



The Effect of Shoulderless Versus Chamfer Finishing Line Designs with Different Cement Space Settings on the Marginal Fit of Monolithic Zirconia Crowns (in-vitro study)

Kazhan M. Omer^{(1) *}

Abdulsalam R. Kudid Al-Zahawi⁽²⁾

^(1,2) Department of Conservative, College of Dentistry, University of Sulaimani, Sulaimani, Iraq

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*Corresponding Author:

Email:

kazhan.omer@univsul.edu.iq

Department of Conservative,
College of Dentistry,
University of Sulaimani,
Sulaimani, Iraq

Abstract

The objective was to examine the effect of various finishing line designs and modified cement space settings on the marginal fit of monolithic zirconia crown restorations. Material and methods: - Extracted sound upper first premolar tooth was prepared sequentially with two different finishing lines, a shoulderless and a chamfer. Each preparation was scanned with an intra-oral scanner. The scan data was used to create 45 milled Chrome-Cobalt (Cr-Co) alloy copies and to design crowns with two cement space settings using CAD software (Exocad version 3.1). Three groups were designed (n=15). (1) group A: shoulderless finishing line and crowns with (0 μ m marginal and 35 μ m occlusal-axial) cement space setting; (2) group B: shoulderless finishing line and crowns with modified cement space setting (0 μ m occlusal to the 2.4 mm axial and 35 μ m marginal); (3) group C: chamfer finishing line and crowns with (0 μ m marginal and 35 μ m occlusal-axial) cement space setting. The marginal gap was measured in microns (μ m) with the impression replica technique. Data were statistically analyzed using the Student's T-test, one-way ANOVA, and Bonferroni tests at a significance level of 0.05. Results: - The lowest mean values were recorded by group A, followed by group B, and the highest mean values were recorded by group C. The result revealed highly significant differences between groups. Conclusion: - Within this in-vitro study limits, all groups' marginal gap variables were clinically acceptable. Modifying the crown cement space setting for shoulderless preparation resulted in a larger marginal gap.

Introduction:

Construction of a full-coverage crown might be necessary when the tooth is weak or heavily fractured (1). Over the years, horizontal finishing lines (chamfer and shoulder) have become preferred for all-ceramic full-coverage crown restorations. However, these margins can be considered invasive due to removing healthy tooth structures to create a clear finishing line, which is essential from biological and esthetic perspectives (2).

Owing to the development of dental technologies, monolithic restorations, and the growing demand for minimally invasive dentistry, vertical finishing lines (shoulderless, feather-edge, and knife-edge) have become more popular as they can be considered more conservative due to preserving more of the sound tooth structure essential for reducing stress on the tooth being restored with a full-coverage crown restoration (3).

Monolithic zirconia restorations have recently become more frequent due to the advancement of CAD-CAM technology, in which various restoration parameters, such as restorative material thicknesses and cement spacing, can be modified in the designing phase, making fabrication faster and less expensive (4).

During crown manufacturing, a cement space should be created to lessen the cementing material's flow resistance, reducing the hydraulic pressure that exists between the cement and the restoration, allowing for complete seating of the restoration, reducing marginal discrepancies, and extruding extra cement from all preparation margins (5,6).

According to Holmes et al.(7) the marginal gap can be defined as the "Distance from the margin of the restoration to the margin of the tooth preparation". A maximum marginal disparity of less than 120 μm has been advocated in several studies (8), in contrast, others believe 100 μm should be the cutoff (9). An inadequate prosthesis margin might result in a gap between the prepared tooth and the restoration, while cement can fill the marginal discrepancies, it might degrade due to its porous and rough nature when exposed to the oral

cavity. Bacteria can build up and endanger the treatment's effectiveness (10). On the other hand, the tighter the marginal gap, the harder it becomes for cement to exit due to early marginal seal, which could potentially result in higher cement buildup on the occlusal seating area (11–14).

