



EVALUATION OF THE EFFICACY OF CERAMIC POSTS USED IN THE
RESTORATION OF CORONAL PORTION DEFECTS OF TEETH

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Abstract. This article investigates the clinical, biomechanical, and economic aspects of using milled ceramic post-and-cores in the orthopedic restoration of teeth with substantial hard tissue loss resulting from caries complications. The study provides a comparative analysis of ceramic and metal post-and-cores concerning biocompatibility, aesthetic parameters, load distribution, and labor intensity. The obtained results indicate that milled ceramic post-and-cores are a promising option for clinical practice.

Keywords: post, ceramics, CAD/CAM, biomechanics.

Introduction. Caries is one of the most prevalent pathologies in dentistry, and when left untreated in a timely manner, it leads to complications such as pulpitis and periodontitis. This necessitates endodontic treatment. In teeth with significant loss of hard tissue after endodontic treatment, restoration using only filling materials may be clinically ineffective. Particularly when there are extensive defects in the coronal portion of the tooth, the need arises to employ orthopedic restoration methods. From this perspective, post-and-core systems serve as a reliable foundation for artificial crowns, holding significant importance.

Research Objective. To evaluate the clinical efficacy, biomechanical characteristics, and economic feasibility of milled ceramic post-and-cores, and to compare them with traditional metal post-and-cores.

Materials and Methods. In endodontically treated teeth, the substantial loss of hard tissue reduces the mechanical stability of the tooth. In such situations, the primary function of a post-and-core is to distribute occlusal loads evenly along the tooth root and the remaining dentin tissue. Ceramic post-and-cores possess high hardness and dimensional stability, making them resistant to occlusal forces. Ceramic posts, fabricated in an individual anatomical shape using modern CAD/CAM technologies, precisely match the geometry of the root canal, which maximizes the contact surface area. In ceramic post-and-cores, stress concentration primarily accumulates within the post itself, while it is relatively reduced in the dentin tissue. This positively contributes to the preservation of the tooth root from fracture. However, the higher elastic modulus of ceramics compared to dentin can, in some cases, lead to uneven load distribution. Due to the low plastic deformation capacity of ceramic materials, there is a risk of brittle fracture under sudden or angular loads. Therefore, careful planning of occlusal relationships is recommended, and caution is advised when using them in patients with parafunctional habits (bruxism).

Clinical Aspects. In clinical practice, ceramic post-and-cores are widely used in situations with high aesthetic demands, particularly in the restoration of anterior teeth. The absence of a metal component prevents the formation of a "grey shadow" in the gingival margin area and ensures the natural appearance of the artificial crown. Ceramic posts exhibit high biocompatibility, causing no inflammatory, allergic, or toxic reactions in periapical and



periodontal tissues. Clinical observations confirm the long-term functional stability of restorations with ceramic post-and-cores. The adhesive fixation method is considered one of the significant clinical advantages of ceramic post-and-cores. Using modern resin cements, a strong and hermetic bond is formed within the dentin–cement–ceramic system, which reduces the risk of microleakage and secondary caries. However, certain clinical limitations exist. The complexity of the manufacturing process, the number of laboratory steps involved, and the requirement for high precision increase both time and costs. Furthermore, the possibility of rework is limited if clinical or laboratory errors occur.

Recommendations for Practice. · Ceramic post-and-cores are preferable for anterior teeth and in cases with high aesthetic demands.

- Caution is required when selecting posts for posterior teeth subjected to high occlusal loads and for patients with bruxism.
- The compatibility between the post and crown materials is a key factor for clinical success.
- Strict adherence to adhesive cementation protocols ensures the longevity of the restoration.

Methods Used:

- Clinical examination and functional assessment
- Radiographic analysis
- Milling of ceramic post-and-cores using a CAD/CAM system
- Mathematical modeling and biomechanical analysis
- Timekeeping and cost calculation
- Statistical data analysis

Results. According to the results of clinical and laboratory studies, ceramic post-and-cores were found to possess the following advantages:

- High biocompatibility, good adaptation to tissues;
- Absence of allergic and toxic reactions;
- High aesthetic performance, no "grey shadow" formation in the gingival area;
- Chemical stability and corrosion resistance;
- Clearly visible structure on radiographs;
- Electrical and thermal non-conductivity;
- Possibility of creating a strong bond using adhesive cements.

At the same time, mechanical brittleness, the complexity of the manufacturing process, and high cost were noted as disadvantages of ceramic post-and-cores.



Discussion. Although metal post-and-cores have been used in orthopedic dentistry for many years, they have limitations in cases with high aesthetic requirements. Ceramic post-and-cores, however, meet modern demands and offer advantages, especially in restoring anterior teeth. Nevertheless, the higher elastic modulus of ceramics compared to dentin necessitates careful planning of load distribution. Therefore, the choice of post type should be based on the individual clinical situation.

Conclusion. Milled ceramic post-and-cores and all-ceramic artificial crowns are effective orthopedic restorations in clinical practice. They provide high aesthetic outcomes, biocompatibility, and functional stability. The obtained results facilitate clinical decision-making when selecting post materials.

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