

Effect of dynamic fatigue loading on the adaptation and retention of maxillary single dentures reinforced with digitally constructed zirconia and cobalt–chromium frameworks

Ghada Mahmoud ElGindy^{1,B,D}, Hebatallah Mohamed Tarek^{2,A}, Fardos Nabil Rizk^{1,E,F}, Marwa Ezzat Sabet^{1,2,C,E,F}

¹ Faculty of Dentistry, The British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt

² Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

A – research concept and design; B – collection and/or assembly of data; C – data analysis and interpretation;

D – writing the article; E – critical revision of the article; F – final approval of the article

Dental and Medical Problems, ISSN 1644-387X (print), ISSN 2300-9020 (online)

Dent Med Probl.

Address for correspondence

Ghada Mahmoud ElGindy
E-mail: ghada.elgindy@bue.edu.eg

Funding sources

None declared

Conflict of interest

None declared

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Dental Materials Department at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.

Received on November 23, 2023

Reviewed on December 23, 2023

Accepted on December 29, 2023

Published online on March 20, 2026

Cite as

ElGindy GM, Tarek HM, Rizk FN, Sabet ME. Effect of dynamic fatigue loading on the adaptation and retention of maxillary single dentures reinforced with digitally constructed zirconia and cobalt–chromium frameworks [published online as ahead of print on March 20, 2026]. *Dent Med Probl.* doi:10.17219/dmp/177931

DOI

10.17219/dmp/177931

Copyright

Copyright by Author(s)

This is an article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License (CC BY 3.0) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>).

Abstract

Background. The impact of dynamic fatigue loading on denture adaptation and retention is clinically important. Zirconia and cobalt–chromium (Co–Cr) frameworks enhance denture strength, but their performance under cyclic loading remains unclear.

Objectives. The aim of the study was to evaluate the adaptation and retention of maxillary single dentures reinforced with digitally constructed Co–Cr or zirconia frameworks after a simulated 1 year of function.

Material and methods. Three types of maxillary single dentures were constructed on maxillary master casts. Group A included maxillary dentures without reinforcement (control group), whereas groups B and C encompassed maxillary dentures reinforced with digitally designed and milled Co–Cr and zirconia frameworks, respectively ($n = 13/\text{group}$). Acrylic resin was conventionally processed on stone casts. Initial adaptation was evaluated for each denture using Geomagic software, which allowed for accurate matching and superimposition of the scanned master cast with the standard tessellation language (STL) file of the scanned fitting denture surface obtained with the use of a desktop scanner. Initial retention was evaluated using a universal testing machine. Dynamic fatigue loading of 50 N at a speed of 60 mm/s was applied in the chewing simulator, after which final adaptation and retention values were recorded. Paired *t*-tests were conducted to compare results within each group, and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to compare the 3 groups. When ANOVA revealed significant differences, Tukey's honestly significant difference (HSD) test was used for post hoc pairwise comparisons. The significance level was set at $p \leq 0.05$.

Results. Group C showed the most favorable adaptation after dynamic fatigue loading (0.31 ± 0.04 mm), while group B exhibited the least favorable adaptation (0.61 ± 0.08 mm). Regarding retention, group C demonstrated the highest values (20.04 ± 0.96 N), while group B exhibited the lowest values (9.32 ± 0.78 N). Significant differences were observed among the 3 groups for both adaptation and retention.

Conclusions. Maxillary single dentures reinforced with zirconia frameworks may represent a successful alternative to Co–Cr frameworks for prosthetic rehabilitation using digital technology.

Keywords: zirconia, retention, adaptation, Co–Cr, reinforced maxillary single denture

Highlights

- Dynamic fatigue loading significantly reduces the performance of dental frameworks made from zirconia and cobalt–chromium alloys.
- Zirconia and cobalt–chromium exhibit different mechanical behaviors under dynamic stress conditions.
- Design modifications may help reduce the effects of fatigue and improve the durability of dental restorations.
- Consideration of dynamic loading conditions is important for material selection and treatment planning to improve patient outcomes.
- Further research on the fatigue behavior of dental materials is needed to optimize their performance in clinical applications.

Introduction

Maxillary single dentures opposing mandibular natural teeth pose challenges in achieving adequate comfort, retention, function, and esthetics.¹ The most common complication associated with maxillary dentures is fracture, especially in the presence of natural mandibular teeth. The predominant mode of failure is flexural fatigue caused by cyclic deformation due to masticatory forces, typically resulting in a midline fracture of the denture.^{2,3}

The most commonly used material for the fabrication of dentures is acrylic resin, specifically polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA). Polymethyl methacrylate has gained widespread acceptance among patients due to its favorable mechanical, biological and esthetic qualities. Compared with metal denture bases, PMMA denture bases are easier to construct and repair.¹ However, PMMA dentures are susceptible to failure due to their low fatigue resistance. Midline fractures are a frequent complication, often resulting from occlusal disharmony, flexure and fatigue of the denture base.¹ Reinforcing materials can be used to enhance the mechanical properties of maxillary dentures. Therefore, the implementation of reinforced denture bases has been proposed as a potential solution.^{4–7}

Cobalt–chromium (Co–Cr) alloys are primarily used as metal reinforcement materials to improve the stability and fracture resistance of single dentures. These alloys show excellent mechanical properties, biocompatibility and corrosion resistance.⁸ However, their rough surface and susceptibility to internal defects, as well as difficult casting procedures may lead to unexpected complications.^{8,9}

Advances in digital technology and the development of computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) have enabled the production of Co–Cr prostheses through computer numerical control milling, eliminating casting-induced porosity and manufacturing defects.¹⁰

Recent trends in prosthetic dentistry favor metal-free restorations. Metal frameworks are heavier and require more complicated fabrication procedures, as well as pose a risk of hypersensitivity due to their alloy composition.¹¹

