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ADVANTAGES OF WARMING COMPOSITE

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Effect of Temperature on Composite Polymerization Stress and Degree of Conversion

By Fernanda C. Calheiros, Marcia Daronch, Frederick A. Rueggeberg, Roberto R. Braga

Introduction: *“Increased polymerization temperature enhances radical and monomer mobility, resulting in higher conversion because of lowered system viscosity. From a clinical standpoint, pre-heating was shown to greatly increase composite flow. No pulpal damage is expected with pre-heating, as the difference in in vitro intrapulpal temperature was less than 1°C when using composite pre-heated to 60°C compared to composite tested at room temperature. However, little information is available on the effect of preheated composites on polymerization stress.”*

Conclusion: *“Only when composite temperature was raised to 60°C was a significant stress relaxation noted. Using a 5 s exposure (only ¼ of the manufacturer’s recommended duration) on composite pre-heated to 40°C or 60°C resulted in a 47–55% reduction in final stress compared to using a full 20 s exposure with the composite maintained at room temperature. This finding is of major importance, as degree of conversion obtained isothermally 40°C or 60°C with a 5 s exposure was similar or even higher than 20 s at room temperature.”*

Clinical Significance: *“Increasing composite temperature allows for reduced exposure duration and lower polymerization stress (both maximum and final) while maintaining or increasing degree of conversion.”*