






# Stress Distribution of Hybrid Ceramic Implant-supported Superstructure Versus Zirconia and Lithium Disilicate Superstructures

Hend M. ElSayed<sup>1,2,\*</sup> , Salah A. Yousief<sup>1,3</sup> , Sultan Alanazi<sup>4</sup>, Mohammed H. Alyami<sup>5</sup>, Abdel Naser M. Emam<sup>5</sup>, Muath N. Alshammari<sup>6</sup>, Ferdous Bukhary<sup>7</sup>, Ali Robaian<sup>8</sup>, Rasha Alharthi<sup>9</sup>, H.M. Khuthija Khanam<sup>1</sup>, Maei H. AlMoallim<sup>6</sup> and Mohamed F. Metwally<sup>10</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Department of Restorative and Prosthetic Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, Dar Al Uloom University, Riyadh 13313, KSA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Conservative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Cairo University, 11 EL-Saraya St., Manial, Cairo 11553, Egypt

<sup>3</sup>Department of Crown and Bridge, Faculty of Oral and Dental Medicine, Al Azhar University, Assiut Branch 71524, Assiut, Egypt

<sup>4</sup>Department of Preventive Dental Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, Najran University, Najran, 55461, KSA

<sup>5</sup>Department of Prosthetic Dental Science, Faculty of Dentistry, Najran University, Najran, KSA

<sup>6</sup>Aseer Health Cluster, Aseer, Saudi Arabia

<sup>7</sup>Department of Preventive Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, Dar Al Uloom University, Riyadh, KSA

<sup>8</sup>Department of Conservative Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University, Alkharij, KSA

<sup>9</sup>Department of Clinical Dental Science, College of Dentistry, Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, P.O.Box 84428, Riyadh 11671, Saudi Arabia

<sup>10</sup>Department of Crown and Bridge, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt

## Abstract:

**Introduction:** The choice of crown material for dental implants is critical, and polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramics have been proposed to mitigate excessive stress. However, research on the stress distribution in these materials and their impact on supporting structures is limited. This study evaluated stress distribution across various CAD/CAM crown materials: multilayered zirconia, polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramics, and lithium disilicate ceramics on maxillary premolar implants.

**Materials and Methods:** A three-dimensional finite-element model simulating a maxillary premolar implant was developed, featuring a 3.7 mm diameter, 13 mm length, and 5.5 mm abutment height, and was covered with a 50 µm cement layer. The model was subjected to compressive vertical and oblique loads, and three superstructure materials were tested.

**Results:** The study noted slight differences in deformation and stress distribution among materials under the same load conditions. Multilayered zirconia crowns exhibited the least deformation, followed by lithium disilicate crowns, whereas polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramics showed the most significant deformation.

**Discussion:** The polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramics exhibited higher susceptibility to deformation due to their resin content. Resilient materials reduce implant stress; implant failure is unlikely at von Mises stress levels below 550 MPa. Oblique loading intensified stress and deformation across all structures, corroborating previous findings about risks to prosthetic parts and surrounding tissues. While cortical bone experienced higher stress than spongy bone, it did not exceed strength limits, particularly at the implant-abutment neck.

**Conclusion:** Stress and deformation increased progressively across all materials, with oblique loads producing greater stress than vertical loads. The bone and mucosa showed minimal response to the crown materials.

**Keywords:** Finite element, Implant, Hybrid ceramic, Multilayered monolithic zirconia, Lithium disilicate, Implant abutment.

© 2026 The Author(s). Published by Bentham Open.

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC-BY 4.0), a copy of which is available at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>. This license permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.



Received: October 26, 2025

Revised: January 09, 2026

Accepted: January 21, 2026

Published: April 09, 2026



Send Orders for Reprints to  
[reprints@benthamscience.net](mailto:reprints@benthamscience.net)

\*Address correspondence to this author at the Department of Restorative and Prosthetic Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, Dar Al Uloom University, Riyadh 13313, KSA; Department of Conservative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Cairo University, 11 EL-Saraya St., Manial, Cairo 11553, Egypt; Tel: 000699509810987; E-mails: [hend.e@dau.edu.sa](mailto:hend.e@dau.edu.sa), [dr.hend.mohamed@gmail.com](mailto:dr.hend.mohamed@gmail.com) and [hend.elsayed@dentistry.cu.edu.eg](mailto:hend.elsayed@dentistry.cu.edu.eg)

Cite as: ElSayed H, Yousief S, Alanazi S, Alyami M, Emam A, Alshammari M, Bukhary F, Robaian A, Alharthi R, Khuthija Khanam H, AlMoallim M, Metwally M. Stress Distribution of Hybrid Ceramic Implant-supported Superstructure Versus Zirconia and Lithium Disilicate Superstructures. *Open Dent J*, 2026; 20: e18742106441241. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/0118742106441241260408041501>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Implant-supported prostheses have become a popular treatment option in dentistry, serving as an alternative to conventional Fixed Dental Prostheses (FDPs) due to their long-term clinical success rates and proven functional, biological, and mechanical advantages [1]. A lack of periodontal ligament around the implant may lead to direct transmission of occlusal stresses to the implant and the surrounding bone. The choice of prosthetic material is determined by its capacity to withstand masticatory forces and its aesthetic results [2]. Metal-ceramic restorations have been regarded as the gold standard in the prosthetic field for several decades due to their cost-effectiveness, established structural performance, and versatility. To achieve effective implant-supported restorations, selecting the appropriate superstructure is vital [3]. Implant superstructures can be manufactured from a multitude of materials, including Lithium Disilicate ceramic "LD", which provides good marginal adaptation, high aesthetics, large fracture load, excellent bonding ability, and biocompatibility, resulting in substantial clinical success in posterior implant-supported restorations [4-6]. Nonetheless, these materials exhibit only moderate toughness (2 to 2.5 MPa.m<sup>1/2</sup>) as well as strength (400 to 600 MPa) when compared to zirconia restorations, which demonstrate toughness values between 3.5 and 4.5 MPa.m<sup>1/2</sup> as well as strength values ranging from 800 to 1200 MPa [7].