There are many strategies for marginal gap measurement; one of the most popular methods is the impression replica technique because it is straightforward, non-destructive, economical, clinically applicable, and repeatable (15–18). The coping will be placed on the abutment after injection of light body silicone and embedded with heavy body silicone; after removing from the abutment, the replica will be sectioned and analyzed (19).

Several studies indicated crowns with vertical finishing lines exhibit superior marginal fit compared to those with horizontal finishing lines (11,12,20–22). According to some investigations, this fit could potentially result in early marginal seal and prevent seepage of accessory luting cement during cementation, which might otherwise hinder proper restoration seating and cause excessive cement accumulation on the occlusal seat (11,12).

Considering the aforementioned reasons, this study aimed to investigate (inverted cement space) setting (0 μm cement space at the occlusal surface up to more than half of the axial walls and a 35 μm cement space setting for the remaining marginal areas) on the marginal fit for monolithic zirconia crowns fabricated for shoulderless preparation and to assess how this modified cement space setting might impact the marginal fit.

Materials and Methods

1. Tooth preparations

Extracted sound upper first premolar tooth for orthodontic purposes was selected, free from carious lesions and restorations. The sample tooth received two preparations sequentially with the aid of a modified dental surveyor and a high-speed handpiece. The first preparation form had a shoulderless finishing line using a round safe-end taper fissure bur (857 016M-FG NTI, Kahla, Germany). The preparation's

total convergence angle was set to 6 degrees depending on the bur's taperness. The occlusal reduction was 1.5 mm, determined with a depth cutter bur (MADC15 NTI, Kahla, Germany), then a planar occlusal surface was prepared using a Burrell-shaped diamond bur (K899-031M-FG NTI, Kahla, Germany). The prepared sample's axial height was 4 mm, measured from the buccal surface to the finishing line. An intra-oral scanner (Cerec Omnicam, Sirona, Bensheim, Germany) was used to capture a digital impression of the first preparation.

The finishing line area of the prepared sample was then marked carefully with a permanent marker, and with the aid of a modified dental surveyor and a high-speed handpiece a 0.5 mm chamfer finishing line was prepared using a round-end taper fissure bur with a guided pin (998 016F-FG, NTI, Kahla, Germany); the second preparation had the same total convergence angle and axial height as the first preparation. No further adjustments were made to the occlusal surface except for the smoothing of sharp edges Fig. (1). A digital impression of the second preparation was subsequently taken using the same intra-oral scanner.

2. Duplication of preparations

The scan data were used to construct 45 milled Cr-Co copies (n=15), which were milled with a 5-axis CAD/CAM milling machine (In-Laboratory MC×5, Sirona, Bensheim, Germany) using Cr-Co disk. 30 copies for both groups A and B with shoulderless finishing line (15 each), and 15 copies for group C with chamfer finishing line. The milled Cr-Co copies were embedded 2 mm apical to the finishing line area with the aid of a modified dental surveyor in a specially designed cuboid rubber mold (2.0 cm height × 1.3 cm width × 1.3 cm length) filled with a freshly mixed cold cure acrylic.

3. Crown fabrication

The scan data obtained from both preparations were used to design monolithic zirconia crowns with identical contours and occlusal thicknesses for each

group using CAD software (Exocad version 3.1). Regarding the cement space settings, groups A and C were designed with a 0 µm cement space from the margin to 1 mm and a 35 µm cement space setting for the rest of the internal fitting surfaces. In contrast, the cement space setting for group B was modified with 0 µm from the occlusal surface to the 2.4 mm axial wall and a 35 µm cement space for the remaining marginal areas to compensate for an inverted cement space setting. Fig. (2).

The crowns were milled with a 5-axis CAD/CAM machine using zirconia blanks (IPS e.max ZirCAD LT; Ivoclar Digital, Schaan, Liechtenstein). The milled crowns were then exposed to the sintering process in order to achieve their original size, strength, and color. This was accomplished using the In Fire HTC Speed Sintering Furnace (Sirona, Bensheim, Germany) at a temperature of 1,450°C.

