Dental microscope light improves visibility during light-curing composite application

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Objectives:
Operating microscopes use bright light sources with a wide visible spectrum decreasing working time of light-curing restorative materials. Orange filters prevent unintended polymerization with less visibility of tooth structures and restorations. Therefore, it was the aim of the study (i) to assess the prolongation of working time of light-curing composites by different experimental LED light-sources and (ii) to improve operating visibility with white light combined with traditional orange light.

Material and Methods:
Three experimental light modes (5500 K, Orange, Experimental), used by a experimental Zeiss OPMI microscope, were calibrated to similar intensity of 16 klx. Four composite materials with contemporary photoinitiators were tested (Charisma/shade A2, Venus Diamond/A2: Heraeus, Hanau, Germany; GrandioSO/A2: Voco, Cuxhaven, Germany; Tetrix EvcCera Bulk Fill IX/V: Ivoclar Vivadent, Liechtenstein). Polymisation over time was assessed second by second with a orange mode (Experimental mode for each composite, each cycle was repeated 7 times (n=7) and statistically analyzed using t-test. Photometric analysis was provided for color temperature and Color-Rendring-Index, 3D-color differentiation (Vita 3D-Master, Bad Säckingen, Germany) was performed by two observers.

The microscopic restorative differentiation was tested by two observers in 7 teeth with carious lesions, 7 teeth with visible root transparency (old teeth) and 7 healthy teeth without visible root transparency (young healthy teeth).

Results:
Experimental light mode extended the working time significantly (p<0.001). The means of working time varied between tested composite materials: 5500 K=72-148 s; Experimental= 168-323 s; Orange= 959-1680 s, depending on different composite formulations.

Effect on color differentiation was excellent for Experimental and 5500 K mode. With Orange mode color differentiation was inadequate. Photometric analysis: CRI values were 88 in 5500 K and 5500 K mode. With Orange mode CRI values were 88, 5500 K=939-1690 s, depending on different composite materials.

Conclusions:
In contrast to the Orange mode the Experimental mode inhibits the premature polymerization of light curing composite restorative dental materials with contemporary photoinitiators. The resulting clinical application time of restorations allows, in contrast to the standard 5500 K light settings, complex restoration techniques including incremental application, individual color matching and forming of age-dependent smooth and masticatory tooth surfaces at incisors, canines, premolars and molars. In contrast to the Orange mode the Experimental mode fulfills the most important clinical requirements of optimal color differentiation of dental hard tissues in health and disease. Therefore, the optimally adapted LED light source contributes to the precise discrimination of residual caries, dentin infractions and morphological irregularities.

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