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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

### The effect of instrument lubricant on the diametral tensile strength

## and water uptake of posterior composite restorative material

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#### <u>Abstract</u>

#### **Objectives**

This in-vitro study investigated the effect of 'instrument lubricants' used during placement of composite restorative material, on the diametral tensile strength (DTS) and water uptake of composite specimens.

#### Methods

300 posterior composite cylindrical specimens were manufactured: 60 with each instrument lubricant (ethanol, 3-step, 2-step and 1-step 'bonding agent') and 60 with no lubricant (controls). Each set of 60 specimens was evenly allocated to one of the following test groups (n=100/group): Group 1 - tested for DTS immediately after manufacture; Groups 2 and 3 - tested for DTS after immersion in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for 1 and 12-weeks respectively, using a Universal Instron machine. Water uptake was assessed gravimetrically. Data were statistically analysed with two-way ANOVA and Tukey's post hoc test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

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