



Article Type: Review Article

Comprehensive Evaluation of Color Stability and Retentive Strength Properties of Provisional Resin Cements Luted on Zirconia Abutments: A Systematic Review

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Conflict of interest: Nil

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Abstract

Background: The systematic review critically evaluates the impact of different provisional resin cements on the color stability and retentive strength of restorations luted on customized zirconia abutments, aiming to guide clinical decision-making in esthetically and functionally demanding prosthodontic cases. Analysis of 7 selected studies revealed that dual-cure cements offered superior retention but reduced color stability, with both cement type and ceramic material affecting overall performance.

Aim: The present systematic review compares the colour stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements luted on customised zirconia abutments by systematically reviewing in vitro.

Settings and Design: The Cochrane online library, PubMed, Google Scholar are used in the research. Using a systematic review design, the current study examines published qualitative studies with an emphasis on analysis.

Materials and Methods: Using precise keywords, a thorough search of pertinent databases was carried out in

accordance with PRISMA standards. Studies testing colour stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements were covered by the inclusion criteria.

Statistical Analysis Used: The risk of bias and quality of included studies was assessed using the Risk of Bias tool -2 for randomized controlled trials.

Results: A total of 545 articles were identified through database searches. After removing duplicates and screening titles and abstracts, 39 full-text articles were assessed for eligibility. Of these, 7 studies met the criteria and were finally included in the study.

Statistical analysis presented the lowest risks, while blinded outcome assessment, allocation concealment, random sequence generation, incomplete outcome data and experimental technique revealed higher risks. Bias assessment found various risks across different components.

Conclusion: Within the limitations of this systematic in vitro review:

Color stability and retentive strength vary significantly among provisional resin cements.

Dual-cure resins offer better retention but poorer color stability than light-cure alternatives.

Optimized surface treatments enhance mechanical performance on zirconia abutments without compromising retrievability.

Keywords: "provisional resin cement," "zirconia abutments," "colour stability," "retentive strength,"

Introduction

In modern prosthodontics, the demand for aesthetically pleasing and functionally reliable implant-supported restorations has led to widespread use of zirconia abutments. These abutments are favoured for their tooth-like color, high strength, and excellent biocompatibility, making them especially suitable in aesthetically critical

zones¹. Alongside the abutment, the selection of a suitable provisional resin cement is crucial, as it influences both the retention of the prosthesis and its final appearance. Provisional resin cements, especially dual-cure types, are commonly used for their balanced retentive strength and ease of retrievability, offering a practical solution in interim prosthodontic procedures². However, these materials are subject to degradation under intraoral conditions. Thermocycling, which mimics thermal stresses in the oral environment, can significantly affect the color stability and mechanical integrity of both the cement and the bonded restoration³. Discoloration of resin cements can negatively influence the aesthetic outcome, especially under thin or translucent ceramic restorations such as monolithic zirconia or lithium disilicate⁴.

This systematic review aims to comprehensively evaluate and synthesize the available literature on the color stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements luted on zirconia abutments, guiding clinicians in selecting materials that balance aesthetics, performance, and clinical practicality.

Methodology

The present systematic review follows the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines to confirm rigor, transparency, and reproducibility in the review process.

Research Question

The research question guiding this systematic review was to evaluate colour stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements luted on customised zirconia abutments.

The PICOS question:

(P): Population: Studies involving provisional resin cements used on customised zirconia abutments,

(I): Intervention: Luting of provisional resin cements,

(C): Control: Dual cure resin cement,

(O): Outcomes: Assessment of colour stability and retentive strength.

(S): Study Design: In vitro studies,

Search Strategy

A comprehensive search strategy was done to recognize relevant studies. The following databases were searched: PubMed, Cochrane Library, and Web of Science were searched up to and including timeline from 2006 to 2022. The search will include a combination of keywords related to color stability and retentive strength properties. The search terms were included with variations and synonyms of the following keywords: resin cement composition, surface treatment methods, and exposure to artificial ageing conditions.