Currently, highly translucent multilayered zirconia "MZ" is utilized in both implant-supported and tooth-supported restorations as a superstructure material, particularly in the esthetic zone. It integrates superior biocompatibility and mechanical properties with an aesthetically pleasing appearance. It also provides elevated fracture toughness and flexural strength, while the multilayered and translucency features effectively replicate natural tooth shade gradient properties [8-10]. Nevertheless, these rigid ceramics may lead to temporomandibular disorders and an excessively hard occlusal contact [11].

The growing adoption of computer-aided manufacturing (CAD-CAM) and computer-aided design systems has led to the fabrication of various materials for chair-side milling, including resin-matrix ceramics [12], which comprise an organic matrix and a significant ceramic component [13]. At present, various types of resin matrix ceramics exist, such as polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramics "PHC" (e.g., Vita Enamic), as well as resin nanoceramics. It exhibits resistance to fracture and chipping and can absorb masticatory forces [14].

FDP stress distribution is primarily influenced by its geometric configuration and material characteristics [15]. The material's elastic modulus is crucial for assessing a prosthetic restoration. Restorative material should possess a degree of elasticity comparable to tooth structure to achieve evenly distributed stress. Nevertheless, the tooth comprises dentin and enamel, which exhibit distinct elastic properties and composition [16]. Alberto *et al.* [17] clarified that the design of the superstructure's framework and its material properties markedly influence the distribution of stress. Botsali *et al.* also demonstrate that the ceramic form used in the infrastructure influences stress distribution [18]. Multiple methodologies have been employed to examine the effect of dental restorative materials on stress distribution in dental prostheses, including Finite Element Analysis (FEA), strain-gauge analysis, laser-beam analysis, and photoelastic stress analysis [19]. FEA is utilized for its efficacy, accuracy, and time-saving features. It can effectively analyze and represent various complex structures, including FDPs, dowels, and implants [20].

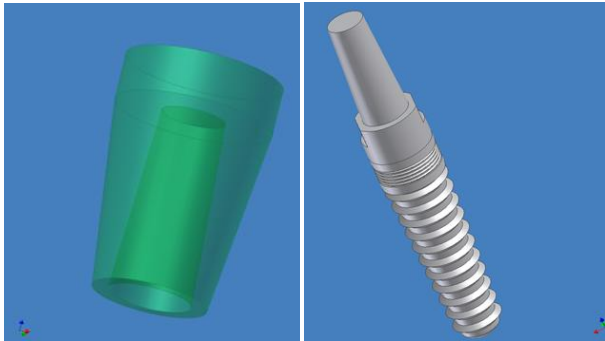
Data on stress behaviors and stress distribution between the bone and implant when using restorative materials with a lower elastic modulus remain imprecise. This study compared the effects of different CAD/CAM restorative crowns or superstructures (Multilayered Zirconia "MZ", Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic "PHC", and Lithium Disilicate "LD" ceramic) on stress distribution

in maxillary premolar dental implants and their surrounding structures. The hypothesis postulated that a polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramic implant-supported superstructure would favor stress distribution compared to multilayered zirconia and lithium disilicate ceramics.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A 3D finite-element model was developed for this study. Three crown materials (Multilayered Zirconia, "MZ", Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic "PHC", and Lithium Disilicate "LD") were used. The crown (superstructure) geometry was simplified to a thickness of 1.5 mm in both the occlusal and axial dimensions. The crown cusps were not modeled; therefore, the proposed load was applied to the occlusal area at the crown center, the "central fossa." The crown was modeled in 3D using the engineering CAD/CAM software Autodesk Inventor Version 8 (Autodesk Inc., San Rafael, CA, USA). The cement layer between the crown and abutment was 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick.

Only one prefabricated standard implant-abutment was tested in each model. A titanium bone-level *JD Evolution Plus* dental implant (J Dental Care s.r.l., Del Tirassengo, Modena, Italy), measuring 3.7  $\times$  13 mm in diameter and length, was used. Additionally, the abutment was modeled as a single-piece structure in 3D using Autodesk Inventor and the manufacturer's catalogue data (Fig. 1). These components of the final model were transferred to a finite element package as SAT files.



**Fig. (1).** Implant-abutment complex and final design of superstructure (crown) geometries.

Both bone types, "cortical and spongy," in addition to the gingival structure, were represented in the 3D model as three co-axial cylinders. The outer cylindrical shell of 1 mm thickness represented the cortical bone, which was filled by a solid cylinder of 14 mm diameter and 22 mm height of spongy bone. The cortical and spongy bones were separated using Boolean operations, and both bone structures were displayed in different colors [21]. While a mucosa of 2 mm thickness was placed on top of the cortical bone, the three structures were modeled using the finite element package GUI. The implant-abutment complex, bone, gingiva, and restorative crown represented the maxillary premolar region.

