



EFFECT OF INTRAORAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE PROPERTIES OF DIFFERENT ALIGNMENT WIRES – IN VIVO STUDY

Dental Science

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate and compare the effect of intraoral environment on tensile strength and modulus of elasticity of different alignment wires on Universal Testing Machine.

Materials and methods: 144 wire samples were divided into 4 groups (Group I-IV). **Group I** = 0.014 inch stainless steel wire, **Group II** = 0.014 inch Nickel-Titanium wire, **Group III** = 0.014 inch Thermoelastic Nickel Titanium wire, **Group IV** = 0.016 x 0.022 inch Graded thermodynamic Nickel Titanium wire, keeping 72 wire samples as Unused wire (A) and 72 as Retrieved (B) wire samples.

Results: There was decrease in tensile strength and modulus of elasticity for **Retrieved (B)** wires. The tensile strength of Stainless steel was found to be maximum while Thermoelastic Ni-Ti showed minimal value. Modulus of elasticity of graded thermodynamic Ni-Ti showed minimal value.

Conclusion: Graded thermodynamic Nickel Titanium wires were found to perform better clinically, delivering a constant force over time.

KEYWORDS

Wires, Tensile strength, modulus of elasticity, Graded thermodynamic Ni-Ti.

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of wire started from Gold, Stainless steel, Nitinol¹, TMA², super elastic Chinese NiTi³, Japanese⁴ NiTi, Body heat activated NiTi wires⁵ to Graded thermodynamic NiTi⁶ wire. With time, concept of archwire use has changed from variable cross section orthodontics and variable modulus orthodontics⁷ to variable transformation temperature orthodontics. Optimum orthodontic tooth movement is produced by light, continuous force as explained by **Smith⁸** and **Reitan⁹**. Hence, elastic property and mechanical factors both must be considered for alignment to be achieved^{10,11}. Many in-vitro studies have been done to evaluate the mechanical properties of different alignment wires^{12,13,14,15}. Oral environment being dynamic involve continuous interaction of different stresses, masticatory forces, temperature fluctuations (**Chaturvedi and Upadhyay, 2010**)¹⁶. **Kim et al**¹⁷ showed that both NiTi and Stainless steel were susceptible to pitting and localized corrosion. Archwires when engaged, the reactivity status of wire increases leading to their increased reactivity¹⁸. Wires as they remain in the oral cavity, breaks as reported in clinical studies of **Lin M, Lin S, Lee T, Huang H**¹⁹ and **Matasa**²⁰.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Evaluate the effect of intraoral environment on tensile strength and modulus of elasticity of different alignment wires after initial alignment.
2. Comparison of tensile strength and modulus of elasticity among different wires.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

On the basis of wire materials, samples were divided into 4 groups (**Group I-IV**) keeping 18 samples in each group as a standard (**Unused wire=A**) and 18 wires as a used (**Retrieved=B**) sample after the initial alignment (3-4 months) was complete.

Criteria for selection of subjects were as follows:

Inclusion criteria:

1. Upper and lower fixed orthodontic treatment are required.
2. Had not undergone any fixed orthodontic appliance therapy before.
3. The patient between 12 – 18 years of age group.
4. Moderate crowding of 5.1 mm - 8 mm.

Exclusion criteria:

1. Mild (0-5 mm) and severe (more than 8 mm) crowding.

2. Severe posterior crossbites like scissor bite.
3. Systemic disease.
4. Periodontal disease or any loss of attachment.

The wires used were (**Fig. 1**)

Group I = 0.014 inch stainless steel wire.

Group II = 0.014 inch NiTi wire.

Group III = 0.014 inch Thermoelastic NiTi wire.

Group IV = 0.016 x 0.022 inch Graded thermodynamic NiTi wire.

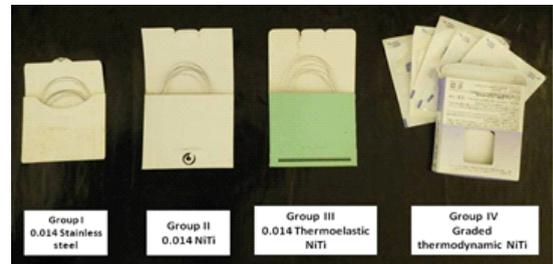


Fig 1: Different Groups of Unused wires.

Group IV wire is a superelastic shape memory NiTi wire with very low hysteresis that provide gradually increasing forces from anterior to posterior segment. Therefore, graded thermodynamic wire will produce significantly lower in small anterior teeth, while it will gradually increase the force moving from the anterior to the posterior segment of the wire (**Kuftinec and StomD, 2008**)⁶. Removed archwires are shown in **Fig. 2**.

