



# Orthodontic Adhesive Doped with Nano-Graphene Oxide: Physico-mechanical and Antimicrobial Properties

Maryam Pourhajibagher<sup>1</sup>, Abbas Bahador<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dental Research Center, Dentistry Research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>2</sup> Oral Microbiology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

**Corresponding author:** Abbas Bahador, Oral Microbiology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran; E-mail: abahador@tums.ac.ir

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** In fixed orthodontics, formation of white spot lesions, enamel demineralization, and tooth decay around appliances are common complications which mar the outcome.

**Aim:** The aims of this study were the determination of the shear bond strength (SBS) and adhesive remnant index (ARI) of orthodontic adhesive doped with N-GO, as well as the assessment of antimicrobial activities of the modified orthodontic adhesive against *Streptococcus mutans*.

**Materials and methods:** N-GO was characterized by a scanning electron microscope (SEM), Fourier transformation infrared (FTIR), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and Zeta potential. The SBS and ARI of modified orthodontics adhesive containing different concentrations of N-GO (0, 1, 2, 5, and 10 wt%) were then measured. The influences of adding N-GO on antimicrobial properties of orthodontic adhesive were determined against *S. mutans* by disc agar diffusion (DAD) testing and biofilm formation inhibition assay.

**Results:** The SEM, FTIR, XRD, and Zeta potential analysis indicated the successful synthesis of N-GO. Orthodontics adhesive doped with 5 wt% N-GO showed the highest concentration of N-GO and SBS value ( $21.71 \pm 7.45$  MPa,  $p < 0.05$ ) simultaneously with no significant differences in adhesive remnant index compared with the control group. SBS in the 1, 2, and 5% N-GO were significantly higher than that in 10% N-GO ( $p = 0.025$ ,  $p = 0.036$ ,  $p = 0.041$ , respectively). The disinfection ability of the modified orthodontic adhesive doped with N-GO against *S. mutans* in the DAD and biofilm formation inhibition assays were positively associated with increased in N-GO concentrations ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, the 5 and 10 wt% N-GO showed a statistically significant decrease the CFU/mL of the test microorganisms in biofilm structures ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** It could be concluded that 5 wt% of N-GO can be considered as an orthodontic adhesive additive to reduce the microbial count and biofilm with no adverse effect on SBS and ARI.

## Keywords

cariogenic bacteria, nano-graphene oxide, orthodontic adhesive

## INTRODUCTION

In orthodontics, by introducing bonding techniques, the banding method has been replaced by the use of bonded brackets.<sup>1</sup> The bonding method has several advantages in comparison with the banding method, including ease of use and better hygiene control. However, the bonding method also has disadvantages such as less bracket strength, the possibility of further food impaction, as well as increasing the risk of accumulation and formation of biofilm of cariogenic bacteria including *Streptococcus mutans* and the spread of plaque, followed by white spot lesions and the risk of tooth decay around the brackets.<sup>2,3</sup> Failure in the bracket bands during the treatment period is one of the greatest failures in orthodontic treatment, which increases the treatment time, increases the cost and time of patient visits.<sup>4</sup>

According to a previous study, oral bacteria will be increased significantly during orthodontic treatment.<sup>5</sup> Previous studies have shown that the level of demineralization in people who undergo orthodontic treatment is much higher than that of others<sup>5,6</sup> in whom the proportion of adolescents is more than that of adults.<sup>7</sup>

Since achieving a successful orthodontic treatment and reducing the risk of dental caries during treatment, and at the same time, proper bonding of the bracket to the tooth and having a sufficient bonding strength is of particular importance, and given the development of nanotechnology in the field of antibacterial property, particles nanographene oxide (N-GO) has been proven.<sup>8</sup> Increased water solubility, wide range, and tissue compatibility, allow the use of N-GO in many biomedical applications.<sup>8,9</sup> In addition, the N-GO is superior in terms of cost-effective, modifiable, non-toxic metal particles, low toxicity, better biocompatibility, surface-to-volume ratio, and mechanical properties.<sup>10</sup> Today, the antimicrobial properties of N-GO and its applications in the field of medicine and even other sciences have been considered, and the decision to combine these nanoparticles with resin composites used in orthodontics was taken.<sup>11</sup>

To our knowledge, no studies are available regarding the antimicrobial and anti-biofilm efficacy of orthodontic adhesive doped with N-GO against any cariogenic bacteria. The success of antimicrobial and anti-biofilm effects against *cariogenic bacteria* has encouraged the development of a novel composite with antimicrobial property since cariogenic bacteria play an important role in the tooth decay around the brackets and also breaks the composite band due to the forces applied to the bracket.