A newer generation of zirconia, ceria-stabilized zirconia/alumina (Ce-TZP/Al₂O₃), is a nanocomposite in which nanometer-sized alumina particles and ceria-stabilized zirconia particles are dispersed within ceria-stabilized zirconia crystal and alumina crystal, respectively.^{12,13} Ceria-stabilized zirconia/alumina demonstrates excellent mechanical properties, including high flexural strength, high fracture toughness and high resistance to low-temperature degradation.^{14–17} These characteristics exceed those of conventional yttria-stabilized zirconia (Y-TZP), and its elastic modulus is comparable to that of Co–Cr alloys, suggesting potential applicability of Ce-TZP/Al₂O₃ as a denture base material and a possible substitute for metal alloys.¹³

The present study was conducted to assess whether reinforcement of a maxillary single denture with digitally constructed Co–Cr or zirconia frameworks affects denture retention and adaptation. Additionally, the effect of these frameworks after dynamic fatigue loading simulating 1 year of function was assessed using a chewing simulator. The null hypothesis posited that there are no variations between conventional and reinforced maxillary single dentures in terms of adaptation and retention.

Material and methods

Three types of maxillary single dentures were constructed on maxillary master casts obtained from patients requiring maxillary single dentures. The maxillary arch presented a U-shaped residual alveolar ridge without bony or soft tissue undercuts. Group A included conventional acrylic resin maxillary single dentures without reinforcement (control group), group B encompassed maxillary single dentures reinforced with a digitally designed and milled Co–Cr framework, and group C comprised maxillary single dentures reinforced with a digitally designed and milled zirconia framework (Fig. 1).

The study was reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt (approval No. FDASU-RecID041914).



Fig. 1. Three types of maxillary single dentures evaluated in the study

Master cast preparation and maxillary single denture fabrication

Thirteen definitive master casts were obtained from the patients. The geometric center of each arch was determined. The midline of the cast was drawn from the center of the incisive papilla to a point located in the middle of a line connecting the 2 hamular notches. Then, a midpoint was marked on the midline to represent the center of the arch.^{18,19} The definitive master casts were fixed on a plate inside a desktop scanner with their labial surfaces facing the interior of the scanner (D850; 3Shape, Copenhagen, Denmark). The scanning procedure followed the software protocol. Subsequently, the casts were duplicated using a silicone base duplication material (REPLISIL 22 N; dent-e-con, Lonsee, Germany) to obtain 39 duplicate stone master casts ($n = 13/\text{group}$), on which the 3 types of maxillary single dentures were constructed.

Acrylic unreinforced maxillary single dentures (group A) were constructed using the conventional method on the duplicate stone master casts and served as reference dentures to standardize the acrylic thickness and tooth positioning during the fabrication of dentures reinforced with Co–Cr and zirconia frameworks (groups B and C).²⁰ A rubber index of the maxillary teeth and the polished surface of the flanges was prepared for each acrylic denture.

The object replacement character (OBJ) files of the scanned definitive master casts were imported into the digital design software partial module (PartialCAD; exocad GmbH, Darmstadt, Germany) to design the reinforcement frameworks for groups B and C (Fig. 2). The frameworks were virtually relieved with a 0.5-mm thickness wax on the crest of the ridge with tissue stops and on the median palatine raphe. It was designed to cover the palatal area with an extended palatal plate, a major connector and a mesh denture base extending to the crest of the ridge. The framework thickness was set at 1.5 mm.²⁰ An attachment was placed at the geometric center of the polished surface of the framework, corresponding to the previously marked point on the cast (Fig. 3).

The standard tessellation language (STL) files of the design were imported into the CAM software (iCAM V5 smart; imes-icore GmbH, Eiterfeld, Germany) and milled in both Co–Cr and zirconia frameworks using a 5-axis dry and wet milling machine (CORiTEC 350i; imes-icore GmbH).

For Co–Cr framework milling (group B), the design was nested in a 98 mm × 18 mm pre-sintered Co–Cr blank (MoguCera C Disc; Scheftner, Mainz, Germany) (Fig. 4).

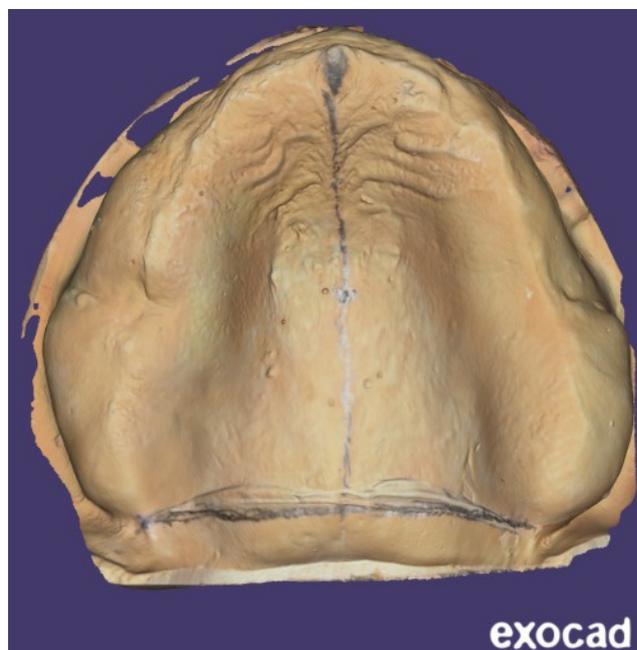


Fig. 2. Scanned definitive master cast

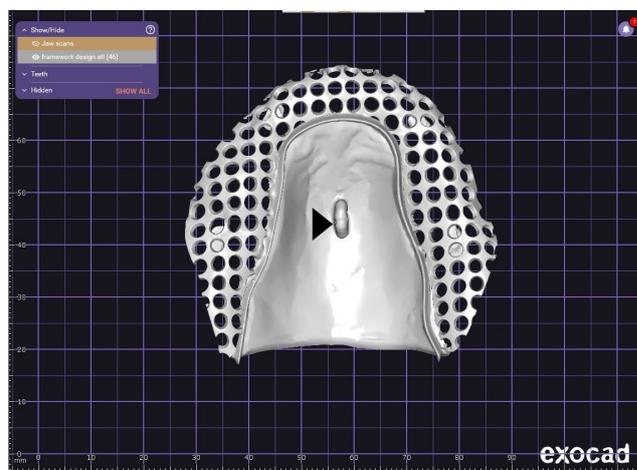


Fig. 3. Standard tessellation language (STL) file showing the framework design. The arrow indicates the attachment point located at the geometric center of the framework surface.