The crowns were glazed using a brush to apply a glaze paste (FLUO Ivoclar glaze paste; Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein). The Programat EP 5010 furnace (Ivoclar, Schaan, Liechtenstein) was used for glaze firing at 840°C for 20 minutes. The intaglio surface of each crown was then sandblasted using the sandblasting machine (Renfert, Hilzingen, Germany) for 10 seconds with 1 bar of 50 µm aluminum oxide particles placed 10 mm from the restoration (23). Crowns for each group were distributed randomly on the corresponding milled Cr-Co alloy copies.

4. Marginal gap measurements

Marginal gap measurements were evaluated by a non-destructive technique, using the impression replica technique described by Boening et al (24) Each fabricated crown was injected with light body fast set vinylpolysiloxane impression material and seated with finger pressure on the Cr-Co copy, then a constant occlusal load of 5 kg was applied for 5 minutes with the aid of a modified dental surveyor (25). The crown was carefully removed from the Cr-Co copy with a thin layer of

light body impression material representing the cement gap. A heavy body fast set vinylpolysiloxane impression material of different colors was carefully injected inside the crown to stabilize and fix the light body in place; after complete polymerization, the replica was carefully removed from the crown and cut in the occlusal-gingival direction into four sections.

Each section was placed beside the Neubauer chamber grid, and an image was captured under a stereo microscope. Images were assessed utilizing image processing software (Image J version 1.53t) to measure the yellowish color of the light body at the marginal area. Four marginal points (mid-buccal, mid-mesial, mid-distal, and mid-palatal) were calculated, and the mean was gathered, representing the marginal gap measurement for one sample. For standardization purposes and to avoid errors two operators took the marginal gap measurements at different times.

5. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS version 25). The normal distribution of variables was evaluated with the Shapiro-Wilk test; the Student's T-test was employed to compare the marginal gap measurements taken by two operators; the one-way ANOVA test was used to assess the significance of the mean differences of the marginal gap measurements among the three groups; and Bonferroni correction was used for multiple comparisons across the groups.

Results

Shapiro-Wilk test revealed that the data were normally distributed ($p > 0.05$). The inter-examiner results showed a statistically non-significant difference ($p > 0.05$) between the two measurements. The descriptive statistics in Table (1) include the three groups' minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation of the three groups.

The lowest mean value of the marginal gap measurements was recorded by group A (44.08 μm) with shoulderless finishing

line and crowns with (0 μm marginal and 35 μm occlusal-axial) cement space setting, followed by group B (55.46 μm) with shoulderless finishing line and crowns with inverted cement space setting (0 μm occlusal to the 2.4 mm axial and 35 μm marginal). The largest mean value of the marginal gap was recorded by group C (66.47 μm) with a chamfer finishing line and crowns with (0 μm marginal and 35 μm occlusal-axial) cement space setting Fig. (3).

The one-way ANOVA test was used to compare the marginal gap measurements among the three groups at a significance level of 0.05 and revealed statistically significant differences among groups ($p < 0.05$) Table (2).

The Bonferroni test was used to determine differences across the groups; the result showed statistically significant differences between the three groups when compared with each other Table (3).

Discussion

Tooth preparation for full-coverage crowns is invasive and irreversible, so research seeking more conservative preparation has never stopped. Shoulderless preparation can be considered the most conservative approach toward dental structure (2,26).

The marginal fit is crucial for determining the restoration's long-term viability in fixed prosthodontics. Most clinicians prefer a marginal gap of $\leq 60 \mu\text{m}$, while 120 μm or less can be considered clinically acceptable (6). Additionally, there is a positive correlation between the size of the marginal gap and the emergence of secondary caries (18,27). Because of the mentioned reasons, researchers and prosthodontists are still interested in prosthesis adaption (28,29).

Due to the superior mechanical properties of zirconia, it is possible to endorse the use of thinner monolithic zirconia crowns in the posterior area, facilitating a more conservative preparation design(23,30,31). Additionally, monolithic zirconia restorations eliminate the problem of chipping off the ceramic layer (26). A systematic review revealed that the chipping of porcelain fused to zirconia

was statistically higher than that of porcelain fused to metal in fixed partial dentures (32). On the other hand Maha Fouad, in her marginal adaptation study, found that feather-edge finishing line with super translucent multilayered zirconia crowns (Katana Kurary, Noritake Japan) showed better marginal adaptation than zirconia-reinforced lithium silicate ceramic crowns (Celtra Duo, Dentsply Sirona) (22).