Using the finite element package ANSYS version 16 (ANSYS Inc., Canonsburg, PA, USA), a set of Boolean operations was performed between the solid modeled

components of the model to create common surfaces to transfer the applied loads and finalize the geometric model. All materials used in this study were assumed to be homogeneous, isotropic, and linearly elastic. The materials used in this study are listed in Table 1. The material property values were imported into the finite element package [22-28]. Poisson's ratio and modulus of elasticity for all materials utilized in this study are presented in Table 2.

**Table 1. Superstructure or crown materials of the study.**

Material	Product and Manufacturer
Multilayered monolithic zirconia	(Ceramill® Zolid ht. + preshade, Amann Girschbach, Koblach, Austria)
Polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramic	Vita Enamic; VITA Zahnfabrik, Germany.
Lithium disilicate glass ceramic	IPS e.max CAD; Ivoclar Vivadent; Schaan, Liechtenstein.

**Table 2. Material properties used in the FEA.**

Material	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Poisson's Ratio	Ref.
Cortical bone	13,700	0.35	[23]
Spongy bone	1,370	0.35	[23]
Titanium Implant	110,000	0.35	[23]
Gingiva	19.6	0.30	[24]
Resin cement layer "50 $\mu\text{m}$ ."	8,000	0.33	[25]
Multilayered zirconia <sup>1</sup>	210,000	0.26	[26]
Lithium disilicate glass-ceramic <sup>2</sup>	95,000	0.20	[27]
Polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramic or Vita Enamic <sup>3</sup>	30,000	0.23	[28]

1. Ceramill® Zolid ht. + preshade, Amann Girschbach, Koblach, Austria.

2. IPS e.max CAD; Ivoclar Vivadent; Schaan, Liechtenstein

3. Vita Enamic; VITA Zahnfabrik, Germany

The model components were meshed using the solid 185 (8-node) element type, which possesses three degrees of freedom corresponding to translations in the global X, Y, and Z directions. A mesh refinement test was conducted regularly before analysis to ensure the validity of the stress results. Refining the mesh by increasing the number of nodes and elements will improve solution accuracy, but at the same time, dramatically increase analysis time and computational resources. The resulting numbers of nodes and elements are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3. The final mesh density was the "number of elements and nodes".**

Structure	Nodes	Elements
Crown	8,786	5,539
Cement layer	8,519	4,164
Implant - Abutment	50,589	33,737
Gingiva	22,737	14,608
Cortical bone	170,132	110,031
Spongy bone	96,655	65,916

The final model, with an appropriate mesh size, is shown in Fig. (2a and b) and was generated using ANSYS.

Complete osseointegration (100%) was assumed between the implant and bone *via* the bond interface [28, 29]. The base of the hollow cylinder, “cortical bone,” was fixed in all directions as a boundary condition. Simultaneously, the model received a static occlusal load of 100N applied at the superstructure (crown) center, the “central fossa” [5]. Two distinct loading scenarios were used: the first as vertical compressive loading, and the second as 60° (non-axial) compressive oblique loading, simulating the clinical scenario of chewing (tearing load condition) in the palatal direction on the central fossa. Therefore, six case studies were conducted, in which each superstructure material was subjected to oblique and vertical loadings.

The modeling and finite element analysis in this study were conducted on a Workstation, an HP Z820, equipped with Dual Intel Xeon E5-2660 2.2 GHz processors and

64GB RAM. The stress distribution in the implant-abutment complex and restorative crowns (superstructures) was evaluated using von Mises stress (maximum equivalent stress) analysis.

### 3. RESULTS

Six stress analyses were conducted for the model, with two runs for each material: under one loading scenario (1) vertical and (2) oblique at 60°. The total deformation and the maximum von Mises stress were measured and recorded for comparison.

❖ The results obtained in this study for each component were defined as follows:

$S_{von}$  is the von Mises stress (the maximum equivalent stress in MPa), and  $U_{sum}$  is the total strain (total deformation) in mm. Figure (3a-f) shows a sample of the results obtained by applying a vertical load of 100N to the central fossa of the lithium disilicate glass-ceramic crown.