## AIM

The importance of this study is the determination of the antimicrobial and anti-biofilm of orthodontic adhesive doped with N-GO as well as maintenance of sufficient shear strength of orthodontic light-curing composite in combi-

nation with N-GO toward the eradication of *S. mutans* as the major *cariogenic bacteria*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Synthesis of N-GO

N-GO was produced using a modified hummer's method.<sup>12</sup> In detail, 10 g of flake graphite, 6 g of  $\text{KMnO}_4$ , 4 g of  $\text{K}_2\text{FeO}_4$ , and 0.01 g of  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$  (all purchased from Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) were dispersed in 100 mL of concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) in a flask and stirred vigorously by keeping it at less than 5°C in a water bath. Then, 5 g of  $\text{KMnO}_4$  was slowly added into the solution and the mixture was then reacted for 3 h into a water bath at 35°C. Deionized water was added slowly so that the volume of the suspension was 400 mL while the temperature was kept well below 98°C for 3 h. Afterward, 12 mL of 30 wt%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  aqueous solution (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) was added to the mixture and then centrifuged at 10000 rpm for 20 min. The supernatant was decanted away and the residuals were then washed with 5% HCl solution and deionized water repeatedly. Finally, the product was dried at 60°C.

### Characterization of synthesized N-GO

The microscopic morphologies of samples were characterized by scanning electron microscopy (SEM; ZEISS, DSM 960A, Germany). The chemical structure of N-GO was analyzed using Fourier transformation infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Massachusetts, US) with KBr pellet method. Also, the X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected on the X'Pert PRO MPD, PANalytical Company, Netherlands with Cu-K (alpha) radiation and the generator setting of 40 mA, 40 Kv. Also, the Zeta potential of N-GO was evaluated directly using the Smoluchowski equation on a Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS system.

### Fabrication of N-GO adhesives

Transbond™ XT primer (3M Unitek, Monrovia, CA) supplemented with 0 (as the control), 1, 2, 5, and 10 wt% N-GO were used. For the preparation of modified adhesive containing 1 wt% N-GO, 12.5 mg of N-GO was added to 0.11 g of orthodontic adhesive by a mixing spatula in a dark condition to achieve uniform consistency of the modified adhesive. In addition, to achieve modified adhesive containing 2 and 5 wt% N-GO, 25 and 62.5 mg of N-GO were blended into 0.22 and 0.55 g of orthodontics adhesive, respectively, in the condition mentioned above. For the preparation of 10% wt N-GO, 125 mg of N-GO was mixed with 1.1 mg of the orthodontics adhesive. Afterward, the prepared samples were de-molded, polished, and sterilized according to ISO 11135:1994 for medical devices<sup>13</sup> before the tests.

## Mechanical assays of the modified adhesive samples

### Shear bond strength testing

After ethics committee approval was obtained from the Ethics Commission of IR.NIMAD.REC.1397,101, 25 freshly extracted bovine incisors with intact buccal enamel with no cracks or any lesions were used as a substitute for human teeth.

Until preparation for shear bond strength measurement, the teeth were immersed in 0.5% chloramine T trihydrate (Sigma Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Taufkirchen, Germany) for one week at 4°C according to ISO/TS 11405:2003. Afterwards, they were embedded in cold-cure acrylic resin. The surfaces of all teeth were cleaned with a rotational brush and polished with non-fluoridated pumice using prophylactic rubber cups at low speed for 10 s, rinsed with air-water spray for 10 s and air-dried for 10 s. The buccal surfaces of all teeth were etched using 35% phosphoric acid gel (Ultra etch; Ultradent Products Inc., South Jordan, UT, USA) for 20 s, rinsed with water for 20 s, and air dried for 20 s. The prepared teeth were randomly arranged in five groups (n=25). The etched area of the buccal surface of teeth was then covered gently with a thin layer of adhesive (3M Unitek, Monrovia, CA, USA) and light cured with a LED light-curing unit (Demetron, Kerr, Orange, CA, USA). Thereafter, orthodontic metal brackets were used to bond all teeth according to the Felemban and Ebrahim's study (2017). After the bonding procedures, all the brackets bond teeth were stored in distilled water for 24 h at 37°C. Before shear bond strength testing, the brackets bond teeth were thermocycled 3000 times in water bath between +5°C and +55°C, remaining in each reservoir for 30 s according to ISO/TS 11405:2015 guideline. A mechanical testing machine using Zwick/Roell, Germany with a speed of 1.0±0.1 mm/min in occlusal-gingival direction at the bracket-tooth interface was utilized for shear bond testing. Eventually, bond strength values were calculated in MPa as described previously.<sup>14</sup>