The inner surfaces of all zirconia crowns underwent sandblasting to enhance mechanical interlocking between the fitting surface and the light body silicon material. In the pilot study, it was found sandblasting the fitting surface of zirconia to be beneficial in preventing silicon deformation when the crown is taken off from the abutment.

There are many methods for marginal gap measurement (Direct optical microscopy, Cross-section of cemented crowns, Impression replica technique, Scanning electron microscopy, Optical coherence tomography, and dye penetration) (33); one of the most popular approaches is the impression replica technique since it is simple, non-destructive, inexpensive, and reliable (15–18). Additionally, Wu et al.(34), in their study found a positive correlation between the impression replica technique and optical coherence tomography.

In the current study, the mean values of the marginal gap measurements in all groups were within the clinically acceptable range despite the highly statistically significant differences. It is worth mentioning, to the authors' knowledge, no previous studies are available yet in the literature regarding modifying monolithic zirconia crowns' cement space setting for shoulderless finishing line with an inverted cement space setting; Hence, it was not feasible to directly compare the results obtained in the current study with those of other studies.

The study's findings indicate that the crowns constructed for a shoulderless finishing line in groups A and B, regardless of the cement space setting,

demonstrated a significantly smaller marginal gap than the crowns of group C with a chamfer finishing line. These findings support Comlekoglu et al.(20) finding that zirconia copings with feather-edge offered reduced absolute marginal discrepancy and marginal opening than chamfers.

Several factors contribute to this outcome; firstly, thicker restoration margins of zirconia restorations were thought to be more susceptible to creep and deformation during sintering than thinner restoration margins (20,27). Furthermore, the chamfer's curved marginal geometry might make machining the crown restoration more complicated in CAD/CAM and reduce the marginal fit (35). Moreover, the constrained size and form of the milling bur are other reasons for the subtractive milling process restriction. Therefore, concave shapes with small details might not be milled accurately (36).

Nemane et al. (11), in their in vitro study, tested six different finishing lines (90-degree shoulder, Rounded shoulder, 45-degree sloped shoulder, Chamfer, Long chamfer, and Feather edge) regarding marginal seal and occlusal seat, using full cast metal crowns with stainless steel metal dies, they found the shoulder margin provided a poor seal which allowed good occlusal seating, whereas the feather edge margin sealed earlier and did not allow the cement to escape and hence did not seat completely.

According to Eldamaty et al. (37), Monolithic zirconia crowns with chamfer and knife edge finishing lines did not significantly differ in marginal accuracy, which disagrees with the current study's finding; this discrepancy could be due to the placement of flat occlusal surfaces on their metal abutment copies.

El Eneen et al. (38) disagreed with the current study, showing a non-significant difference in the marginal fit of zirconium-reinforced lithium silicate (Vita Suprinity) crowns with chamfer and feather edge margins. This could be explained by the different mechanical properties of the tested materials in the two studies.

Cetik et al. (39) discovered a comparable internal and marginal adaptation with the chamfer and knife-edge finishing lines in

their scanning electron microscopy analysis while having superior adaptation than the shoulder margin.

The reason for modifying the monolithic zirconia crowns cement space setting with inverted cement space for the shoulderless finishing line was to create more space in the marginal area for accessory cement to escape and to prevent early marginal seal, which might result in more cement accumulation at the occlusal surface (11,12). The findings of the current study indicate that in group B, the marginal gap measurements were statistically larger than those in group A. This discrepancy may result in increased available space within the marginal area, potentially facilitating the escape of excess cement for crowns fabricated for the shoulderless finishing line. On the other hand, group B still had a smaller marginal gap compared to group C with the chamfer finishing line and crowns with 0 μm marginal cement space setting. However, the few numbers of marginal gap measurement points in

this study should be considered when evaluating the findings concerning clinical acceptability.