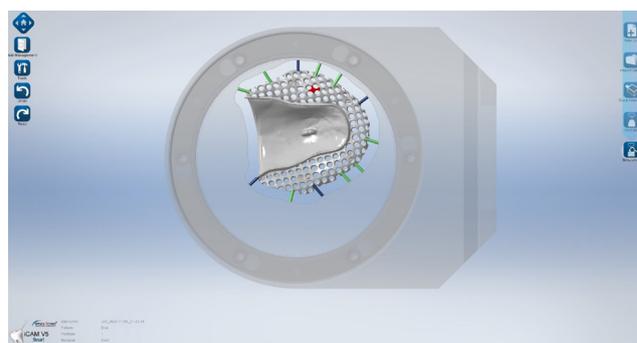


Fig. 4. Framework design nested in a cobalt–chromium (Co–Cr) blank for milling

Dry milling of the Co–Cr disk was performed using burs of different sizes. The average milling time was 752.33 min. Polishing was performed with the use of a polishing lathe and cloth brushes.

For zirconia framework milling (group C), the design was nested in a 98 mm × 25 mm zirconia blank (Nacera®; DOCERAM Medical Ceramics GmbH, Dortmund, Germany) with a scale factor of 1.25 (Fig. 5). The zirconia disks were dry milled, with an average milling time of 300.23 min. Subsequently, complete sintering was performed in a furnace at 1,350–1,500°C to achieve their final shape.

With the aid of the rubber index, 2 reinforced maxillary dentures, with the same tooth position as conventional unreinforced dentures, were constructed on duplicate stone master casts. Zirconia and Co–Cr frameworks were fixed to the duplicated master casts using a quick-drying glue to prevent deformation. Teeth were set within the index, and the acrylic resin was carefully packed and processed in a conventional manner.²¹

Construction of resin casts with mucosa simulation

The definitive maxillary master casts were modified to construct resin casts with simulated mucosa, which served as models for the evaluation of retention and dynamic fatigue loading. A vacuum sheet was processed on the cast to fabricate a stent with 3 tissue stops. The cast surface was then reduced by 2 mm to create space for the tissue-simulating mask. The modified cast was duplicated to obtain 3 polyurethane epoxy resin casts (Exakto-Form; bredent medical GmbH & Co. KG, Senden, Germany) using a silicone mold. An adhesive was applied to the epoxy casts, and a silicone mucosa gingival mask with viscoelastic properties similar to those of palatal mucosa (Multisil; bredent medical GmbH & Co. KG)²² was injected into the stent and pressed onto the epoxy cast to simulate the mucosa. Therefore, for each denture, an epoxy resin master cast with soft tissue simulation was constructed.

Evaluation of initial adaptation

All dentures were lightly coated with antiglare spray before scanning their fitting surfaces using the desktop scanner (D850; 3Shape) to obtain STL files. The STL files were imported into the Meshmixer software (<https://meshmixer.org>) to invert the fitting surfaces so that they resembled cast surfaces.²³

The Geomagic software (Geomagic Control X64; Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence, LLC, Morrisville, USA) was used to evaluate the adaptation of the maxillary denture bases to the scanned master cast. The STL files of the master cast and the inverted fitting surface were imported into the software. Then, the STL file of the denture fitting surface was superimposed onto the STL file

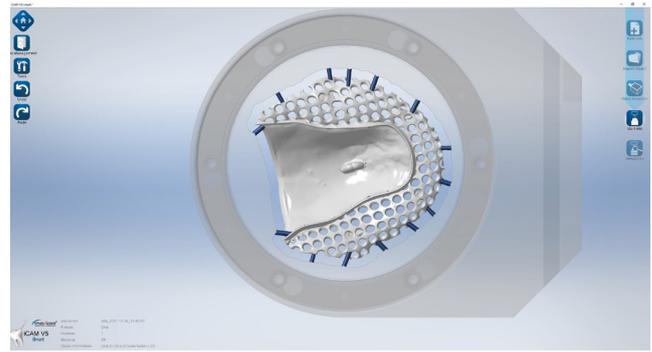


Fig. 5. Framework design nested in a zirconia blank for milling

of the corresponding master cast.²³ Alignment between the reference and measured data was performed automatically using the best-fit alignment option. The 3D Compare function was used to evaluate the adaptation of the measured data. The results were presented as both a color scale and numerical values (Fig. 6). Adaptation was interpreted based on the distance between the fitting surface of the denture base and the reference data.

Evaluation of initial retention

A metallic ring was attached to the geometric center of the polished surface of the denture bases using self-curing acrylic resin. Artificial saliva was prepared according to the Glandosane formula by the Laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Industry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Ain

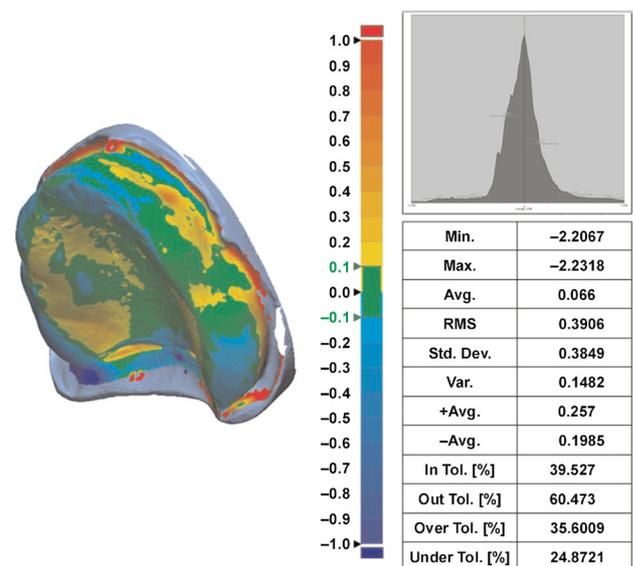


Fig. 6. Geomagic software analysis report for denture base adaptation

Cyan-to-blue colors indicate a gap between the denture base and the cast surface, yellow-to-red colors indicate the impingement of the denture base against the cast, and green indicates intimate contact between the two surfaces. Pressure areas are represented by positive deviation values, whereas gap areas are denoted by negative deviation values. Min. – minimum; Max. – maximum; Avg. – average; RMS – root mean square; Std. Dev. – standard deviation; Var. – variability; In tol. – within tolerance; Under tol. – below tolerance; Over tol. – above tolerance; Out tol. – outside tolerance.

Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, and placed between the cast and the denture. A pressure of 98 N was applied to the dentures for 20 s to spread the artificial saliva uniformly across the entire mucosal surface of the denture base. The epoxy resin cast with mucosa simulation was secured to the lower component of a universal testing machine (Instron 3365; Instron®, Norwood, USA) with the palate facing upward. Tensile force was applied to the attached ring in an upward direction perpendicular to the imaginary occlusal plane (Fig. 7). The crosshead speed of the universal testing machine was set at 50 mm/min. Retention was defined as the maximum traction force required to separate the denture base from the maxillary cast. The test was conducted 10 times, and the mean value of the 10 measurements was recorded as the retention force.

Dynamic fatigue loading

Each denture was seated on its corresponding epoxy resin cast and placed in a chewing simulator (CS-4; SD Mechatronik, Feldkirchen-Westerham, Germany) (Fig. 8). Dynamic cyclic loading was applied by means of a stylus falling at the center of the metal plate that was previously attached to the occlusal surface of the denture at the center of the arch. The applied load was set at 50 N, and the software parameters were as follows: a speed of 60 mm/s; a vertical path of 3 mm; a horizontal path of 0.7 mm; and a frequency of 1.6 Hz. Each denture was subjected to biaxial cyclic loading for a total of 250,000 cycles, which represented 1 year of intraoral function.²¹

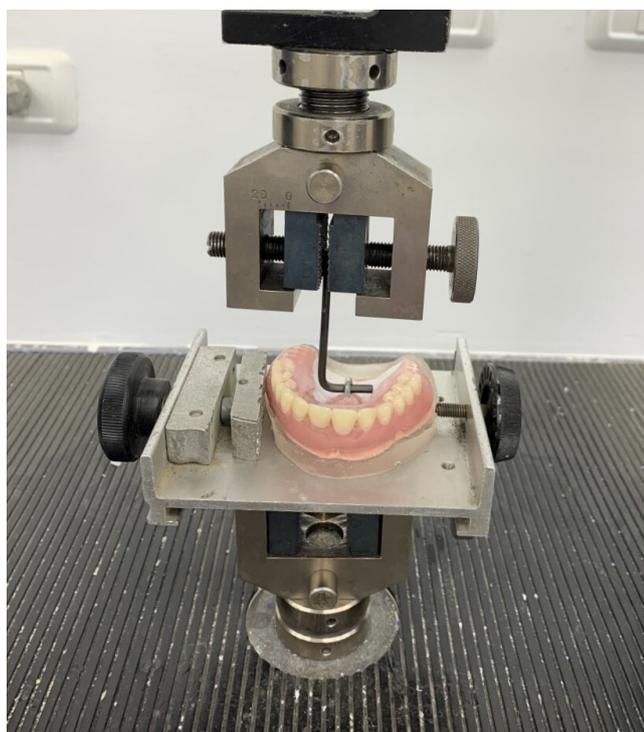


Fig. 7. Universal testing machine used for retention testing (Instron 3365; Instron®, Norwood, USA)

After the chewing simulation, all procedures for measuring adaptation and retention were repeated for the 3 groups as previously described.

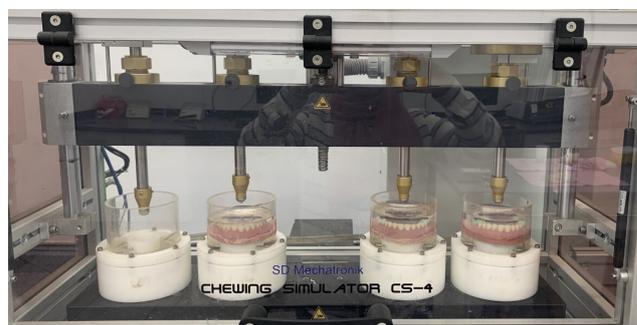


Fig. 8. Chewing simulator used for dynamic fatigue loading (CS-4; SD Mechatronik, Feldkirchen-Westerham, Germany)

Statistical analysis

The sample size was calculated using the G*Power software for Windows (v. 3.1.9.4; <https://www.psychologie.hhu.de/arbeitsgruppen/allgemeine-psychologie-und-arbeitspsychologie/gpower>). A sample size of 12 dentures per group was determined to detect significant differences with a statistical power of 95% ($\alpha = 0.05$). The sample size was subsequently increased to 13 dentures per group to compensate for potential dropouts.

The obtained data was recorded, tabulated and statistically analyzed. Paired *t*-tests were applied to compare results within each group, and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to compare the 3 groups. Tukey's honestly significant difference (HSD) test was used for post hoc pairwise comparisons when the results of ANOVA indicated significant differences. The significance level was set at $p \leq 0.05$. Statistical analyses were performed using the IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows software, v. 20.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, USA).

Results

Regarding the effect of dynamic fatigue loading on the adaptation within each group, the deviation from the scanned master cast increased in group A (conventional acrylic resin) and group B (Co–Cr framework), indicating reduced adaptation. In contrast, group C (zirconia framework) showed less deviation from the scanned master cast, indicating better adaptation. These changes were statistically significant according to the results of the paired *t*-test (Table 1, Fig. 9).