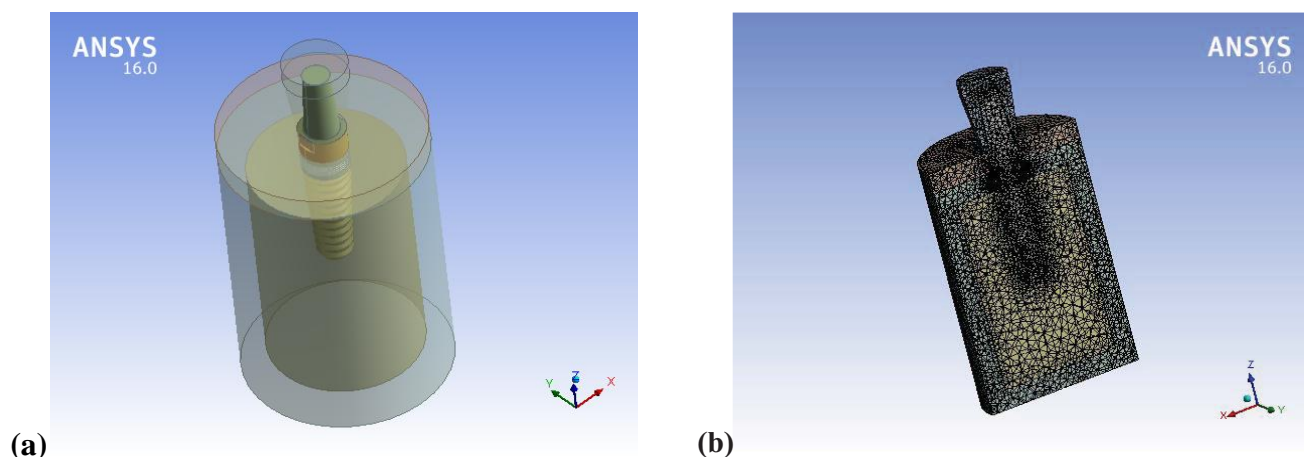
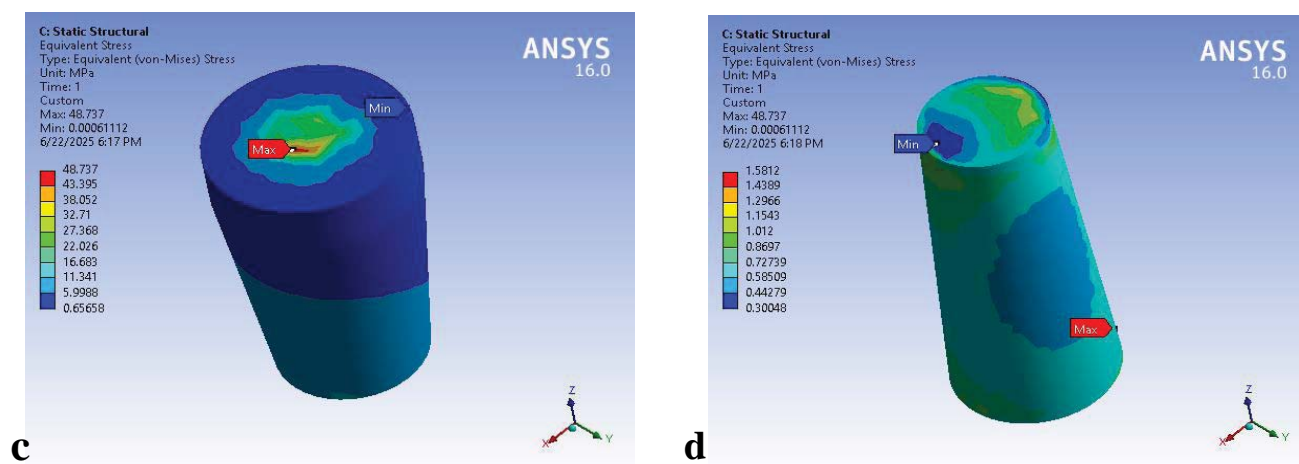
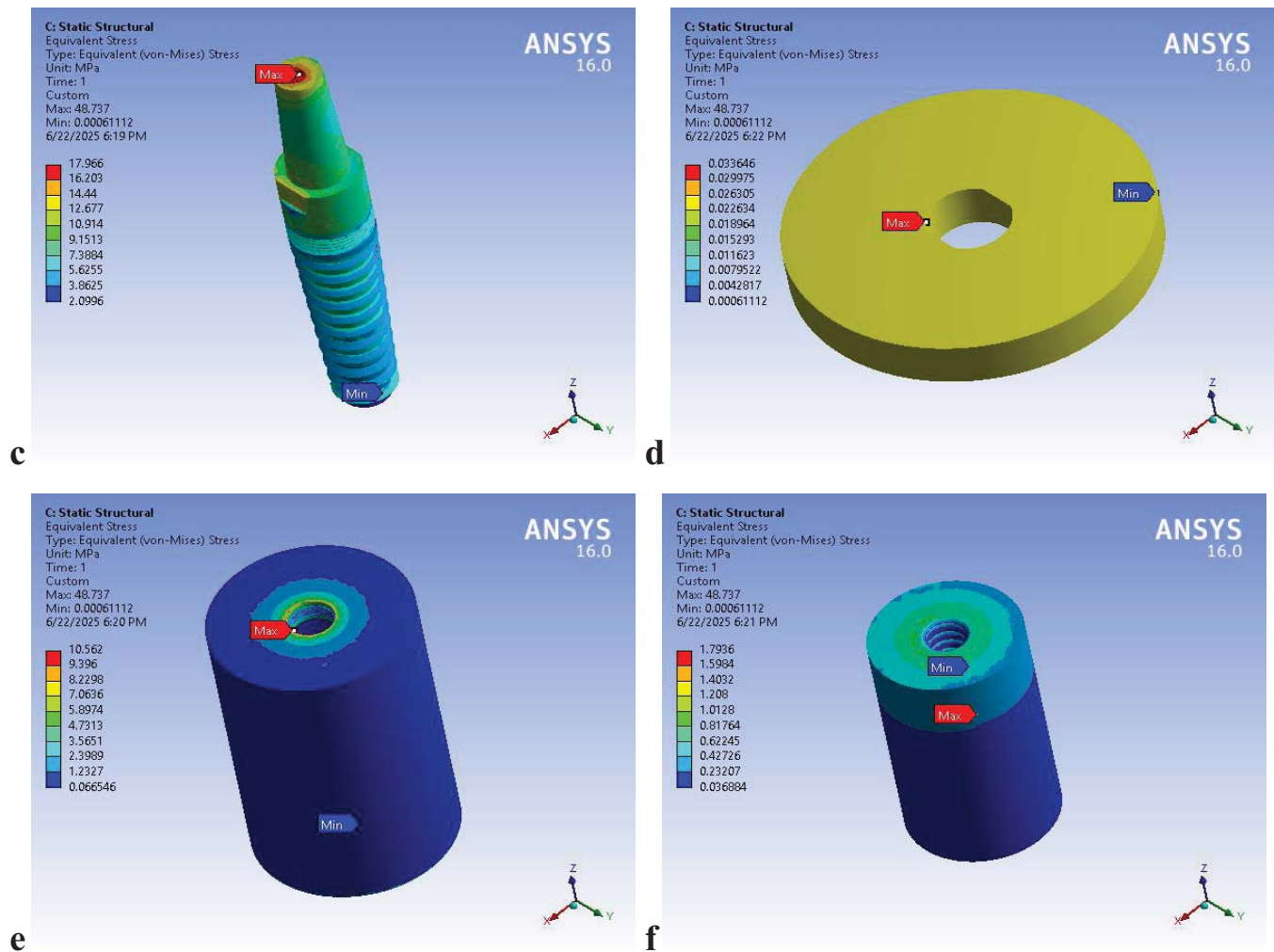