### Adhesive remnant index

Based on the Oliver study (Oliver 1986), adhesive remnant index was determined using a stereomicroscope (SMZ800, Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) at ×10 magnification for analysis of interpretation criteria of residual adhesive adhering to the enamel surface.

### Microorganism and growth conditions

Standard strain of *Streptococcus mutans* (ATCC 35668) was purchased from Iranian Biological Resource Center (IBRC), Tehran, Iran. *S. mutans* was cultured in brain heart infusion (BHI) broth (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) and was incubated at 37°C for 24 h in aerobic atmosphere with 5%

CO<sub>2</sub>. To examine the antimicrobial efficacy of orthodontic adhesive doped with N-GO, the test microbial suspensions of approximately 1.5×10<sup>8</sup> colony forming units (CFUs)/mL were prepared using both spectrophotometry (optical density [OD] 600 nm: 0.08-0.1) and colony counting.

### Modified orthodontic adhesives samples preparation

Metal molds with 5 mm in diameter and 1 mm thick were used to make disc-shaped orthodontic adhesive patterns. Orthodontic adhesive discs containing different concentrations of N-GO were made by the fabrication of N-GO adhesives section. Based on a previous study<sup>15</sup>, molds containing adhesives were exposed to light cure for 40 s. Finally, the de-molded samples were polished and sterilized according the ISO 11135:1994.<sup>13</sup>

### Antimicrobial testing

The influence of N-GO on antimicrobial features of orthodontic adhesive by zones of growth inhibition around each of samples, as well as the prevention of biofilm formation of cariogenic biofilm-producing bacteria were determined using disc agar diffusion and biofilm inhibition tests, respectively.

### Disc agar diffusion test

According to the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guideline<sup>16</sup>, disc agar diffusion method was performed by applying the microbial suspensions of approximately 1.5×10<sup>8</sup> CFU/mL to the surface of BHI agar plates.<sup>16</sup> Orthodontic adhesive discs containing different concentrations of N-GO were then put on the BHI agar surface with 2 cm distance from each other. After incubation of plates for 24 h at 37°C in aerobic atmosphere with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, the diameter of growth inhibition zones was measured.

### Biofilm inhibition test

For the biofilm inhibition tests, 50 orthodontic adhesive discs containing different concentrations of N-GO (n=10 in each concentration) were placed in the wells of the sterile 96-well microtiter plates. Microbial suspensions with a concentration of 1.5×10<sup>8</sup> CFU/mL were then added to each well. The microtiter plates were then incubated under aerobic atmosphere with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C for 48 h. After that, discs were rinsed in 1 mL of sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; pH 7.4) for 1 min to remove planktonic microbial cells. Orthodontic adhesive discs were sonicated under ultrasonic conditions with an ultrasonic power of 100 W and a frequency of 30 kHz for 15 s. The obtained microbial suspensions were then serially diluted and cultured in BHI agar and the microbial colony counts were determined as mentioned in the previous study.<sup>17</sup> As described previously<sup>15</sup>, one sample as a representative of each group was pro-

cessed for scanning electron microscopic (SEM) analysis to evaluate the effect of modified orthodontic adhesive discs on bacterial biofilm.