When adaptation was compared between the 3 groups before dynamic fatigue loading, only minimal differences were observed, with group C demonstrating slightly more favorable adaptation. However, these differences were not statistically significant according to ANOVA.

Table 1. Root mean square (RMS) deviation values for denture base adaptation before and after dynamic fatigue loading in the 3 groups

Dynamic fatigue loading	Group A (conventional acrylic resin)		Group B (Co–Cr framework)		Group C (zirconia framework)		F-value	p-value (ANOVA)
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
Before loading	0.39	0.06	0.43	0.06	0.38	0.04	3.107	0.057
After loading	0.53 ^a	0.07	0.61 ^b	0.08	0.31 ^c	0.04	63.458	<0.00001*
p-value (paired t-test)	<0.0001*		<0.0001*		0.0016*			–

* statistically significant ($p \leq 0.05$); Co–Cr – cobalt–chromium. Different superscript letters indicate statistically significant differences between the groups (Tukey's post hoc honestly significant difference (HSD) test). Mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) values are presented in millimeters [mm].

After dynamic fatigue loading, group C exhibited the best adaptation, while group B demonstrated the least favorable adaptation. These changes were statistically significant based on the outcomes of ANOVA. Tukey's post hoc HSD test revealed significant differences between groups A and B, groups A and C, and groups B and C (Table 1, Fig. 9).

Regarding the effect of dynamic fatigue loading on retention within each group, retention decreased in groups A and B after loading, whereas it increased in group C. These changes were statistically significant based on the results of the paired *t*-test (Table 2, Fig. 10).

Comparison of retention among the 3 groups before and after dynamic fatigue loading revealed that group C achieved the highest retention values, while group B exhibited the lowest retention. These differences were statistically significant according to ANOVA. Tukey's post hoc HSD test indicated significant differences between groups A and B, groups A and C, and groups B and C (Table 2, Fig. 10).

Discussion

The present study aimed to evaluate the retention and adaptation of reinforced maxillary dentures fabricated using CAD/CAM with Co–Cr and zirconia frameworks, compared with conventional acrylic resin dentures, before and after dynamic fatigue loading. Adequate denture adaptation contributes to good retention, stability and support.²⁴

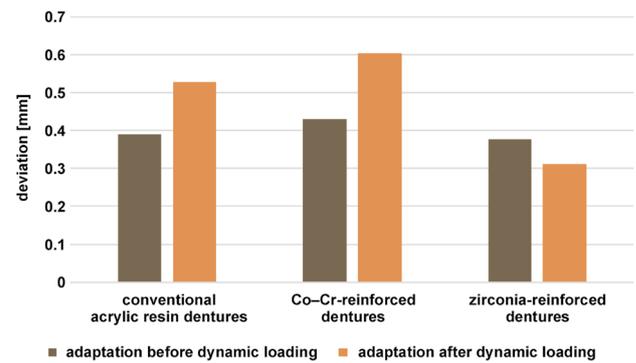


Fig. 9. Bar chart showing the root mean square (RMS) deviation values for denture base adaptation before and after dynamic fatigue loading in the 3 groups

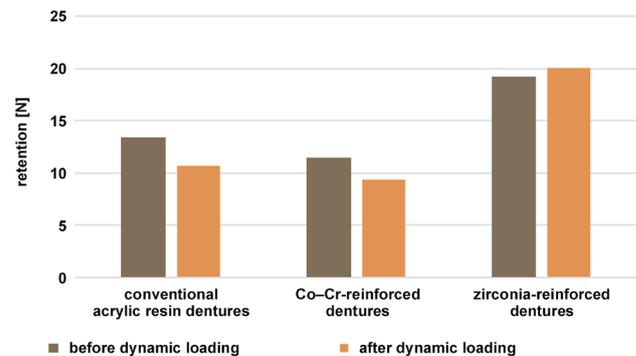


Fig. 10. Bar chart showing the mean retention values before and after dynamic fatigue loading in the 3 groups

Table 2. Retention values before and after dynamic fatigue loading

Dynamic fatigue loading	Group A (conventional acrylic resin)		Group B (Co–Cr framework)		Group C (zirconia framework)		F-value	p-value
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
Before loading	13.34 ^a	1.51	11.37 ^b	0.74	19.19 ^c	0.88	179.094	<0.0001*
After loading	10.66 ^a	0.75	9.32 ^b	0.78	20.04 ^c	0.96	636.585	<0.00001*
p-value	<0.0001*		<0.0001*		0.0102*			–

* statistically significant ($p \leq 0.05$). Different superscript letters indicate statistically significant differences between the groups (Tukey's post hoc HSD test). Mean and SD values are presented in Newtons [N].

Definitive master casts were obtained from patients to include a diverse range of residual alveolar ridge shapes and forms. These anatomical variations were carefully considered during the design and execution of the cross-over study. However, it is crucial to emphasize that these variations did not introduce bias or significantly influence the study outcomes. A similar approach was reported by Faty et al. and Abd El Galil et al.,^{23,25} who incorporated casts from different patients to evaluate denture adaptation and retention.

The geometric center of the arch was manually determined on the definitive master cast before scanning and later transferred to the framework design for standardization. While digital application during the design process of both frameworks would provide greater accuracy, transferring this position to the conventional denture was difficult.²³ The geometric center was chosen to measure the retention of the denture base based on previous studies reporting this region as the most reliable for testing the retention of maxillary complete dentures.^{26,27}

A desktop scanner (D850; 3Shape) with a camera resolution of 5 MP and an accuracy of 4 μm was used. This open system allows data export to the PartialCAD software.²⁵ The definitive master cast scans were exported to OBJ files and imported into the PartialCAD module to preserve the drawn data on the cast. A plate design was used to reinforce the maxillary denture rather than a mesh or wire embedded within the acrylic denture base. It was found that the use of metal wire reinforcement inhibits polymerization and thermal shrinkage of the dough resin during denture construction, thereby compromising denture adaptation.²⁸

