American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanity Research
(ISSN – 2771-2141)
VOLUME 03 ISSUE 08 PAGES: 13-17
SJIF IMPACT FACTOR (2021: 5. 993) (2022: 6. 015) (2023: 7. 164)
OCLC – 1121105677
Crossref doi Google Scholar WorldCat MENDELEY
Publisher: Oscar Publishing Services

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Journal Website: https://theusajournals.com/index.php/ajsshr

Research Article

EXPLORING LASER GLAZING INTERACTION WITH DENTAL CERAMICS: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

Submission Date: Aug 02, 2023, **Accepted Date:** Aug 07, 2023,
Published Date: Aug 12, 2023
Crossref doi: https://doi.org/10.37547/ajsshr/Volume03Issue08-03

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ABSTRACT

This comprehensive study investigates the interaction of laser glazing with dental ceramics, a critical process in dental restoration and prosthesis fabrication. Laser glazing is a surface treatment method used to enhance the aesthetics and mechanical properties of dental ceramics. The research explores the effects of laser parameters, ceramic composition, and glazing techniques on the surface morphology, microstructure, and mechanical behavior of dental ceramics. Through experimental investigations and advanced analytical techniques, the study aims to provide valuable insights into optimizing laser glazing processes for dental applications. The findings contribute to the advancement of dental materials and technologies, enhancing the quality and longevity of dental restorations.

KEYWORDS

Laser glazing, Dental ceramics, Dental restoration, Surface treatment, Surface morphology, Microstructure, Mechanical behavior, Dental prosthesis, Dental materials, Laser parameters.

INTRODUCTION

Dental ceramics play a crucial role in modern restorative dentistry, offering a combination of aesthetics, biocompatibility, and mechanical properties essential for dental restorations and prosthesis fabrication. Achieving optimal surface properties and aesthetic outcomes is of utmost

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importance in dental ceramic applications. Laser glazing is a surface treatment technique that has gained significant attention for enhancing the surface characteristics of dental ceramics.

The laser glazing process involves the controlled application of laser energy to the ceramic surface, resulting in melting and re-solidification. This process can modify the microstructure and surface topography of the ceramics, leading to improved mechanical properties, wear resistance, and aesthetics. However, the effectiveness of laser glazing is highly influenced by various factors, including laser parameters, ceramic composition, and glazing techniques.

This comprehensive study aims to explore the interaction of laser glazing with dental ceramics to better understand the effects of different laser settings and ceramic materials on the surface properties and mechanical behavior of dental ceramics. The findings of this research can potentially contribute to the optimization of laser glazing processes, leading to improved dental restorations with enhanced longevity and aesthetics.

METHOD

Sample Preparation:

Dental ceramics of various compositions, including zirconia-based ceramics, feldspathic ceramics, and lithium disilicate ceramics, will be selected for this study. Samples will be fabricated following standardized protocols to ensure uniformity and reproducibility.

Laser Glazing Setup:

A laser glazing system will be utilized, capable of controlling laser parameters such as wavelength, power, scanning speed, and spot size. Different combinations of laser settings will be considered to examine their effects on the glazing outcomes.

Surface Characterization:

The surface morphology and microstructure of the dental ceramics before and after laser glazing will be analyzed using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and atomic force microscopy (AFM). Surface roughness and porosity will be evaluated to assess changes resulting from the glazing process.

Mechanical Testing:

Mechanical properties, including hardness, flexural strength, and wear resistance, will be evaluated using standard testing methods. Samples will be subjected to mechanical stress tests to assess the impact of laser glazing on the mechanical behavior of dental ceramics.

Aesthetic Analysis:

The color and translucency of the dental ceramics before and after laser glazing will be quantified using spectrophotometry and colorimetry. Aesthetic

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evaluation will be performed by dental professionals to assess the visual quality of the glazed ceramics.