Conclusions

Within the limitations of this *in vitro* study, the following conclusions could be drawn; the marginal gap for the crowns in all groups was within the clinically acceptable range. The crowns for both shoulderless finishing line groups regardless of cement space setting showed statistically better marginal fit than those of the chamfer finishing line group. The crowns of the modified cement space setting with inverted cement space for shoulderless preparation had a statistically larger marginal gap than those without this setting.

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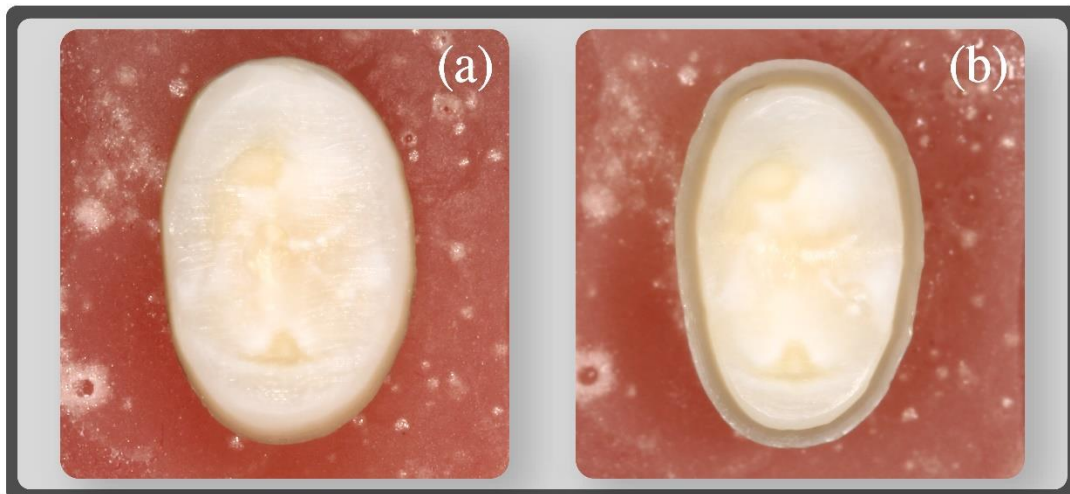


Figure (1): Both preparation designs on the same sample tooth: (a) shoulderless preparation, (b) chamfer preparation