A 5-axis dental milling machine (CORiTEC 350i; imes-icore GmbH) was used to construct the frameworks. This system offers advantages over conventional 3-axis machines. It enables movement in 3 spatial directions, in addition to rotational movement along the 4th axis. Additionally, the milling spindle of this machine can rotate, providing the 5th axis of motion. These combined functionalities facilitate the milling process of complex geometries with subsections.²⁹ Different bur sizes were used, as large burs provide good durability and an excellent cutting rate, while smaller burs allow accurate reproduction of fine details. Precise cutting is an important factor in the CAD/CAM milling process.³⁰

Denture adaptation was evaluated using the Geomagic software, a surface-matching program that enables superimposition of 2 surfaces to determine deviations between them.²⁴ The calculated mean values might be close to 0, which is non-practical, indicating a perfect fit. Therefore, the root mean square (RMS) values were used to eliminate the influence of positive and negative signs.^{31,32}

A gingival mask with viscoelastic properties similar to those of oral mucosa and minimal dimensional change or permanent deformation was used during retention measurements and chewing simulation. To ensure a stable

non-movable model surface, the gingival mask was bonded to the underlying model using an adhesive.³³ During chewing simulation, the load was applied to the center of a metal plate. Metal was selected instead of acrylic due to its superior stress distribution properties, as demonstrated in previous studies.^{34–36} The simulation consisted of 2,500,000 chewing cycles, representing approx. 1 year of dental function.³⁷ During the retention measurements and chewing simulation, Glandosane artificial saliva was employed. Artificial saliva simulates oral conditions and influences the biological properties of the materials, while also removing debris resulting from material wear.^{38,39} Bayer et al. demonstrated that the absence of saliva can alter frictional wear, consequently affecting retention force values.⁴⁰

Hwang et al. reported an acceptable range for adaptation deviation, ranging between 0.05 mm and 0.30 mm.⁴¹ In the present study, before dynamic fatigue loading, all maxillary single dentures demonstrated acceptable adaptation values, with no statistically significant differences observed between the groups. Hence, all methods may be considered suitable for restoring single maxillary arches. However, subjecting the dentures to dynamic fatigue loading revealed a statistically significant difference among the groups, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Among the tested groups, group C (zirconia framework) exhibited the best adaptation, which may be attributed to the high flexural and bending strength of nanozirconia (900–1,200 MPa).⁴² These values surpass those of milled Co–Cr (480 \pm 20 MPa)⁴³ and conventional acrylic resin (624.6–825.4 MPa).⁴⁴ On the other hand, the adaptation of group A (conventional acrylic resin) decreased after dynamic fatigue loading. Notably, our study demonstrated that group A showed better adaptation than group B (Co–Cr framework). This difference may be attributed to water absorption of acrylic resin during the experimental period.^{45,46}

In a study conducted by Amaral et al., the flexural strength of surface-treated Y-TZP disks was evaluated before and after mechanical cycling.⁴⁷ The researchers observed a phase transformation from the tetragonal to monoclinic phase, resulting in the creation of a superficial compression layer that enhanced surface toughness and increased initial flexural strength. Regarding Co–Cr alloys, hard milling of Co–Cr blocks minimized the occurrence of casting defects.⁴⁸ However, Kim et al. concluded that milled Co–Cr exhibited inferior mechanical properties and was considered the least favorable method for Co–Cr manufacturing.⁴³ This was attributed to the presence of a large grain size in milled Co–Cr, which adversely affected its mechanical properties, particularly yield strength.

In the present study, all groups demonstrated acceptable retention values. However, zirconia-reinforced dentures (group C) exhibited the highest retention both before and after dynamic fatigue loading. This finding can be explained by the well-established relationship

between complete denture retention and good denture base adaptation, as reported in numerous studies.^{4,49,50} Thus, the observed retention results are consistent with the findings related to adaptation.

Limitations

Several limitations of the present study should be acknowledged. Laboratory methods and results may not fully reflect clinical performance. Although the chewing simulator provided a controlled environment for evaluating denture adaptation and retention, it could not fully replicate the complex and dynamic oral conditions experienced by patients in real-life situations. Factors such as variations in salivary flow, oral muscle activity and oral hygiene practices may influence denture behavior in the clinical setting. Therefore, caution should be exercised when extrapolating these findings to clinical practice. Further research, including clinical studies with long-term follow-up, is required to validate the results of this laboratory-based investigation.

Conclusions

Maxillary single dentures reinforced with zirconia frameworks can be considered a successful alternative approach to Co–Cr frameworks for prosthetic rehabilitation using digital technology.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study was reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt (approval No. FDASU-RecID041914).

Data availability

The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Use of AI and AI-assisted technologies

Not applicable.

ORCID iDs

Ghada Mahmoud ElGindy  <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-8141-1175>
 Hebatallah Mohamed Tarek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8280-4656>
 Fardos Nabil Rizk  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1868-3789>
 Marwa Ezzat Sabet  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8407-5557>

