerably from case to case, with stronger GI being required where greater stresses are anticipated [7]. In the oral environment dental restorations are exposed to several conditions that cause physical and mechanical change of the restorations, such as wear

and discoloration [8]. In attempts to enhance the mechanical properties of a GI, glass ionomer particles have been reacted with a polyacid to forma set glass ionomer matrix structure [9].

Abbreviations: GI: Glass Ionomers; ADA96: American Dental Association Standard;

A generation of resin-modified glass ionomer cement was introduced in 2007. Ketac N100<sup>™</sup>, described by the manufacturers as a "nanoionomer," is known to exhibit improved esthetics while retaining the beneficial qualities like fluoride release. Incorporation of nanotechnology enhances the physical properties like wear resistance, polishability, and esthetics [10]. The conventional GI (acid-base) and other glass ionomer e.g. Equia F®, has been introduced. The mechanism of reinforcement of this GI is based on the presence of evenly dispersed ultrafine and highly reactive glass particles and optimization (increase) of the molecular weight of the polyacrylic acid, leading to formation of a new class of restorative GI with good mechanical properties [1,11]. Conventional ionomer modified by the addition of light-cured resin monomers (hydroxyethyl methacrylate) are commonly classified as Resin-Modified Glass Ionomer Cements (RMGI) [12]. Other GI is Vitremer<sup>™</sup> is a RMGI adding resin content has improved its mechanical, physical and optical properties [13]. Hence, this short communication double-blind aims to compare the compressive strength of four different GI (Equia F®, Ketac N100®, Ketac Molar® y Vitremer<sup>™</sup>) used as restorative material in paediatric dentistry, under the guidedlines of American Dental Association standard (ADA 96) and Standard International Norm (ISO-9917-1:2007) [14].

#### Methods

Compositions of GI evaluated and manufacturer's data are shown are listed in Table 1. The GI were divided into four groups: Equia-F®, Ketac-N100®, Ketac-Molar® and Vitremer<sup>M</sup> (n = 14). Specimens' preparation was performed under controlled

Table 1: Characteristics of the materials used in this study.

temperature (23±1°C / 63±1% RH). Specimens of each GI (n=14) were prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions (in stainless steel molds) cylindrical molds (4mm-diameter, 6mm height) and transferred to a PolyScience<sup>™</sup> oven (37±1<sup>o</sup>C/63±1%RH) [15] for 60 minutes; all samples were prepared the same day. Specimens were individually stored in eppendorf tubes (with 2mL deonized water at 37<sup>o</sup>) in the incubator; 24h and 14 days later, 7 specimens per group were randomly withdrawn and subjected to a compressive load in the universal testing machine (INSTRON® 5567) at a crosshead speed of 1.0mm/min; the maximum load in MPa was recorded. The Shapiro-Wilk test was performed to all the groups. The description of the data was presented using means, standard deviations (SD) and median for the Ketac-Molar®. The hypothesis test was performed with a significance level of  $p \le 0.05$ . U Mann-Whitney test for Ketac-Molar® and paired t-test was performed to identify differences between each group of ionomers (24h and 14 days). Kruskal Wallis for comparison among groups. Statistical analysis was performed with the GraphPad v.8 program for information processing.

Composition	Manufacturer	Material
Fluoro-alumino-silicate glass, polyacrylic acid powder, surface-treated glass, polybasic carboxylic acid, water	GC Corp., Tokyo, Japan	Equia Forte (hybrid GI)
Fluoroaluminosilicate glass (FAS), polyalkenoic acid, HEMA, nanoparticles and nanoclusters glass (zirconia/silica), water.	3M ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA	Ketac N100 (resin-modified GI)
Al-Ca-La fluorosilicate glass, 5% copolymer acid (acrylic and maleic acid), polyalkenoic acid, tartaric acid, water.	3M ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA	Ketac molar (high viscosity GI)
Copolymer of acrylic and itaconic acids, water, HEMA, ethyl acetate powder. Copolymer of acrylic and itaconic acids, ethyl alcohol, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and diphenyliodonium hexafluorophosphate primer.	3M ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA	Vitremer (resin-modified GI)

#### **Results and Discussion**

The results of the paired t were as follows: Equia-F® 24h (157±26.1) vs 14 days (197±23.8) were observed significant differences P = 0.0106; Ketac-N100® 24h (159±28.5) vs 14 days (165±12.95) P = 0.6687 and Vitremer<sup>m</sup> 24h (147±12.3) vs 14 days (139±14.8) P = 0.1961 there were no significant difference; U Mann-Whitney between Ketac-Molar® 24h (190 median) vs 14

days (129 median) were not observed differences. A Kruskal-Wallis test (post hoc Dunn test) was performed for multiple comparisons among different GI at different matured times (24h and 14 days), as shown in Table 2. ADA 96 [16] Specification for Compressive Strength only requires evaluated the material 24 hours after mixing, in this investigation it was measured and compared at 24 hours and at 14 days.