Fig. (2). (a) 3D finite element model, (b) cross-section through the model





**Fig. (3).** Sample of von Mises stress distribution on the model components “Lithium disilicate crown” under vertical load; (a) crown, (b) cement layer, (c) implant complex, (d) gingival, (e) cortical bone, (f) spongy bone.

The crown and implant complex exhibited the maximum von Mises stress at the loading site, as shown in Fig. (3a-c). In contrast, the cement exhibited the maximum value at the cement layer finish line, as shown in Fig. (3b), the gingival model component showed high von Mises stress, the cortical bone crest showed the maximum von Mises stress at the implant connection, and the spongy bone showed the maximum von Mises stress at the implant tip, as shown in Fig. (3d-f) respectively. Minor differences in deformations and stress distributions were observed: “under the same loading scenario.” At the same time, the values were altered by changing the crown material on the crown body, cement layer, and implant complex.

### 3.1. Material Performance under two Loading Scenarios

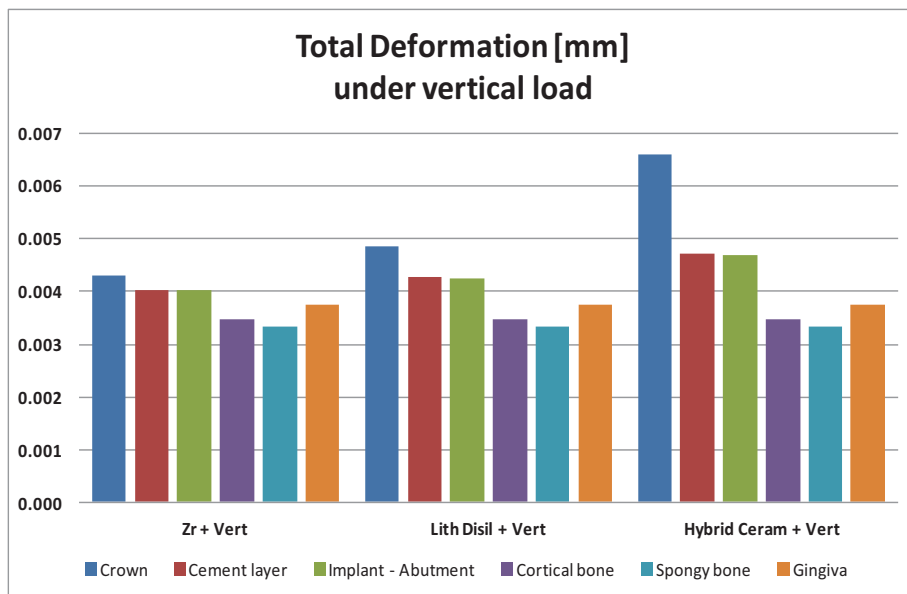
Three crown materials tested were Multilayered Zirconia (MZ, Lithium Disilicate, and Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic. As presented in Fig. (4a and b),

respectively, under both vertical and oblique loading, Multilayered Zirconia “MZ” crowns consistently exhibited the lowest deformations. Lithium Disilicate crowns showed intermediate deformation, while polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramic crowns demonstrated the highest deformation. This indicates that zirconia provides the most rigid and stable superstructure among the tested materials. A significant finding was that oblique loading produced approximately 20 times the deformation of vertical loading. Despite this increase, the overall deformation values were described as ‘fairly small’ and did not suggest a critical condition or failure.