References

1. Ulla MS, DL S, TV S, K B. Management of maxillary single denture fractures: An enigma. *Int J Appl Dent Sci.* 2021;7(3):86–88. doi:10.22271/oral.2021.v7.i3b.1284
2. Bhandari S. Outcome of single maxillary complete dentures opposing mandibular teeth: A need to introspect on the prosthodontic treatment protocol. *J Indian Prosthodont Soc.* 2016;16(1):15–19. doi:10.4103/0972-4052.167941
3. Williamson R, reviewer. *J Prosthodont.* 2005;14(2):144–146. Review of: Baskar RM, Davenport J. *Prosthetic Treatment of the Edentulous Patient, 4th Edition.* doi:10.1111/j.1532-849x.2005.00030_2.x
4. Mohammed EH, Elddamony E, Mohamed S. Evaluation of metal base adaptation and clinical retention of upper complete dentures with a CO–CR metal palate constructed by two different approaches. *Egypt Dent J.* 2022;68(4):3771–3782.
5. Abdulrahim R, Yanikoğlu N. Evaluation of fracture resistance for autopolymerizing acrylic resin materials reinforced with glass fiber mesh, metal mesh and metal wire materials: An in vitro study. *Open J Stomatol.* 2022;12(2):33–41. doi:10.4236/ojst.2022.122004
6. Altaie SF. Tribological, microhardness and color stability properties of a heat-cured acrylic resin denture base after reinforcement with different types of nanofiller particles. *Dent Med Probl.* 2023;60(2):295–302. doi:10.17219/dmp/137611
7. Machado-Santos L, Baroudi K, Silikas N, et al. Physical analysis of an acrylic resin modified by metal and ceramic nanoparticles. *Dent Med Probl.* 2023;60(4):657–664. doi:10.17219/dmp/171844
8. Williams RJ, Bibb R, Eggbeer D, Collis J. Use of CAD/CAM technology to fabricate a removable partial denture framework. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2006;96(2):96–99. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2006.05.029
9. Ponto-Wolska M, Wagner L. Assessment of the influence of selected electrolytic polishing process parameters on the surface roughness of casts made of the CoCrMo alloy. *Dent Med Probl.* 2018;55(4):395–398. doi:10.17219/dmp/96237
10. Zhou Y, Li N, Yan J, Zeng Q. Comparative analysis of the microstructures and mechanical properties of Co–Cr dental alloys fabricated by different methods. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2018;120(4):617–623. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2017.11.015
11. Geurtsen W. Biocompatibility of dental casting alloys. *Crit Rev Oral Biol Med.* 2002;13(1):71–84. doi:10.1177/154411130201300108
12. Urano S, Hotta Y, Miyazaki T, Baba K. Bending properties of Ce-TZP/A nanocomposite clasps for removable partial dentures. *Int J Prosthodont.* 2015;28(2):191–197. doi:10.11607/ijp.4113
13. Takano T, Sakurai K. Overview of zirconia: Application as denture base material substituting for metal. *Int J Prosthodont Restor Dent.* 2013;3(4):153–156. doi:10.5005/jp-journals-10019-1096
14. Tanaka K, Tamura J, Kawanabe K, et al. Ce-TZP/Al₂O₃ nanocomposite as a bearing material in total joint replacement. *J Biomed Mater Res.* 2002;63(3):262–270. doi:10.1002/jbm.10182
15. Hagiwara Y, Nakajima K. Application of Ce-TZP/Al₂O₃ nanocomposite to the framework of an implant-fixed complete dental prosthesis and a complete denture. *J Prosthodont Res.* 2016;60(4):337–343. doi:10.1016/j.jprior.2016.02.002
16. Akar T, Dündar A, Kırmalı Ö, et al. Evaluation of the shear bond strength of zirconia to a self-adhesive resin cement after different surface treatment. *Dent Med Probl.* 2021;58(4):463–472. doi:10.17219/dmp/135652
17. Ataoğlu AS, Ergun G, Yayman M. Effects of the substructure thickness, the resin cement color and the finishing procedure on the color and translucency of zirconia-based ceramic restorations. *Dent Med Probl.* 2023;60(1):137–144. doi:10.17219/dmp/149356
18. Mohamed S, Emarah A. Metal versus poly ether-ether Ketone secondary copings for rigid telescopic retained implant supported mandibular over dentures. Evaluation of clinical retention forces. *Egypt Dent J.* 2020;66(3):1769–1778. doi:10.21608/edj.2020.31446.1134
19. AlHelal A, AlRumaih HS, Kattadiyil MT, Baba NZ, Goodacre CJ. Comparison of retention between maxillary milled and conventional denture bases: A clinical study. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2017;117(2):233–238. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2016.08.007
20. Nishiyama H, Tanaka S, Nemoto R, Miura H, Baba K. Zirconia-reinforced framework for maxillary complete dentures. *Int J Prosthodont.* 2018;31(2):114–116. doi:10.11607/ijp.4999