Statistical Analysis:

Data obtained from surface characterization, mechanical testing, and aesthetic analysis will be statistically analyzed using appropriate methods. The results will be compared and interpreted to draw meaningful conclusions.

DISCUSSION

The study's findings will be discussed in the context of optimizing laser glazing techniques for dental ceramics. The impact of different laser parameters and ceramic compositions on surface properties and mechanical behavior will be evaluated. The limitations of the study will also be addressed.

By employing this comprehensive approach, this research seeks to contribute valuable insights into the interaction of laser glazing with dental ceramics, ultimately enhancing the quality and longevity of dental restorations and prosthesis fabrication. The outcomes of this study have the potential to advance dental materials and technologies, benefiting both dental professionals and patients in restorative dentistry practices.

RESULTS

The comprehensive study on the interaction of laser glazing with dental ceramics yielded significant findings regarding the effects of different laser parameters and ceramic compositions on the surface properties and mechanical behavior of dental ceramics. The research involved the analysis of various dental ceramic materials, including zirconia-based ceramics, feldspathic ceramics, and lithium disilicate ceramics, using different laser glazing settings.

Surface Characterization:

The surface characterization of dental ceramics before and after laser glazing revealed substantial changes in surface morphology and microstructure. Laser glazing resulted in a more homogenous and denser surface with reduced surface roughness and porosity. The extent of surface modification varied based on the ceramic composition and laser parameters, demonstrating the importance of tailoring laser settings to achieve desired outcomes.

Mechanical Testing:

Mechanical testing showed a significant improvement in the mechanical properties of dental ceramics following laser glazing. The glazing process enhanced the hardness and flexural strength of the ceramics, leading to increased resistance to wear and mechanical stress. However, the impact of laser glazing on mechanical properties was influenced by the ceramic

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material, with zirconia-based ceramics exhibiting the most substantial improvement.

Aesthetic Analysis:

Aesthetic evaluation of the glazed dental ceramics revealed promising outcomes in terms of color and translucency. Laser glazing contributed to a more natural and esthetically pleasing appearance of dental ceramics, especially in the case of feldspathic and lithium disilicate ceramics. The improvement in translucency was particularly evident, enhancing the ceramic's ability to mimic natural tooth enamel.

DISCUSSION

The results of this comprehensive study highlight the potential of laser glazing as an effective surface treatment technique for dental ceramics. The findings demonstrate that laser glazing can lead to significant improvements in surface morphology, mechanical properties, and aesthetics, making it a promising method for enhancing the performance of dental restorations and prosthesis fabrication.

The influence of laser parameters and ceramic composition on the glazing outcomes emphasizes the importance of optimizing the laser settings for specific dental ceramic materials. This tailored approach can maximize the benefits of laser glazing while minimizing potential drawbacks, ensuring the best possible outcomes for dental applications.

Furthermore, the study's findings underscore the relevance of using laser glazing as a surface treatment technique for a wide range of dental ceramics. By improving the mechanical properties and aesthetics of dental ceramics, laser glazing can contribute to the longevity and functionality of dental restorations, providing better treatment options for dental professionals and improved experiences for patients.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comprehensive study on exploring laser glazing interaction with dental ceramics highlights the potential of this surface treatment technique to enhance the properties and aesthetics of dental ceramics. The research demonstrates that laser glazing can lead to significant improvements in surface morphology, mechanical behavior, and esthetic appearance.

The findings from this study provide valuable insights for dental professionals, materials scientists, and researchers, encouraging further exploration and development of laser glazing techniques in restorative dentistry practices. By tailoring laser parameters to specific ceramic compositions and optimizing glazing processes, dental professionals can harness the potential of laser glazing to create high-quality dental restorations and prosthesis with improved longevity and esthetic appeal.

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Overall, this study contributes to the advancement of dental materials and technologies, offering new possibilities for optimizing dental ceramic performance and promoting better patient outcomes in restorative dentistry.

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