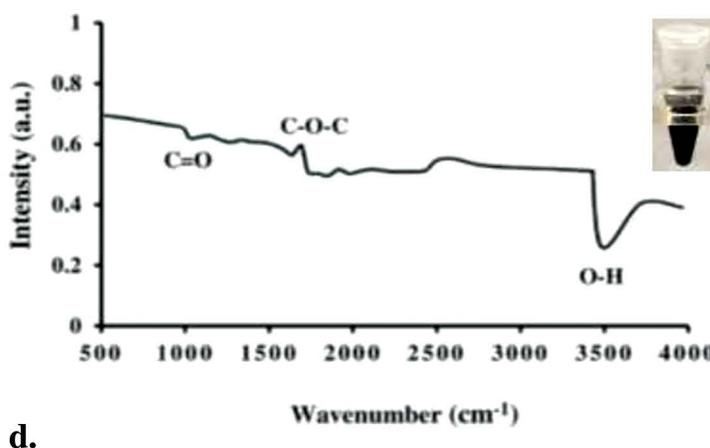
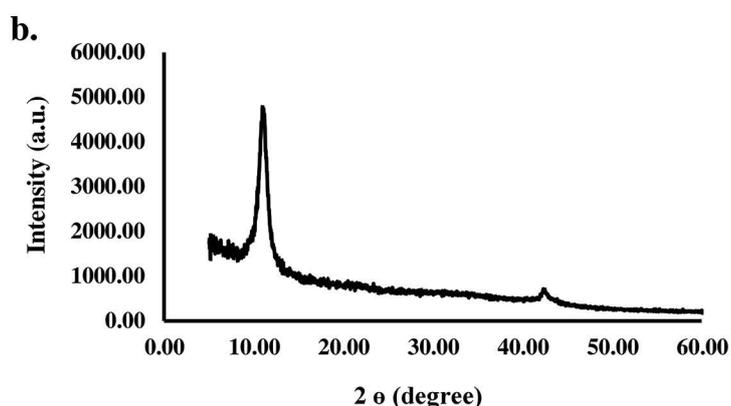
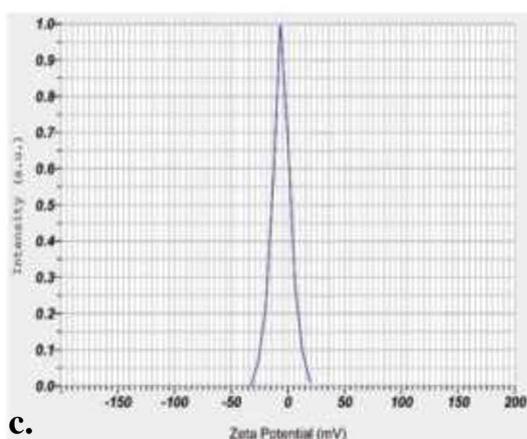
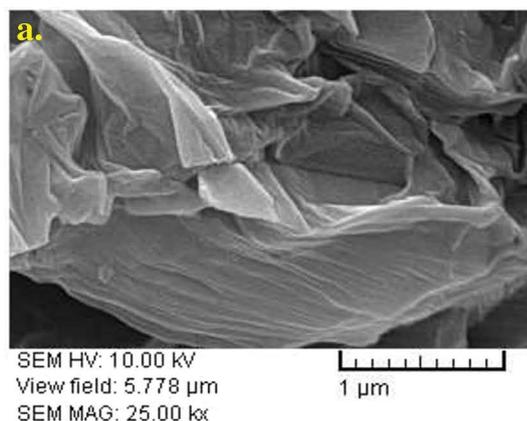
### Statistical analysis

The shear bond strength data were analyzed using one-way analysis of variation (ANOVA) and Tukey's honest significant difference tests to compare the groups. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS for Windows v. 22.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The level for statistical significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS

### The morphologies of synthesized N-GO

SEM analysis has confirmed the general structure of the synthesized N-GO (Fig. 1a). The SEM micrographs of synthesized N-GO shows the formation of N-GO sheets that has a well-packed layered structure with wrinkled surface morphology formed by the stacking of nano-sheets confirming the successful exfoliation of N-GO.



**Figure 1.** a) SEM image of the synthesized N-GO at 1000× magnification (scale bar represents 1 μm); b) XRD patterns of the synthesized N-GO; c) Zeta potential values of the synthesized N-GO; d) FT-IR spectra of the synthesized N-GO.