Study Selection Criteria

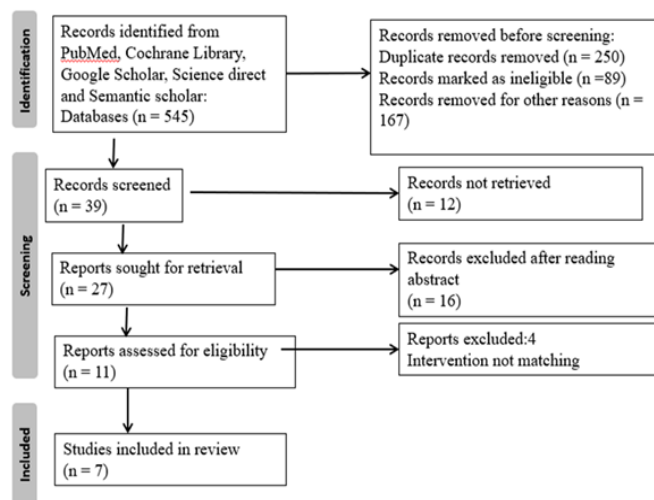
Inclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria for this systematic review were clearly defined to ensure the relevance and quality of the selected studies. Studies were included if they involved the use of provisional resin cements luted onto customised zirconia abutments, focusing specifically on evaluating their colour stability and retentive strength. Only studies that investigated the luting of provisional resin cements as the primary intervention were considered. Comparisons with dual-cure resin cements served as the control to assess relative performance. To maintain a high level of experimental control, only in vitro studies were included. Furthermore, only studies published in the English language were selected to avoid misinterpretation due to translation errors. A total of seven articles met all inclusion criteria and were included in the final analysis.

Exclusion Criteria

The exclusion criteria were defined to ensure the selection of studies directly relevant to the research objectives. Studies that utilized non-resin cements were excluded, as the review focused exclusively on the properties of provisional resin cements. Research involving permanent cementation was also excluded to maintain consistency in evaluating temporary luting materials. Furthermore, articles that did not include a quantitative assessment of colour stability or retentive strength were excluded, as such data were essential for meaningful comparison and analysis. These criteria helped to refine the selection process and maintain methodological rigor throughout the review.

The studies included a timeline from 2006 to 2022.



Study Selection Process

The selection of studies was conducted in a structured and systematic manner. Initially, a total of 545 articles were identified through comprehensive database searches. After the removal of duplicate entries, the titles and abstracts of the remaining studies were independently screened by two reviewers to eliminate obviously irrelevant records. Studies deemed potentially eligible underwent full-text review. During this stage, multiple

reports from the same study were identified and grouped, and each article was assessed for compliance with the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Any discrepancies in study selection were resolved through discussion, with the involvement of a third reviewer when necessary. Following the full-text screening of 39 articles, 7 studies met all eligibility criteria and were included in the final systematic review.

Data Extraction

For each included study, data were independently extracted by two reviewers using a standardized data extraction form to ensure consistency and reduce the risk of bias. The extracted information included study characteristics such as the author's name, year of publication, country of origin, study design, and sample size. Details related to the study population were also recorded, specifically focusing on studies involving provisional resin cements luted on customized zirconia abutments. The nature of the intervention, i.e., the luting of provisional resin cements, was documented along with the primary outcomes of interest—color stability and retentive strength. Additional information such as

participant demographics (age and gender), clinical and radiographic findings, survival rates, statistical methods used, and any potential sources of bias, including funding sources or conflicts of interest, was also collected. All data were systematically organized and entered into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets for further analysis and synthesis. Any discrepancies between the reviewers during the extraction process were resolved through discussion or, if necessary, by involving a third reviewer.

Risk of Bias Assessment

The risk of bias and quality of included studies was assessed using the Risk of Bias tool for randomized controlled trials. Due to anticipated heterogeneity in study designs and outcomes, a meta-analysis may not be feasible.

