

# ENGINEERING OF BIOMATERIALS

INŻYNIERIA BIOMATERIAŁÓW

JOURNAL OF POLISH SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS AND FACULTY OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND CERAMICS AGH-UST

CZASOPISMO POLSKIEGO STOWARZYSZENIA BIOMATERIAŁÓW I WYDZIAŁU INŻYNIERII MATERIAŁOWEJ I CERAMIKI AGH

Number 143  
Special Issue  
Numer 143  
Numer specjalny  
Volume XX  
Rok XX

DECEMBER 2017  
GRUDZIEŃ 2017

ISSN 1429-7248

PUBLISHER:  
WYDAWCA:

Polish Society  
for Biomaterials  
in Krakow  
Polskie  
Stowarzyszenie  
Biomateriałów  
w Krakowie

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Issue: 250 copies  
Nakład: 250 egz.

Scientific Publishing  
House AKAPIT  
Wydawnictwo Naukowe  
AKAPIT  
e-mail: wn@akapit.krakow.pl

**26th Biomaterials in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine**

**Annual Conference**

**12 – 15 October 2017 Rytyro, Poland**



**Celebrating**  
**20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**  
**1997 - 2017**

INŻYNIERIA  
**BIOMATERIAŁÓW**  
ENGINEERING OF BIOMATERIALS  
KWARTALNIK POLSKIEGO STOWARZYSZENIA BIOMATERIAŁÓW

Numer 1 (I)  
Rok I  
ISSN 1429-7248  
GRUDZIEŃ 1997

WYDAWCA:  
Polskie  
Stowarzyszenie  
Biomateriałów  
w Krakowie

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# POLYMERIZATION SHRINKAGE OF DENTAL COMPOSITES

KRZYSZTOF PAŁKA<sup>1\*</sup>, ANGELIKA ZASZCZYŃSKA<sup>1</sup>,  
JOANNA KLECZEWSKA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS ENGINEERING, LUBLIN  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, POLAND

<sup>2</sup> ARKONA LABORATORIUM FARMAKOLOGII  
STOMATOLOGICZNEJ, POLAND

\*E-MAIL: K.PALKA@POLLUB.PL

[ENGINEERING OF BIOMATERIALS 143 (2017) 62]

## Introduction

Dental composites are based on polymer resin matrix which diminishes its volume during polymerization process due to joining of monomer chains [1]. It is the reason of polymerization shrinkage of each polymer material. Serious consequence of the shrinkage in dentistry is marginal leakage and secondary caries resulting from this [2]. Therefore, the develop a low shrinkage material is a big challenge in the manufacturing of dental composites.

There are many methods of diminishing polymerization shrinkage. One group is focused on resin matrix composition, the second on filler selection [3] and the others on applying technique [4].

Literature presents a lot of methods of shrinkage measurements [1]. In previous study the Authors used the method based on microCT measurements [5]. In this paper a new approach has been presented.

In this study, the new method of polymerization shrinkage was applied to evaluate the polymerization shrinkage of selected dental composites showing differences in composition.

## Materials and Methods

Materials used in this study were:

- Flow-Art (Arkona), 38% wt. of resin mix: Bis-GMA, UDMA, TEGDMA and Bis-EMA) and 60% wt. of fillers (Ba-Al-Si glass and nanosilica);
- Boston (Arkona), consist of 20% resin mix: Bis-GMA, UDMA, Tri-EDMA (TEGDMA), EBADMA and about 78% wt. of fillers: Ba-Al-Si glass, pyrogenic silica;
- Charisma Opal Flow (Heraeus), which was composed of Bis-GMA resin and about 58% wt. of fine inorganic fillers (BA-Al glass and silica).

Each material had the shade of A2.

Volumetric shrinkage measurements was conducted using microCT Skyscan 1174 (Bruker microCT) with accuracy of 6.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Volume of composite's drop was measured assuming it is a body of revolution, formed by rotation of half of its cross-section. A drop of composite (volume of about 3 mm<sup>3</sup>) was placed on tip made of PE (d = 3 mm). After 3 minutes time (material's spreading) 5 images were taken in different angle position (0, 45, 90, 135 and 180°). In next step composite was cured using Cromalux 75 halogen lamp with special limiter (FIG. 1). After curing and additional time of 1 min (dark polymerization [6]) another set of 5 images were taken in appropriate angular position. Overlap of images taken before and after curing is presented on FIG. 2. Dark line in upper region means the difference in volumes. Results were statistically analyzed using Statistica ver. 13 software (Dell Inc. 2016).

## Results and Discussion

Results of measurements are presented on FIG. 3. Highest value of volumetric shrinkage (3.70%  $\pm$  0.70) was observed for FlowART composite. The same resin and different volume of filler has the Boston composite. Its shrinkage was significantly lower (2.44%  $\pm$  0.16).

The Charisma Opal Flow composite has almost the same ratio of components as Flow-Art, but different resin was used. In this case the shrinkage had a value of 2.86%  $\pm$  0.30. It is noteworthy that spread of all results (S.D.) was very low, which testify the quality of measurements. All results were statistically different on significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

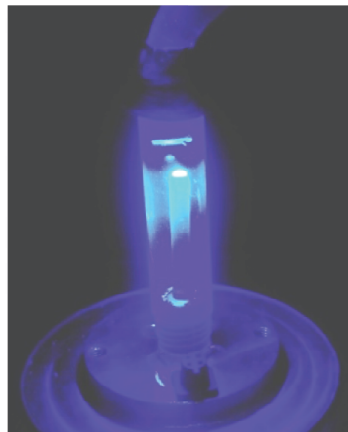


FIG. 1. Light curing on CT stage using limiter.

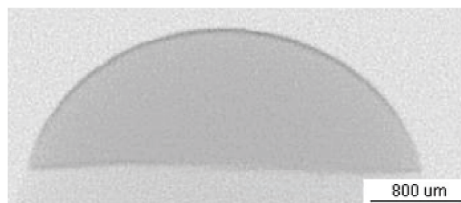


FIG. 2. Change of the volume due to polymerization shrinkage.

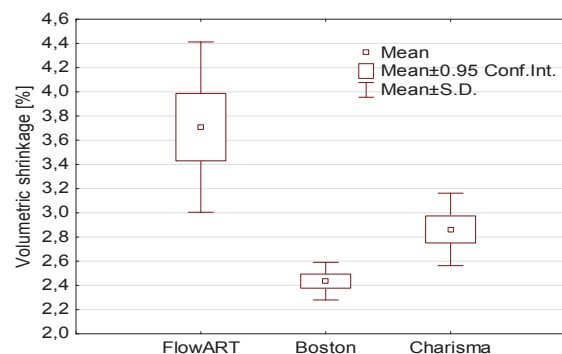


FIG. 3. Volumetric shrinkage of tested materials.

## Conclusions

All tested materials showed low value of polymerization shrinkage, comparable with other commercial dental composites. The influence of material composition on polymerization shrinkage was demonstrated.

## Acknowledgments

The Authors acknowledge financial support of statutory research S2/M/2017. Authors acknowledge also ARKONA Laboratorium Farmakologii Stomatologicznej for sharing materials to the tests.

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