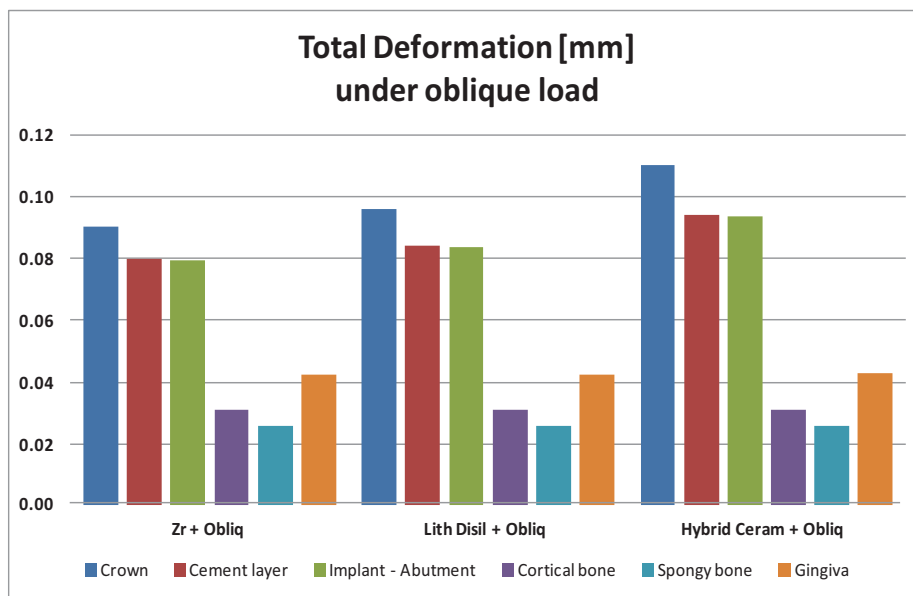
This underscores the importance of accounting for non-axial oblique loads in dental implant design and material selection. Vertical loads exert less stress, (Fig. 5a), and Oblique loading exerted stress higher than vertical loading on all model components, (Fig. 5b) (crown materials, cement layer, implant-abutment, cortical bone, spongy bone, and gingiva) by approximately 5-10 times more.

von Mises stress is a critical indicator of material yielding and potential failure. Figure 5 shows, the Multilayered Zirconia crown exhibited the lowest von Mises stress, approximately 10% lower than that of the

other two materials. The trend was inverted under oblique loading, where multilayered zirconia crowns showed significantly higher von Mises stress (50% to 160% more) compared to Lithium Disilicate (LD) and Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic crowns (PHC), respectively.

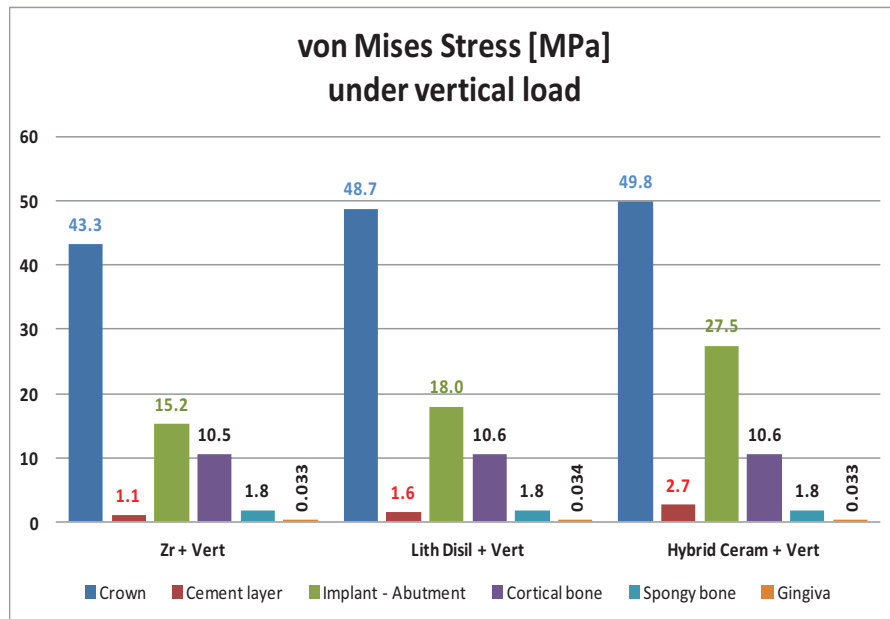


(a)

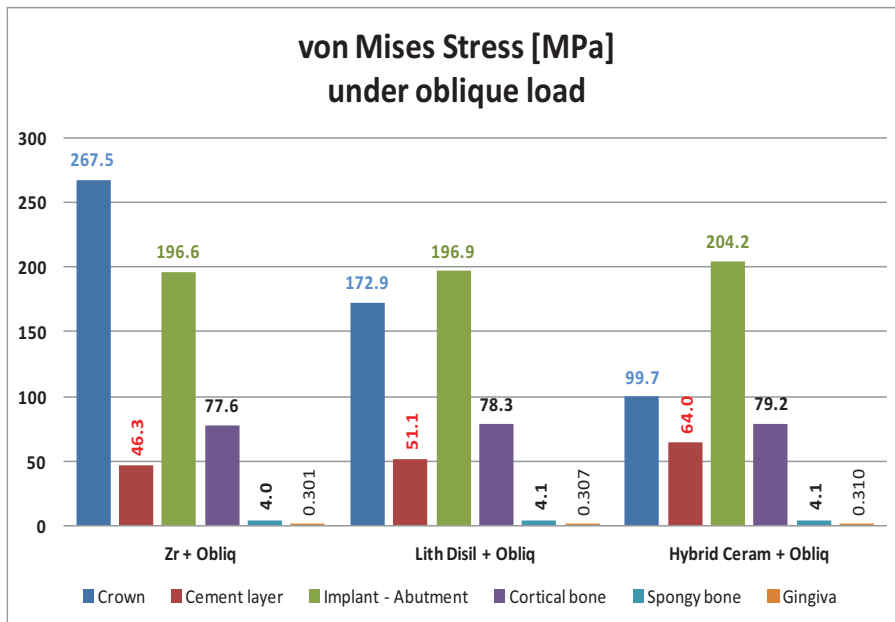


(b)

**Fig. (4).** Total deformation comparisons on all components of the model; (a) under vertical loading, (b) under oblique loading for the three crown materials.