Results

Table 1:

S. No.	Reference	Study Characteristics	Color Stability (ΔE or ΔE_{00})	Retentive Strength / Loading	Key Conclusion
1	Dehno et al., 2022 ¹	Maxillary central incisor; dual/light-cure resin cements	$\Delta E_{00} = 4.00 \pm 0.10$ (light-cure), 2.25 (dual-cure)	Axial load: 20N (No thermocycling)	Dual-cure resin showed better color stability and retention.
2	Mesbah et al., 2016 ²	Anterior teeth; light-cure resin cement	$\Delta E \leq 3.3$	Thermocycled: 24 hours in coffee and cola	Staining agents significantly influenced color stability.
3	Khalap et al., 2006 ³	Anterior teeth; dual/ light-cure	ΔE between 1.0–3.3	Not specified	Color change correlated with resin type and exposure.

4	Gehrke et al., 2006 [4]	Anterior teeth; resin cement on zirconia	Not assessed	67.2N during static loading; 50N in cyclic loading(250,000 cycles)	Surface-treated zirconia enhanced retention.
5.	Adata et al., 2009 [5]	Zirconia abutments	Not assessed	60N at failure, 25N = 5.1N during pull-out	Primer improved esthetics and retention.
6	Naveau et al., 2008 [6]	Anterior zirconia abutments	Perceptibility threshold $\Delta E_{00} = 1.8$; Acceptability threshold $\Delta E_{00} = 3.5$	Thermocycled	Resin cements exceeded ΔE_{00} limits, requiring surface coating.
7	Chitra et al., 2007 [7]	Anterior teeth; eugenol/non-eugenol resin	Not assessed	Bond strength: 28–29.6N	Non-eugenol cements showed higher retention.

The table depicts the type of studies analyzed, the type of cements used in these studies, the sample size and measurement tool used, and the final outcome of the studies. A total of 545 articles were identified through database searches. After removing duplicates and screening titles and abstracts, 39 full-text articles were assessed for eligibility. Of these, 7 studies met the were finally included in the study.

Seven studies comparing color stability and retentive strength properties were thoroughly analyzed as part of the systematic review.

Table 2:

S. No.	Reference	Date of publication	Type of tooth	Intervention	Comparator	Color Stability	Cyclic loading retention	Thermal cycling	Study type
1	Dehno et al	2022	Maxillary central incisor	dual cure resin; light-cure resin at 37 degree and 100% humidity	comparison of effect of two type of resin cements in color stability and retentive strength	perceability threshold was $\Delta E_{00} > 1.30$ and clinical acceptability threshold was $\Delta E_{00} > 2.25$	controlled axial load: 20N for 10 mins	5degree and 55degree with a dwell time of 10 sec	in vitro
2	Mesbah et al	2016	Anterior	dual cure resin; light cure resin at 37 degree and 100% humidity	comparison of effect of color change of aging and which have better color stability	$\Delta E \leq 3.3$		24 hours after 1000 cycles.2000 cycles and 3000 cycles	in vitro
3	Khalap et al	2022	Anterior tooth	dual cure resin; light cure resin	compare color stability of diff resin and	ΔE between 1.0–3.3		heat-pressed at 920°C	in vitro

					its effect on final shade color stability				
4	Peter Gehrek et al	2006	Anterior	dual and light cure resin	termine fracture; strength of zirconia, abutments	Not assessed	67.2 N during static loading. 269 Nat 800,000 to 5 million cycles runout point;		in vitro
5.	Adatia et al	2007	Anterior	zirconia	determine different degree of clinical reduction of zirconia abutments on	Not assessed	100,000 cycles at 1 cycle/sec, 294 \pm 53 N is the fracture	60- off-axis until failure	in vitro
6	Naveau et al	2018	Anterior tooth	zirconia abutments	to evaluate the mechanical and esthetic outcome of implant zirconia abutments	PES/WES is 14. Acceptability threshold is 6			in vitro
7	Chiluka et al	2017	Anterior - posterior teeth	resin cements	outcome of eugenol and eugenol containing	Not assessed	Bond strength between 28 and 21Mpa	preheated to 8000°C and the muffle was placed inside the furnace. Following which temperature of the furnace was raised to 9000°C and holding time was set to 40 min	in vitro