### The structures of synthesized N-GO

The average crystalline properties of the N-GO were determined by XRD analysis. As shown in Fig. 1b, the broad XRD reflection peak has been shown at  $2\theta = 10.8^\circ$  which proved the successful synthesis of N-GO sheet. The surface charge of N-GO was characterized using Zeta potential that was estimated to be  $-13.6$  mV (Fig. 1c). Moreover, the structure and functional groups of the materials in N-GO were investigated using FTIR spectra (Fig. 1d). The N-GO sheet showed the adsorption bands at approximately  $1731$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to carboxyl C=O, aromatic C=C at approximately  $1625$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , epoxy C-O at  $1220$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and alkoxy C-O at  $1056$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Also, the peaks around  $3390$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were due to hydroxy -OH stretching vibrations.

### The SBS test

Descriptive statistics of the SBS (MPa) of the different concentration of N-GO are shown in Table 1. Among the modified orthodontics adhesives, the samples with 1 wt% N-GO showed the highest SBS value ( $26.67 \pm 10.06$  MPa,  $p > 0.05$ ). ANOVA showed that the lowest SBS values ( $5.54 \pm 2.19$  MPa,  $p < 0.05$ ) were reported in 10 wt% N-GO. It can be seen in Table 1 that SBS decreased following an increase in the

**Table 1.** The mean of shear bond strength (SBS) of bracket to enamel in the five groups

Orthodontics adhesive with N-GO (%) (n=10 in each group)	SBS (MPa)		
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean ± SD
0	17.47	40.31	30.81±12.31
1	15.72	36.28	26.67±10.06
2	14.84	33.56	23.97±8.71
5	12.98	29.23	21.71±7.45*
10	3.41	9.34	5.54±2.19*

SD: standard deviation, \**p* value <0.05

concentration of N-GO. **Table 2** shows the pairwise comparison in the five groups in terms of SBS based on Tukey's HSD test, which revealed that SBS in the 1, 2, and 5% N-GO groups were significantly higher than that in 10% N-GO group ( $p=0.025$ ,  $p=0.036$ ,  $p=0.041$ , respectively).

**Table 2.** Pairwise comparison of five groups in terms of shear bond strength of bracket to enamel

Groups	<i>p</i> value
Control-1% N-GO	0.836
Control-2% N-GO	0.717
Control-5% N-GO	0.039*
Control-10% N-GO	0.003*
1% N-GO-2% N-GO	0.735
1% N-GO-5% N-GO	0.572
1% N-GO-10% N-GO	0.025*
2% N-GO-5% N-GO	0.614
2% N-GO-10% N-GO	0.036*
5% N-GO-10% N-GO	0.041*

### Adhesive remnant index (ARI)

The frequencies of ARI scores in the test groups are shown in **Table 3**. No significant difference was found in the ARI scores between the different concentrations of N-GO in orthodontic adhesive samples and control group ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Table 3.** The frequency of adhesive remnant index scores in the test groups

Orthodontics adhesive with N-GO (%) (n=10 in each group)	ARI scores				
	0.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00
0	0	2	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	3	3
2	0	2	3	3	3
5	1	3	3	3	3
10	1	5	4	2	1

### Antimicrobial testing

#### Disc agar diffusion assay

The antimicrobial property of orthodontics adhesive discs containing N-GO was assessed using the release of nanoparticles from the discs. As shown in **Table 4**, the zone of growth inhibition was noted around 5 and 10 wt% N-GO in *S. mutans* plates.

**Table 4.** The mean of Zone of inhibition growth of *S. mutans*

Orthodontics adhesive with N-GO (%)	Zone of inhibition growth of <i>S. mutans</i> (mm; ±SD)
0	00±0.00
1	0.00±0.00
2	0.00±0.00
5	6.97±0.06*
10	8.65±0.09*