(a)



(b)

**Fig. (5).** von Mises stress comparisons on all components of the model; (a) under vertical loading, (b) under oblique loading for the three crown materials.

### 3.2. Cement Layer

von Mises stress of cement under a Multilayered Zirconia crown was the lowest, followed by lithium

disilicate; the hybrid ceramic showed the highest stresses on the cement layer under both vertical and oblique loading conditions. The cement layer generally exhibited low stress under vertical loading (not exceeding 3 MPa),

indicating a safe condition with respect to cracking and failure. However, oblique loading increased cement layer stresses by 3-4 times, reaching critical values (50-70 MPa) under Lithium Disilicate and Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic crowns.

### 3.3. Implant-abutment Complex

whatever the loading case, the implant complex showed increasing stresses from Multilayered Zirconia to Lithium Disilicate to Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic by about (15.2 MPa, 18.0 MPa, and 27.5 MPa). Although the oblique load increased the stress on the implant by approximately 10-fold, the stress levels (approximately 200 MPa) remained within the safe zone for titanium implants, suggesting no risk of sudden failure under these loading conditions.

### 3.4. Cortical Bone

With a change in the crown material, minor deformation was recorded, with a maximum of approximately 0.03 mm under vertical and oblique loads. The cortical bone received approximately 10.5 MPa of stress under vertical load and 78 MPa under oblique load. The induced stress under vertical and oblique loads remained within the physiological limits of the cortical bone. However, with an oblique load, stress might approach the fatigue limit of the cortical bone, "indicating fatigue failure by time. The spongy bone and mucosa showed minimal sensitivity to changes in the crown materials. Regarding the comparative analysis for all the tested materials, as demonstrated in the summary table comparing stresses/deformations for all materials, presented in Table 4.

**Table 4. The stress/deformation for Zirconia, Lithium disilicate, and Hybrid Ceramics under vertical and oblique loading.**

Ut	Zr + Vert	Lith Disil + Vert	Hybrid Ceram + Vert	Zr + Obliq	Lith Disil + Obliq	Hybrid Ceram + Obliq
Crown	0.0043	0.0049	0.0066	0.0902	0.0961	0.1101
Cement layer	0.0040	0.0043	0.0047	0.0798	0.0843	0.0941
Implant - Abutment	0.0040	0.0043	0.0047	0.0795	0.0839	0.0936
Cortical bone	0.0035	0.0035	0.0035	0.0310	0.0311	0.0313
Spongy bone	0.0033	0.0033	0.0033	0.0258	0.0259	0.0260
Gingiva	0.0037	0.0037	0.0037	0.0424	0.0426	0.0430
S <sub>von</sub>	Zr + Vert	Lith Disil + Vert	Hybrid Ceram + Vert	Zr + Obliq	Lith Disil + Obliq	Hybrid Ceram + Obliq
Crown	43.3	48.7	49.8	267.5	172.9	99.7
Cement layer	1.1	1.6	2.7	46.3	51.1	64.0
Implant - Abutment	15.2	18.0	27.5	196.6	196.9	204.2
Cortical bone	10.5	10.6	10.6	77.6	78.3	79.2
Spongy bone	1.8	1.8	1.8	4.0	4.1	4.1
Gingiva	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.301	0.307	0.310
S <sub>max</sub> Principal	Zr + Vert	Lith Disil + Vert	Hybrid Ceram + Vert	Zr + Obliq	Lith Disil + Obliq	Hybrid Ceram + Obliq
Crown	8.1	8.6	9.0	229.5	142.9	90.7
Cement layer	1.1	1.5	2.3	63.6	63.8	53.4
Implant - Abutment	10.6	10.6	10.6	246.0	232.4	248.3
Cortical bone	8.1	8.1	8.1	87.9	88.8	89.9
Spongy bone	0.997	0.997	0.997	4.1	4.1	4.2
Gingiva	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.4	0.4	0.4
S <sub>min</sub> Principal	Zr + Vert	Lith Disil + Vert	Hybrid Ceram + Vert	Zr + Obliq	Lith Disil + Obliq	Hybrid Ceram + Obliq
Crown	87.0	86.0	86.4	206.4	129.6	94.1
Cement layer	1.6	2.1	4.2	62.7	63.2	54.7
Implant - Abutment	19.7	19.7	23.9	231.3	217.9	235.2
Cortical bone	14.1	14.1	14.2	104.9	105.9	107.0
Spongy bone	1.7	1.7	1.7	4.4	4.5	4.5
Gingiva	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4

#### 4. DISCUSSION

In the present study, the effects of three different restorative crown materials on stress distribution were evaluated in a single implant-supported restoration. According to the study findings, under vertical or oblique loading, the stress distributions in the gingiva, spongy bone, and cortical bone were similar across all restorative crown materials (Multilayered Zirconia, lithium disilicate, and polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramic).