In this systematic review, dual-cure resin cements demonstrated poorer color stability compared to light-cure variants, with a ΔE_{00} of 2.25 for dual-cure and 4.00 \pm 0.10 for light-cure resin cements, exceeding the perceptibility threshold ($\Delta E_{00} = 1.8$) and nearing or surpassing the acceptability threshold ($\Delta E_{00} = 3.5$)¹. This

finding aligns with Mesbah et al. (2016)², who reported ΔE values ≤ 3.3 after 24-hour immersion in coffee and cola, showing that staining agents significantly impact discoloration, although only light-cure resins were tested. Khalap et al. (2021)³ also observed color changes ranging from $\Delta E = 1.0$ to 3.3 , with light-cure Variolink N LC showing the least discoloration and dual-cure variants more affected, consistent with the current review's conclusion, although the study lacked aging protocols like thermocycling. Naveau et al. (2019)⁶ emphasized that most resin cements exceeded both perceptibility ($\Delta E_{00} = 1.8$) and acceptability ($\Delta E_{00} = 3.5$) thresholds under thermocycling, stressing the need for surface coatings to reduce discoloration. Together, these studies corroborate the present review's outcome that dual-cure resin cements, while mechanically superior, tend to have reduced color stability, especially under simulated oral conditions involving staining and thermal stress.

In this systematic review, dual-cure resin cements demonstrated superior retentive strength compared to light-cure variants, with consistent retention observed under a 20 N axial load¹. This was supported by Chitra et al. (2017)⁷, who reported higher bond strength values (28–29.6 N) for non-eugenol resin cements, emphasizing the influence of resin composition on retention. Although Gehrke et al. (2006)⁴ did not directly assess cement types, their study showed that surface-treated zirconia abutments withstood static loads up to 672 N and cyclic loading of 5 million cycles, indicating that proper surface treatment significantly enhances mechanical durability, aligning with the current review's findings. Similarly, Adatia et al. (2009)⁵ found that zirconia abutments primed before cementation withstood failure loads of 60 N and demonstrated improved retention and aesthetics, reinforcing the role of primers and surface conditioning

in enhancing bond strength. In contrast, Dehno et al. (2022)¹ applied a relatively low axial load (20 N) without thermocycling, limiting the simulation of functional loading but still indicating that dual-cure cements outperformed light-cure cements in retention. Although Naveau et al. (2019)⁶ focused on esthetic and mechanical outcomes of zirconia abutments, they did not directly assess retention; however, their emphasis on surface characteristics supports the review's conclusion that surface treatment is crucial for optimizing bond strength. Collectively, these studies validate the systematic review's conclusion that dual-cure resin cements, especially when used with surface treatments such as sandblasting or primers, offer superior retentive strength for provisional restorations on zirconia abutments.

Overall, studies consistently indicated that dual-cure resin cements provided better color stability, while mechanical surface treatments such as sandblasting and primer application enhanced retentive strength without compromising ease of retrieval.

Discussion

Color stability is a critical factor in maintaining the aesthetics of provisional restorations, especially when used in visible areas. This systematic review found that dual-cure resin cements generally exhibit inferior color stability compared to light-cure cements. In the *in vitro* study by Dehno et al. (2022)¹, TempBond demonstrated the highest color change (ΔE_{00}), indicating significant discoloration over time. Conversely, Implantlink Semi exhibited better color stability, particularly with lithium disilicate crowns, making it a more suitable choice when aesthetic outcomes are a priority.

This systematic review comprehensively evaluated the color stability of provisional resin cements luted on zirconia abutments. It concluded that dual-cure resin

cements have lower color stability compared to light-cure cements. In comparison to the in vitro study by Mesbah et al. (2016)² assessed the effect of aging on color stability of three resin cements. RelyX Ultimate (dual-cure) demonstrated superior color stability, while RelyX Unicem showed the most discoloration. Factors such as filler content, surface treatment, and thermocycling significantly influenced outcomes, with ΔE values ranging from 1.0 to 3.3.

This systematic review evaluated the color stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements luted on zirconia abutments, finding that dual-cure resins greater discoloration than light-cure cements. In comparison, Khalap et al. (2021)³ conducted an in vitro study on resin cements beneath lithium disilicate veneers and observed that light-cure Variolink N LC showed the least discoloration (ΔE), while dual-cure Variolink N base showed the most, though all values remained clinically acceptable.