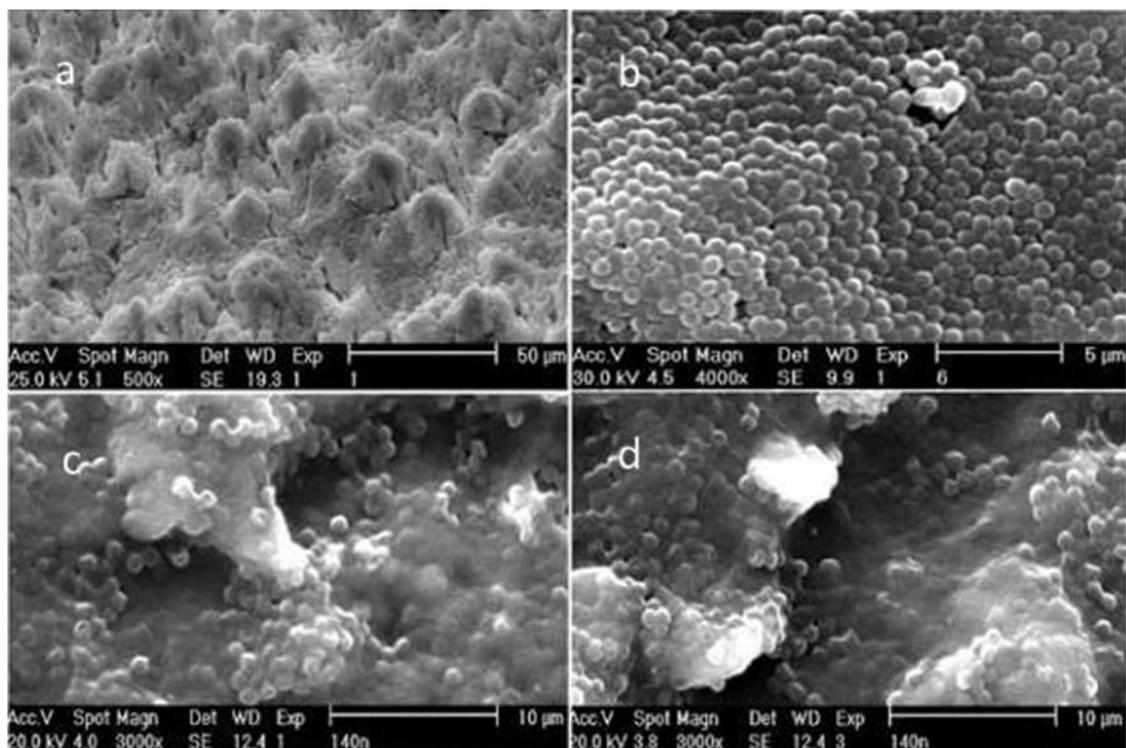
\* *p* value < 0.05

### Effects of N-GO on biofilm formation ability

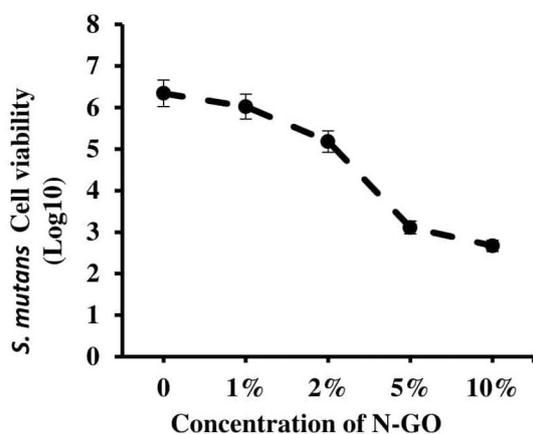
Based on the results in **Figs 2** and **3**, a reduction in viable microbial cells was observed following an increase in percentages of N-GO incorporated into orthodontics adhesive. The results revealed that 5 and 10 wt% N-GO significantly reduced *S. mutans* ( $3.23 \text{ Log}_{10}$ ; 50.9% and  $3.67 \text{ Log}_{10}$ ; 57.8%, respectively;  $p<0.05$ ) colony counts.

## DISCUSSION

One of the most complex problems in fixed orthodontic treatment is to control the enamel demineralization around the brackets used in the orthodontic treatments.<sup>18</sup> Brackets and appliances used in orthodontic treatments make it harder for the patient to have oral hygiene and the formation of biofilms facilitates cariogenic bacteria and plaque accumulation around patient's brackets.<sup>19</sup> Increasing the formation of biofilms of cariogenic bacteria including *S. mutans* reduces the pH of the microbial plaque and, as a result, increases



**Figure 2.** Cell availability of *S. mutans* according to the percentages of N-GO incorporated into orthodontics adhesive.