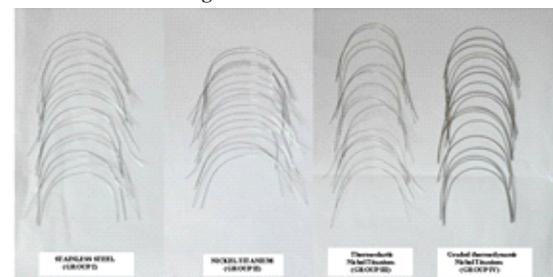


Fig 2: Used wire samples in different Groups

The above mentioned group of wires were tested for tensile strength & modulus of elasticity with a **Universal Testing Machine (Model 3382, Instron, Canton, MA, USA)**(Verstryngne, Van Humbeek, and Willems, 2006¹²) with the help of the **BLUEHILL**software(Fig.3)



Fig3: Universal Testing Machine

RESULT

From Table 1, it was found that the mean tensile strength of **Group I** was maximum followed by **Group II, Group IV** and was least for **Group III** samples

| Type | Mean ± SD | Min | Max | p-value |
|------------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Group IA | 2076.2 ± 43.4 | 2020.9 | 2209.0 | <0.001 |
| Group IB | 1707.3 ± 178.2 | 1488.8 | 1987.6 | |
| Group IIA | 1725.8 ± 96.1 | 1489.9 | 1885.2 | <0.001 |
| Group IIB | 1043.6 ± 144.0 | 867.5 | 1287.7 | |
| Group IIIA | 1048.5 ± 26.2 | 1009.4 | 1098.9 | 0.002 |
| Group IIIB | 954.6 ± 115.1 | 620.9 | 1040.8 | |
| Group IVA | 1083.4 ± 63.9 | 1003.0 | 1199.0 | <0.001 |
| Group IVB | 1003.3 ± 51.6 | 870.0 | 1090.0 | |

p>0.05=not significant, p<0.05=just significant, p<0.01=significant, p<0.001=highly significant.

Table 1: Intergroup comparison of mean and SD of Tensile Strength among various Standard(A) and Used(B) wire Groups in MPa units.

From Table 2, the modulus of elasticity was maximum for **Group I** followed by **Group II, Group III** and was least for **Group IV**.

| Type | Mean ± SD | Min | Max | p-value |
|------------|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Group IA | 126316 ± 4436.2 | 112423.0 | 129654.0 | <0.001 |
| Group IB | 106718.6 ± 2404.8 | 102890.0 | 112423.0 | |
| Group IIA | 100325.5 ± 5767.0 | 95648.0 | 120120.0 | <0.001 |
| Group IIB | 49861.9 ± 6265.2 | 35201.0 | 58643.0 | |
| Group IIIA | 23370.8 ± 2262.4 | 20567.0 | 29743.0 | <0.001 |
| Group IIIB | 15595.6 ± 867.0 | 14521.0 | 16848.0 | |
| Group IVA | 11961.8 ± 1126.0 | 7977.0 | 12987.0 | <0.001 |
| Group IVB | 10802.2 ± 548.5 | 10067.0 | 11503.0 | |

p>0.05=not significant, p<0.05=just significant, p<0.01=significant, p<0.001=highly significant.

Table 2: Intergroup comparison of mean and SD of Modulus of Elasticity among various Standard(A) and Used(B) wire Groups in MPa units.

DISCUSSION

Comparison of the result done through ANOVA, SNV- z on SPSS version 21 software.

Table No. 1 shows the evaluation of mean Tensile strength for **Group I, II, III and IV** between subgroup **A(Unused)** and **B(Retrieved)** in MPa units. From the table, it was found that the mean tensile strength of **Group I** was maximum followed by **Group II, Group IV** and was least for **Group III** wires. These were similar to the findings of **Andreasen¹, Burstone⁷, Bernabe & Flores²¹, Krishnan and Kumar²², Juvvadi et al²³** for **Group I**. However some previous studies