This systematic review reported that dual-cure resin cements show poorer color stability than light-cure variants. Discoloration was linked to resin composition. Naveau et al. (2018)⁶ emphasized the aesthetic benefits of zirconia abutments in anterior implants but warned of fracture risks when angulation exceeds 20 degrees in clinical scenarios.

Ashy et al. (2021)³ evaluated the color stability of high-translucency ceramics luted with light- and dual-cure cements, observing no significant difference ($\Delta E = 3.59 \pm 1.60$) after thermocycling. In contrast, this systematic review found dual-cure resin cements on zirconia abutments had greater color change ($\Delta E > 2.25$), indicating inferior aesthetic performance.

This systematic review highlighted that dual-cure resin cements generally provide superior retentive strength.

The in vitro study by Dehno et al. (2022)¹ revealed that TempBond exhibited the highest retention when used with zirconia abutments. In contrast, Implantlink Semi was found to be more effective with lithium disilicate crowns, indicating that material compatibility significantly influences retention outcomes.

This systematic review demonstrated that dual-cure resin cements provide superior retentive strength in in vitro settings, particularly when used with surface treatments like sandblasting. While this review emphasized mechanical outcomes, Naveau et al. (2018)⁶ focused on clinical longevity and patient satisfaction, reinforcing the importance of thoughtful material selection in prosthodontic practice.

This systematic review on provisional resin cements focused on in vitro performance, revealing that dual-cure resins provided superior retentive strength with surface treatments like sandblasting enhancing retention. In contrast, Adatia et al. (2009)⁵ investigated zirconia abutment fracture resistance under static loading, finding that margin preparation (up to 1.0 mm) did not significantly reduce strength, with failures occurring at forces exceeding typical anterior occlusal loads (90–370 N). While the resin cement study emphasized material interactions, Adatia et al. highlighted structural durability, underscoring zirconia's mechanical reliability for clinical use despite preparation modifications.

Gehrke et al. (2006)⁴ evaluated zirconia abutment fracture strength under cyclic loading, reporting a maximum static load of 672 N and minimal screw loosening after 5 million cycles, confirming suitability for anterior regions. In contrast to this systematic review analyzed provisional resin cements, finding dual-cure resins offered superior retention (e.g., 672 N static loads). While Gehrke et al. focused on structural durability, the review emphasized

material interactions, highlighting trade-offs between mechanical performance and aesthetics. Both studies underscore zirconia's mechanical reliability but diverge in scope—abutment integrity versus cement performance in provisional restorations.

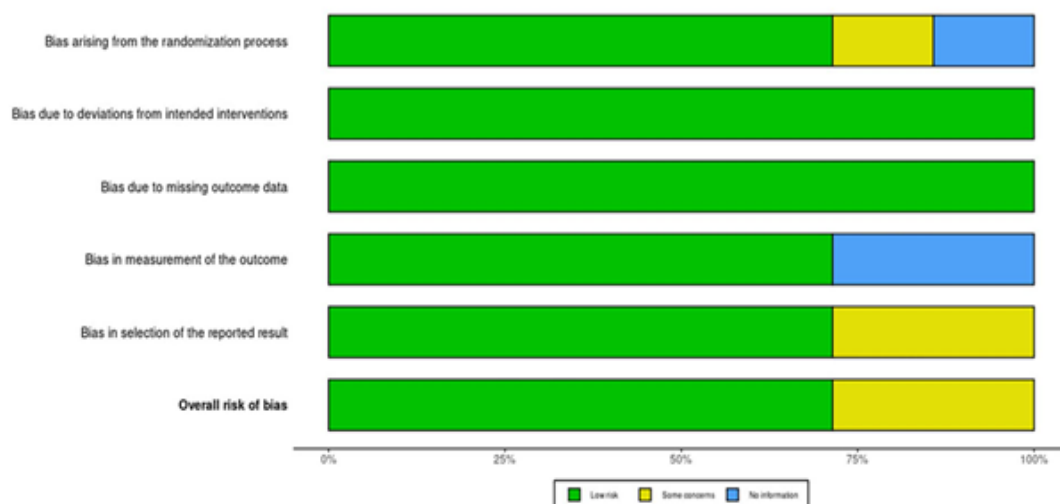
This systematic review focused on mechanical performance and demonstrated that dual-cure resin cements offered superior retention on zirconia abutments compared to light-cure alternatives. In contrast, Ashy et al. (2021)³ emphasized aesthetic consistency across ceramic types. The review underscored trade-offs between retention and appearance, highlighting the need for careful material selection in prosthodontic treatment planning. Thermal cycling, typically conducted in vitro, simulates temperature fluctuations in the oral cavity, with protocols varying in duration and temperature range.