21. Im SM, Huh YH, Cho LR, Park CJ. Comparison of the fracture resistances of glass fiber mesh- and metal mesh-reinforced maxillary complete denture under dynamic fatigue loading. *J Adv Prosthodont.* 2017;9(1):22–30. doi:10.4047/jap.2017.9.1.22
22. Hada T, Suzuki T, Minakuchi S, Takahashi H. Reduction in maxillary complete denture deformation using framework material made by computer-aided design and manufacturing systems. *J Mech Behav Biomed Mater.* 2020;103:103514. doi:10.1016/j.jmbbm.2019.103514
23. Faty MA, Sabet ME, Thabet YG. A comparison of denture base retention and adaptation between CAD/CAM and conventional fabrication techniques. *Int J Prosthodont.* 2023;36(4):469–478. doi:10.11607/ijp.7193
24. Goodacre BJ, Goodacre CJ, Baba NZ, Kattadiyil MT. Comparison of denture base adaptation between CAD–CAM and conventional fabrication techniques. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2016;116(2):249–256. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2016.02.017
25. Abd El Galil EG, Mohamed SL, Rizk FN, Sabet ME. Evaluation of two computer-aided design software on the adaptation of digitally constructed maxillary complete denture. *J Indian Prosthodont Soc.* 2021;21(4):383–390. doi:10.41010.4103/jips.jips_137_21
26. El-Mekawy N, Gomaa A, Habib A. Comparison of three different forms of denture adhesives: Direct measurement of denture retention and study of patient satisfaction. *Egypt Dent J.* 2012;58(3):1–9. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nesreen-El-Mekawy/publication/268503832_Comparison_of_Three_Different_Forms_of_Denture_Adhesives_Direct_Measurement_of_Denture_Retention_and_Study_of_Patient_Satisfaction/links/5b8d027192851c1e124437ee/Comparison-of-Three-Different-Forms-of-Denture-Adhesives-Direct-Measurement-of-Denture-Retention-and-Study-of-Patient-Satisfaction.pdf. Accessed November 20, 2023.
27. Rizk FN, Elhadary AA. Study of retention and physical properties of conventional and microwave-cured acrylic resin complete dentures: An in-vivo and in-vitro investigation. *Egypt Dent J.* 2016;62(4):5005–5015. <https://buescholar.bue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1104&context=dentistry>. Accessed November 20, 2023.
28. Teraoka F, Nakagawa M, Takahashi J. Adaptation of acrylic dentures reinforced with metal wire. *J Oral Rehabil.* 2001;28(10):937–942. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2842.2001.00752.x
29. Barker E, AlQobaly L, Shaikh Z, Franklin K, Moharamzadeh K. Implant soft-tissue attachment using 3D oral mucosal models – a pilot study. *Dent J (Basel).* 2020;8(3):72. doi:10.3390/DJ8030072
30. Bae SY, Park JY, Kim JH, Kim HY, Kim MB, Kim WC. The comparison of accuracy on three-unit fixed dental prosthesis made with CAD/CAM milling machines. *J Tech Dent.* 2015;37(1):9–15. doi:10.14347/kadt.2015.37.1.9
31. Lo Russo L, Guida L, Zhurakivska K, Troiano G, Chochlidakis K, Ercoli C. Intaglio surface trueness of milled and 3D-printed digital maxillary and mandibular dentures: A clinical study. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2023;129(1):131–139. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2021.05.003
32. Wang C, Shi YF, Xie PJ, Wu JH. Accuracy of digital complete dentures: A systematic review of in vitro studies. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2021;125(2):249–256. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2020.01.004
33. ElCharkawi HG, Goodkind RJ, DeLong R, Douglas WH. The effect of the resilient-layer distal-extension partial denture on movement of the abutment teeth: A new methodology. *J Prosthet Dent.* 1988;60(5):622–630. doi:10.1016/0022-3913(88)90226-0
34. Tehini G, Baba NZ, Berberi A, Majzoub Z, Bassal H, Rifai K. Effect of simulated mastication on the retention of locator attachments for implant-supported overdentures: An in vitro pilot study. *J Prosthodont.* 2020;29(1):74–79. doi:10.1111/jopr.12670
35. Yilmaz EC, Sadeler R. Investigation of three-body wear of dental materials under different chewing cycles. *Sci Eng Compos Mater.* 2018;25(4):781–787. doi:10.1515/secm-2016-0385
36. Sia PKS, Masri R, Driscoll CF, Romberg E. Effect of locator abutment height on the retentive values of pink locator attachments: An in vitro study. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2017;117(2):283–288. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2016.08.012
37. Zidan S, Silikas N, Haider J, Alhotan A, Jahantigh J, Yates J. Evaluation of equivalent flexural strength for complete removable dentures made of zirconia-impregnated PMMA nanocomposites. *Materials (Basel).* 2020;13(11):2580. doi:10.3390/ma13112580
38. Stock V, Schmidlin PR, Merk S, et al. PEEK primary crowns with cobalt–chromium, zirconia and galvanic secondary crowns with different tapers – a comparison of retention forces. *Materials (Basel).* 2016;9(3):187. doi:10.3390/ma9030187
39. Stock V, Wagner C, Merk S, et al. Retention force of differently fabricated telescopic PEEK crowns with different tapers. *Dent Mater J.* 2016;35(4):594–600. doi:10.4012/dmj.2015-249
40. Bayer S, Stark H, Mues S, Keilig L, Schrader A, Enkling N. Retention force measurement of telescopic crowns. *Clin Oral Investig.* 2010;14(5):607–611. doi:10.1007/s00784-009-0315-z
41. Hwang HJ, Lee SJ, Park EJ, Yoon HI. Assessment of the trueness and tissue surface adaptation of CAD–CAM maxillary denture bases manufactured using digital light processing. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2019;121(1):110–117. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2018.02.018
42. Kontonasaki E, Giasimakopoulos P, Rigos AE. Strength and aging resistance of monolithic zirconia: An update to current knowledge. *Jpn Dent Sci Rev.* 2020;56(1):1–23. doi:10.1016/j.jdsr.2019.09.002
43. Kim HR, Jang SH, Kim YK, et al. Microstructures and mechanical properties of Co–Cr dental alloys fabricated by three CAD/CAM-based processing techniques. *Materials (Basel).* 2016;9(7):596. doi:10.3390/MA9070596
44. John J, Gangadhar SA, Shah I. Flexural strength of heat-polymerized polymethyl methacrylate denture resin reinforced with glass, aramid, or nylon fibers. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2001;86(4):424–427. doi:10.1067/mp.2001.118564
45. Salim S, Sadamori S, Hamada T. The dimensional accuracy of rectangular acrylic resin specimens cured by three denture base processing method. *J Prosthet Dent.* 1992;67(6):879–881. doi:10.1016/0022-3913(92)90606-B
46. Wong DM, Cheng LY, Chow TW, Clark RK. Effect of processing method on the dimensional accuracy and water sorption of acrylic resin dentures. *J Prosthet Dent.* 1999;81(3):300–304. doi:10.1016/S0022-3913(99)70273-8
47. Amaral M, Cesar PF, Bottino MA, Lohbauer U, Valandro LF. Fatigue behavior of Y-TZP ceramic after surface treatments. *J Mech Behav Biomed Mater.* 2016;57:149–156. doi:10.1016/j.jmbbm.2015.11.042
48. Hong MH, Lee DH, Hanawa T, Kwon TY. Comparison of microstructures and mechanical properties of 3 cobalt–chromium alloys fabricated with soft metal milling technology. *J Prosthet Dent.* 2022;127(3):489–496. doi:10.1016/j.prosdent.2020.07.037
49. Lee CJ, Bok SB, Bae JY, Lee HH. Comparative adaptation accuracy of acrylic denture bases evaluated by two different methods. *Dent Mater J.* 2010;29(4):411–417. doi:10.4012/dmj.2009-105
50. Emera RMK, Shady M, Alnajih MA. Comparison of retention and denture base adaptation between conventional and 3D-printed complete dentures. *J Dent Res Dent Clin Dent Prospects.* 2022;16(3):179–185. doi:10.34172/joddd.2022.030