(**Burstone⁷, Kapila and Sachdeva¹³, Wilkinson²⁴**) showed increased values. The values obtained for **Group II** were similar to the study of **Andreasen¹, Bradley et al²⁵** while increased values were shown by the studies of **Kapila and Sachdeva¹³, Kusy and Whitley²⁶**. For **Group III** wires, these were having tensile strength similar to the study of **Gravina, Brunharo, Canavarrro, Ellas and Quintao²⁷**. In all these four groups the mean tensile strength was found to be highly significant for **Group I, II, IV** and significant for **Group III**. This was supported by the study of **Liu, Lee and Liu²⁸**. **Group III** failed to demonstrate better performance than **Group I** or **Group II** archwires which may be either due to the large variation in individual metabolic response, variation in manufacturing process or due to microcavities formed due to pooling of Ni and Ti intraorally (**Gravina et al²⁷**). The modulus of elasticity as shown in **Table No.2** was maximum for **Group I** followed by **Group II, Group III** and was least for **Group IV** wires. In all these four groups the modulus of elasticity was found to be highly significant for **Group I, II, III and IV**. This gradation was found similar to the in-vitro studies of **Andreasen & Morrow¹, Kusy²⁹, Kusy & Greenberg³⁰, Kapila & Sachdeva¹³, Kusy³¹, Iijima et al³²** and in-vivo study of **Evans³³**. According to an in-vitro study of **Gravina et al³⁴**, **Group III** demonstrated superior properties than **Group I** and **Group II** archwires as opposite to what found in our study. This may be due to the same reasons discussed above. Values of **subgroup A** were found to be higher than **subgroup B** which clearly explains that the properties were decreased and wire deteriorated after their use in the oral cavity, these were similar to the findings of **Bourauel, Scharold, Jager and Eliades³⁵**. The mean deterioration were found to be highly significant for all the wire groups. On comparing the combined effect of Retrieved wires(**Table 3**) as a % of Standard among various wire Groups, it was found that the used % of combined effect was maximum for **Group IV** and it was followed by the **Group-I**

| Group | Combined Effect (Geometric Mean of Two Effects) | | | | z-value | p-value |
|------------|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | GM of % of Mean | GM of SD Ratio | GM of % of Min. | GM of % of Max | | |
| Group Ib | 83.4 | 1.5 | 82.1 | 88.3 | 1.893 | 0.058 |
| Group Iib | 54.8 | 1.3 | 46.3 | 57.7 | 3.853 | <0.001 |
| Group IIib | 77.9 | 1.3 | 65.9 | 73.2 | 2.260 | 0.024 |
| Group IVb | 91.4 | 4 | 104.6 | 89.7 | 1.301 | 0.193 |

p>0.05=not significant, p<0.05=just significant, p<0.01=significant, p<0.001=highly significant.

Table 3: Comparison of combined effect of mean Tensile Strength and Modulus of Elasticity among various wire groups, Group Ib, Iib, IIib and IVb as a percentage of Standard strengths.

In both of these groups no significant difference was found from the hypothesis assumed after the use of wire. The minimum used % of combined effect was seen in **Group-II** wires which was significantly different from the hypothesis assumed after the use of wire. As many in-vitro(**Andreasen¹, Kapila and Sachdeva¹³, Kusy^{26,29,30,31,36}, Evans³³, Iijima et al³², Gravina et al^{27,34,37}**) studies have been done to evaluate the properties of wire, this study as done in-vivo is benefitted with the amalgamation of different factors(organic and inorganic) which comes to play in the oral environment. The oral temperature(37°C) holds more importance for **Group III** wires, as they are activated in the oral environment at 35°C (Type III variety). Most important in alignment and leveling archwires include the low stiffness of wire which will be able to deliver low forces per unit of deactivation(**Montasser,2017**)³⁸. Henceforth, in our study **Group IV** wires delivered minimum modulus of elasticity hence can be considered to be best among the four different wire material tested. Also being rectangular, these wires will be able to control root movement and express torque from the initial stages of tooth movement as supported by the study of **Kapila and Sachdeva(1989)**¹³. The next very important criteria is the tensile strength of the wire ligated to resist any permanent deformation. As **Group I** wires showed the maximum tensile strength, it is justified that lowest diameter archwires are preferable for alignment and leveling when these are used but as their modulus of elasticity also being highest amongst all groups, omit its use as a preferable wire for alignment and leveling. Considering the combination of the two properties(tensile strength and modulus of elasticity), **Group IV** wires were found to be best for the use in initial alignment. Also as these wires had minimal decrease in strength after its retrieval from the oral cavity after initial alignment.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were drawn:-

1. On comparing **Unused(A)** and **Retrieved(B)** wires, tensile strength and modulus of elasticity in **Retrieved** wire groups were found to be decreased.
2. **Group III** wires showed least tensile strength which may be due to large variation in individual metabolic response, due to variation in manufacturing process or due to pooling out of ions in the oral cavity. **Group I** were found to have maximum tensile strength amongst all.
3. **Group IV** wires showed least deterioration in tensile strength and modulus of elasticity amongst the four groups of wire while **Group II** showed maximum when retrieved from the oral cavity after initial alignment .
4. Graded thermodynamic NiTi (**Group IV**) wires showed minimal change in modulus of elasticity and tensile strength and hence found to perform better clinically.

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