Dehno et al.¹ used a 5°C to 55°C range with a 10-second dwell time, while other studies^{5,6} applied extended cycles.

These tests evaluate the long-term stability and thermal stress resistance of dental restorations.

Dehno et al.¹ noted controlled axial loads of 20-N for 10 minutes, while Gehrek et al.⁵ evaluated forces reaching 672 N during static loading, 269 N at 800000 to 5 million cycles run out point., while Adatia et al.⁶ evaluated 100000 cycles at 1 second, 294±53 N as the fracture resistance.

These variations highlight the diverse methodologies employed to simulate masticatory forces and assess material durability.



Study	Risk of bias domains					Overall
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	
Dehno et al						
Mesbah et al						
Khalap et al						
Peter Gehrke et al						
Adatia et al						
Naveau et al						
Chiluka et al						

Domains:
D1: Bias arising from the randomization process.
D2: Bias due to deviations from intended intervention.
D3: Bias due to missing outcome data.
D4: Bias in measurement of the outcome.
D5: Bias in selection of the reported result.

Judgement
 Some concerns
 Low
 No information

The included studies highlighted significant variability in both color stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements luted on zirconia abutments. Color changes were influenced by resin composition, filler content, and exposure to staining agents, with dual-cure resins exhibiting higher ΔE values, indicating more discoloration over time. Thermal cycling studies further emphasized the impact of simulated oral conditions on discoloration. Regarding retention, surface treatments like sandblasting and the use of zirconia primers significantly enhanced bond strength. Cyclic loading experiments demonstrated how mechanical forces affect retention, with higher forces potentially leading to cement degradation. Dual-cure resins consistently provided greater retentive strength compared to other types, suggesting their clinical advantage in maintaining provisional restorations. However, a balance must be maintained between adequate retention and ease of removal. Overall, the findings underscore the need for careful selection of provisional cements and surface protocols to ensure optimal aesthetic and functional performance in clinical settings.

Limitations

Several limitations were identified across the included studies. Dehno et al. (2022)¹ did not incorporate

thermocycling and used a low axial load of 20 N, limiting its ability to simulate long-term oral conditions and reducing its clinical applicability for evaluating retention strength. Mesbah et al. (2016)² tested only light-cure resin cement with a short aging duration of 24 hours and limited staining agents, which reduced the study's relevance to real-world conditions and excluded comparisons with dual-cure cements. Khalap et al. (2021)³ lacked detailed information on surface treatments and loading conditions, and did not address time-based degradation or thermocycling, limiting its clinical significance. Gehrke et al. (2006)⁵ focused on abutment fracture strength and screw loosening, making it only indirectly relevant to the evaluation of resin cement performance. Adatia et al. (2009)⁶ assessed the fracture resistance of zirconia abutments but did not evaluate color stability or retentive strength of provisional cements, thereby limiting its relevance to the current review. Naveau et al. (2019)⁷ addressed esthetic and mechanical aspects of zirconia abutments but did not evaluate provisional cement properties or simulate important clinical variables such as abutment angulation. Lastly, Chiluka (Chitra) et al. (2017)⁸ focused solely on bond strength and did not include assessments of color stability or aging simulations like thermocycling,

narrowing the study's applicability for evaluating provisional cements.

Conclusion

Within the limitations of this systematic review, it can be concluded that:

The systematic analysis of articles depicts the effect of color stability and retentive strength of provisional resin cements luted on zirconia abutments.

The mean ΔE (difference in sensation) values ranges from 1.0-3.3. The dual cure resin has higher ΔE values in comparison to light cure resin.

The mean retentive strength was highest for dual cure resin in comparison to others.

More studies to be conducted in vivo for analysing the effect of colour stability and retentive strength properties of provisional resin cements.

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