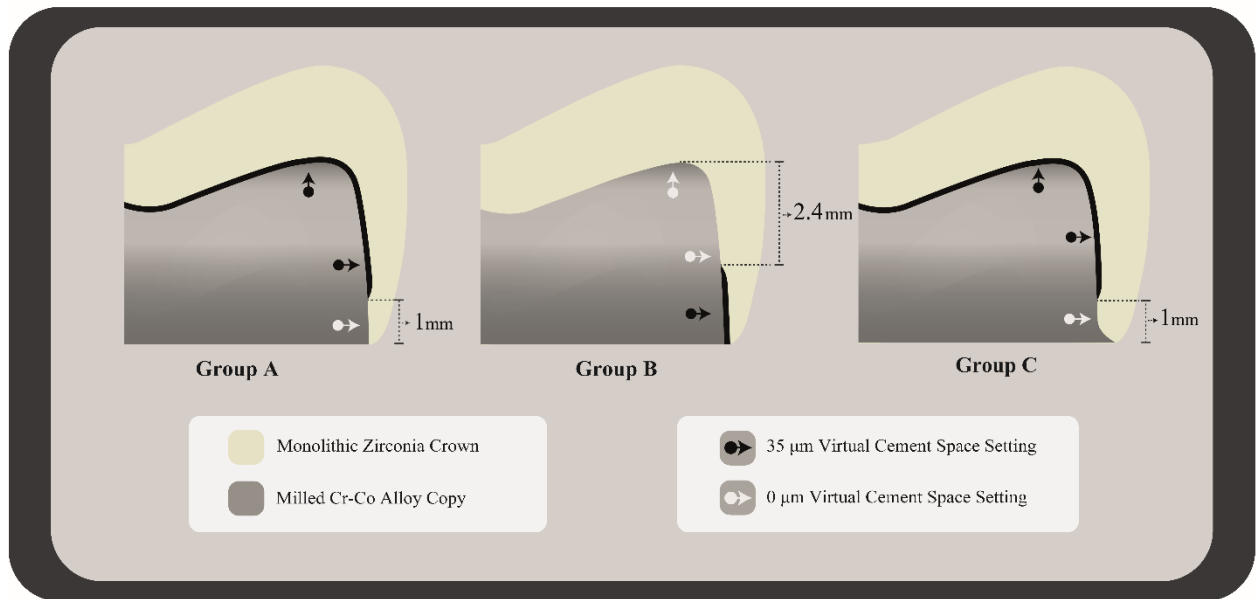
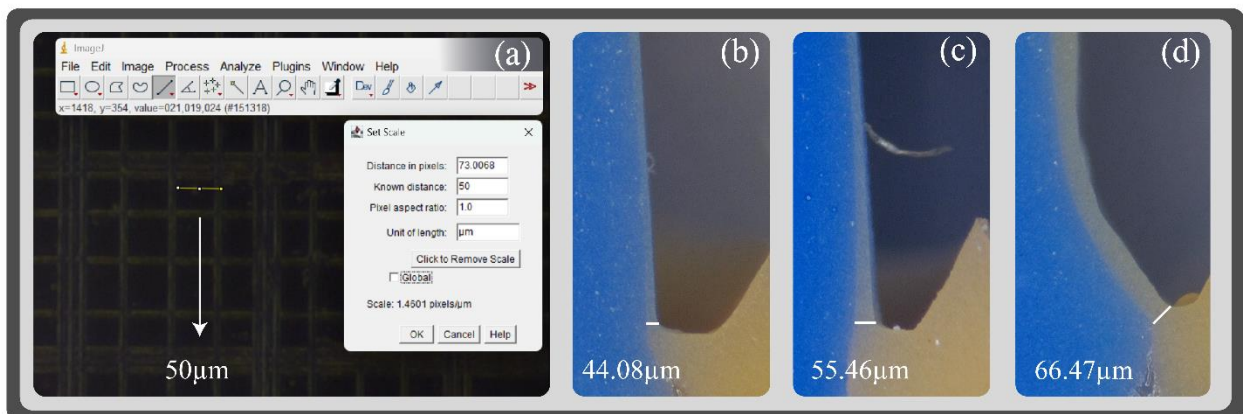


Figure (2): Illustration of the study groups: group A: shoulderless preparation and crowns with (0 μm marginal and 35 μm occlusal-axial) cement space setting; group B: shoulderless preparation and crowns with inverted cement space setting (0 μm occlusal to the 2.4 mm axial and 35 μm marginal); group C: chamfer preparation and crowns with (0 μm marginal and 35 μm occlusal-axial) cement space setting.



Average measurement of the marginal gap in group A, (c) Average measurement of the marginal gap in group B, (d) Average measurement of the marginal gap in group C.

Table 1 Descriptive statistics

Groups	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
A	15	38.93	50.04	44.0831	3.15493
B	15	45.38	61.75	55.4676	4.53124
C	15	59.09	76.58	66.4788	5.52321

Abbreviations, N: Number of samples, Std. deviation: standard deviation

Table 2 One-way ANOVA for comparison among the three groups

ANOVA	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Between groups	3762.115	2	1881.058	92.524	0.001
Within groups	853.883	42	20.331		
total	4615.998	44			

Abbreviations, df: degree of freedom, F: variation between sample means, Sig.: significance level

Table 3 Bonferroni test to compare across the three groups

Variance (I)	Variance (J)	Mean difference (I-J)	Std. error	Sig.
A	B	11.38455	1.64643	0.001
	C	22.39573	1.64643	0.001
B	C	11.01118	1.64643	0.001

Abbreviations, Std. error: standard error, Sig.: significance level

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