Table 2: Characteristics of the materials used in this study.

Dunn's test	Mean rank diff.	Individual P value
Equia F_24h vs. Ketac N100_24h	-1.714	0.8441
Equia F_24h vs. Ketac Molar_24h	-16.5	0.0584
Equia F_24h vs. Vitremer_24h	5.5	0.5281
Equia F_24h vs. Equia F_14d	-19.5	0.0253*
Equia F_24h vs. Ketac N100_14d	-5.357	0.5389
Equia F_24h vs. Ketac Molar_14d	1.286	0.8827
Equia F_24h vs. Vitremer_14d	10	0.2513
Ketac N100_24h vs. Ketac Molar_24h	-14.79	0.0899

Ketac N100_24h vs. Vitremer_24h	7.214	0.4079
Ketac N100_24h vs. Equia F_14d	-17.79	0.0413*
Ketac N100_24h vs. Ketac N100_14d	-3.643	0.676
Ketac N100_24h vs. Ketac Molar_14d	3	0.7307
Ketac N100_24h vs. Vitremer_14d	11.71	0.179
Ketac Molar_24h vs. Vitremer_24h	22	0.0116*
Ketac Molar_24h vs. Equia F_14d	-3	0.7307
Ketac Molar_24h vs. Ketac N100_14d	11.14	0.2012
Ketac Molar_24h vs. Ketac Molar_14d	17.79	0.0413*
Ketac Molar_24h vs. Vitremer_14d	26.5	0.0024*
Vitremer_24h vs. Equia F_14d	-25	0.0041*
Vitremer_24h vs. Ketac N100_14d	-10.86	0.213
Vitremer_24h vs. Ketac Molar_14d	-4.214	0.6288
Vitremer_24h vs. Vitremer_14d	4.5	0.6057
Equia F_14d vs. Ketac N100_14d	14.14	0.1047
Equia F_14d vs. Ketac Molar_14d	20.79	0.0171*
Equia F_14d vs. Vitremer_14d	29.5	0.0007*
Ketac N100_14d vs. Ketac Molar_14d	6.643	0.4461
Ketac N100_14d vs. Vitremer_14d	15.36	0.0781
Ketac Molar_14d vs. Vitremer_14d	8.714	0.3175

The GI [17] at 24 hours were compared, the one that obtained the highest compressive strength was Ketac-Molar® (194MPa), however, when the GI was compared at day 14, the best was Equia-F®. The results of this study showed that GI Equia-F® [18,19] is a promising restorative material as the material of first choice in Pediatric Stomatology, with compressive strength values higher than the others GI (24 hours and 14 days). By comparing the Ketac-Molar® 24h vs 14d, significant differences were observed between the same GI, the 24h GI being better, however, in the clinic it is advisable to have greater compressive strength on over time. Different authors compare Equia-F® with different GI modified with resins *in vitro*, and GI Equia-F® is considered as the material of easy manipulation, and fast setting, both advantages help in managing the behavior of the pediatric patient.

#### Why this Paper is Important to Paediatric Dentists

a) The best GI for reconstruction restoration in temporary restorations in paediatric patients is the Equia-F $\circledast$  for having greater compressive strength, easy manipulation and shorter setting time.

**b)** The four GI with the minimum value established by the 96 standard of the ADA (130MPa) and ISO-9917-1:2007 (100MPa); all obtained a higher compressive strength after 24h and 14 days.

## **Author Contributions**

S.E.G.M: Investigation; J.P.R.O: Supervision, Methodology C.C.B-O: Validation, Writing - Review & Editing, Funding acquisition, Conceptualization, Project administration.

#### Acknowledgment

This study was obtained for financial support provided via the DGAPA-PAPIIT-IA203219 and IA 200421 projects.

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#### ISSN: 2574-1241

DOI: 10.26717/BJSTR.2022.42.00678

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