**Figure 3.** Cell viability of *S. mutans* according to the percentages of N-GO incorporated into orthodontics adhesive.

the risk of dental caries.<sup>20</sup> According to the previous study, the increase in *S. mutans* has been reported in the oral cavity after the installation of fixed orthodontic appliances.<sup>2</sup> Unlike the improvements that have been made to the orthodontics appliances, the use of fixed orthodontic appliances has been associated with a high risk of white spot lesions.<sup>21</sup> However, most demineralization is irreversible; it has become a long-term concern for patients and orthodontists.<sup>22</sup>

Composites that are used as direct adhesive have a polymer matrix; they can be environment suitable for colonization and biofilm formation of cariogenic bacteria. Their accumulation can lead to premature deboning and eventually decalcification of the enamel and periodontal diseases.<sup>23</sup>

Therefore, new bonding techniques and materials have been focused on anti-cariogenic characteristics. Previous investigations have demonstrated that the failure rates of orthodontic brackets increase following modification of orthodontics adhesive via adding antimicrobial agents.<sup>15,24</sup>

The literature shows that N-GO has been of intense interest to many researchers for a broad spectrum of potential application.<sup>8-11</sup> The N-GO is active because of several chemical groups and it can form different interactions between covalent and non-covalent, whose edges, due to active oxygen species, show more activity than the surface.<sup>25</sup> The N-GO also contains some negative charge that activates the oxygen groups on its surface. This results in its high solubility (approximately 0.5 mg/mL), in water or other polar solvents such as ethylene glycol, dimethylformamide (DMF), n-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) and tetrahydrofuran (THF).<sup>26</sup> A wide N-GO-specific surface, with a large number of roots of carboxylic acid, hydroxide, and epoxide on its surface, can connect with a variety of molecules through  $\pi$ - $\pi$  coupling, hydrophobic interactions, hydrogen bonding, and electrostatic interconnection.<sup>27,28</sup>

In the present study, a straightforward and facile approach was used for N-GO fabrication from GO. Further investigation was performed to confirm the synthesis and high yield of N-GO. The SEM, FTIR, XRD, and Zeta spectrometry confirmed that N-GO had been successfully synthesized.

In the study, we evaluated the effect of N-GO on physico-mechanical properties including SBS testing and adhesive remnant index. According to the results we obtained, by addition of N-GO up to 5%, the SBS of Transbond XT

composite to enamel did not change considerably and was within the clinically acceptable score (6-8 MPa). In contrast, the SBS in 10% N-GO was statistically lower than in the control group. According to a previous study<sup>15</sup>, the SBS in clinical conditions can be 40% less in vitro conditions. Therefore, this makes our SBS results in the acceptable score what will be in vivo, adding 5 wt% N-GO can maintain the SBS for optimum clinical applications.

One of the important parameters in the election of orthodontics adhesive which should be considered by clinicians is the score of ARI.<sup>24</sup> In this study, there is no significant difference between the different concentrations of N-GO in terms of ARI scores, which was in agreement with the results of Pourhajibagher et al.<sup>15</sup>, Sodagar et al.<sup>29</sup>, and Asiry et al.<sup>30</sup>. Besides, in the present study, we evaluated the antimicrobial potential of orthodontic adhesive doped with different concentrations of N-GO under two different experimental conditions, on pure cultures of *S. mutans* standard strain in disc agar diffusion assay and biofilm inhibition test.

Disc agar diffusion test was performed to assess the antimicrobial effects due to the release of N-GO in orthodontic adhesive samples. The results of our study confirm that addition of N-GO is a reliable solution to increase the antimicrobial properties of conventional orthodontic adhesive via local inhibition of microbial growth. Contrary to the data obtained from our experiments, Sodagar et al.<sup>29</sup> showed that despite the optimal antimicrobial activity, curcumin nanoparticles did not form the growth inhibition zone in disc diffusion test. On the other hand, similar to the data obtained from previous studies<sup>15,24</sup>, a progressive increase in inhibition of microbial biofilm growth was revealed in this in vitro study with increasing the concentration of N-GO. On the other hand, although concentrations higher than 5 wt% N-GO could significantly inhibit the growth of *S. mutans* and reduce the biofilm forms of this cariogenic bacterium, the mean of shear bond strength decreased.

Much research has been conducted to evaluate the effects of different nanoparticles loaded in orthodontics adhesive against oral pathogens.<sup>24,31-33</sup> The results of Fan et al.<sup>32</sup> suggested that silver nanoparticles inhibited planktonic growth of *S. mutans*. However, concerns about the cytotoxic effect of silver towards human cells have been announced. The findings of Pourhajibagher et al.<sup>15</sup> highlighted that the 7.5 wt% orthodontic adhesive containing cationic curcumin doped zinc oxide nanoparticle can be considered as an antimicrobial orthodontic adhesive additive against the growth of cariogenic multispecies biofilms.

Despite the use of the *S. mutans* biofilm-producing microbial model, it must be noted that the antimicrobial activity of orthodontics adhesive doped with N-GO is affected by different conditions of the environment which should be investigated in subsequent studies. Clinical trial studies should also be performed to confirm the anti-caries properties of orthodontic adhesive doped with N-GO.

## CONCLUSIONS

Eventually, our findings of this study highlight that 5 wt% N-GO with a clinically acceptable score of SBS and ARI can be considered as an orthodontic adhesive with antimicrobial and anti-biofilm activities against *S. mutans* as the main cariogenic bacteria in vitro.

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## Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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# Ортодонтический адгезив, активированный нано-оксидом графена: физико-механические и антимикробные свойства

Мариям Поураджибагер<sup>1</sup>, Аббас Бахадор<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Дентальный исследовательский центр, Исследовательский институт дентальной медицины, Тегеранский университет медицинских наук, Тегеран, Иран

<sup>2</sup> Лаборатория оральной микробиологии, Кафедра микробиологии, Медицинский факультет, Тегеранский университет медицинских наук, Тегеран, Иран

**Адрес для корреспонденции:** Аббас Бахадор, Лаборатория оральной микробиологии, Кафедра микробиологии, Медицинский факультет, Тегеранский университет медицинских наук, Тегеран, Иран; E-mail: abahador@tums.ac.ir

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## Резюме

**Введение:** В несъёмных ортодонтических аппаратах образование белых пятен, деминерализация эмали и разрушение зубов вокруг аппаратов являются частыми осложнениями, ухудшающими исход лечения.

**Цель:** Цели этого исследования заключались в определении прочности сцепления при сдвиге (shear bond strength – SBS) и индекса остатков адгезива (adhesive remnant index (ARI) ортодонтического адгезива с добавлением N-GO (нано-оксид графена), а также оценка антимикробной активности модифицированного ортодонтического адгезива против *Streptococcus mutans*.

**Материалы и методы:** N-GO идентифицировали с помощью сканирующей электронной микроскопии (СЭМ), инфракрасной спектроскопии с преобразованием Фурье (FTIR), рентгенофазового анализа (РФА) (XRD – X-ray diffraction) и дзета-потенциала. Затем измеряли SBS и ARI модифицированного ортодонтического адгезива, содержащего различные концентрации N-GO (0, 1, 2, 5 и 10 мас.%). Влияние добавления N-GO на антимикробные свойства ортодонтического адгезива против *S. Mutans* определяли с использованием теста диффузии в дисковом агаре (disc agar diffusion (DAD) и анализа ингибирования образования биоплёнок (biofilm formation inhibition assay).

**Результаты:** Анализы СЭМ, FTIR, XRD и дзета-потенциала подтвердили успешный синтез N-GO. Ортодонтический адгезив с добавлением 5 мас.% N-GO показал самую высокую концентрацию N-GO и значение SBS ( $21.71 \pm 7.45$  МПа,  $p < 0,05$ ) одновременно без значительных различий в ARI по сравнению с контрольной группой. SBS в группах 1, 2 и 5% N-GO был значительно выше, чем в группах 10% N-GO ( $p=0.025$ ,  $p=0.036$ ,  $p=0.041$ , соответственно). Дезинфицирующая способность модифицированного ортодонтического адгезива с добавлением N-GO против *S. mutans* в DAD и анализе ингибирования биоплёнки была положительно связана с повышенными концентрациями N-GO ( $p < 0.05$ ). Однако 5 и 10 мас.% N-GO имели статистически значимое снижение CFU/mL исследуемых микроорганизмов в структурах биоплёнок ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Заключение:** Можно сделать вывод, что 5 мас.% N-GO можно рассматривать как ортодонтическую адгезивную добавку для снижения уровня микробов и биоплёнки без побочных эффектов на SBS и ARI.

## Ключевые слова

кариесогенные бактерии, нано-оксид графена, ортодонтический адгезив