Moreover, the current study reported that a hybrid ceramic with a lower elastic modulus did not favor stress distribution in the implant-abutment complex and surrounding vital structures. Therefore, the hypothesis that a hybrid ceramic implant-supported superstructure would distribute stress more favorably than multilayered zirconia and lithium disilicate ceramics was rejected. While the stiffer materials may put more stress on the bone/implant interface (which can be mitigated by good implant integration and fit), the more flexible materials, like hybrid ceramics, are more prone to cohesive fractures within the crown structure.

Dental implantation has become a standard procedure with high success rates, relying on osseointegration between the implant surface and surrounding bone tissue. The selection of prosthetic restorative material depends on its ability to withstand masticatory forces and on its esthetic outcome. Implants and natural teeth respond differently to masticatory forces [2]. Direct in vivo measurement of stress distribution and strain analysis of superstructure materials is difficult. Nevertheless, a well-known theoretical method, Finite Element Analysis (FEA), for calculating stress distributions in complex structures is superior to other methods, including photoelastic stress analysis, a mathematical analytical process, and strain-gauge stress analysis [22]. Three-Dimensional (3D) FEA with standardized parameters, rather than 2D FEA, is widely regarded as the most powerful tool for simulating dental restorations under various loading conditions [22-29].

In the present study, ANSYS (a leading finite-element software) was used to construct a finite-element model with appropriate geometry and to analyze stresses [24-28]. Three-dimensional modeling was performed using a fine mesh with many elements (185 8-node elements) to represent the model components. To ensure sufficient validity of the stress analysis, a mesh-refinement test was performed repeatedly before the analysis [30]. Although mesh refinement yields more accurate results, it also increases computational time. However, it has been shown that element downsizing beyond a certain threshold does not provide extra information [31]. This study simulated a clinical chewing scenario under vertical, non-axial loading at 60° to the implant's longitudinal axis (tearing load), applying a 100 N load in the palatal direction to the central fossa of the upper premolar superstructure. The load (100 N) applied to the restorative crowns in this study was considered within the physiological load range of 17-450 N [32]. Moreover, this study is consistent with a

previous study that reported that the direction of loading plays an essential role in determining stress levels [33]. The results were reported as strain and von Mises stresses to simplify the analysis, as in the previous study [34].

Regarding the vertical load results shown in Fig. (5), Multilayered Zirconia (MZ), Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic (PHC), and Lithium Disilicate (LD) exhibited nearly equal stresses (43.3, 48.7, and 49.8 MPa, respectively). The energy absorbed by the cement was distributed to the implant-abutment complex (*i.e.*, to the abutment top, then cervically around the implant-abutment neck, and finally to the implant tip). Stress was transmitted through the implant-abutment complex, with insignificant stress transferred to the spongy bone (0.03 MPa) and cortical bone (10.5 MPa), with a maximum stress concentration around the crestal region of the bone. Moreover, Oblique loading exerted stress higher than vertical loading on all model components (all crown materials, cement layer, implant-abutment, cortical bone, spongy bone, and gingiva) by approximately 5-10 times more than vertical load.

No considerable differences in deformations and stress distributions were observed "under the same loading scenario" with changing crown materials. Multilayered Zirconia "MZ" crowns consistently exhibited the lowest deformations. Lithium Disilicate crowns showed intermediate deformation, while Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic crowns demonstrated the highest deformation. Figure 5 shows that the Multilayered Zirconia crown exhibited the lowest von Mises stress, approximately 10% lower than that of the other two materials. This may be attributed to zirconia's greater resistance to stress, rigidity, and stability under direct occlusal forces. However, the results were opposite under oblique loading, where multilayered Zirconia crowns exhibited significantly higher von Mises stress (50% to 60% more) compared to Lithium Disilicate "LD" and Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic crowns "PHC", respectively. This means that Polymer-infiltrated Hybrid Ceramic ("PHC") received the least stress under oblique load. However, "PHC" is subjected to higher strain or deformation than the other two materials, "MZ" and "LD."

This may be explained by the resin content of "PHC," which imparts the material's elastic and bending properties. This property may be more susceptible to deformation, and the underlying components (cement layer, implant-abutment, cortical bone, spongy bone, and gingiva) may experience greater deformation than under vertical loads, as illustrated in Figs. (4 and 5). This explanation aligns with the study by Fabris *et al.* [35]. However, unlike previous studies, the present study suggests that a resilient superstructure material is beneficial for managing stresses around the implant [36]. Regardless of stress applied to the implant-abutment complex, implant failure is not expected when the von Mises stress is below the yield strength of a titanium implant, which is 550 MPa [37]. In oblique loading, all structures in this study (gingiva, spongy bone, and cortical bone) experienced higher stress & deformation than under

vertical loading. This finding aligns with previous studies reporting that oblique loading poses a greater risk to prosthetic components and surrounding vital tissues, including spongy and cortical bone, than vertical loading. This may lead to strain or deformation of the gingiva and cortical bone [38]. The present study is consistent with a study that reported that stresses in cortical bone were generally higher than those in spongy bone [39]. Nevertheless, the ultimate tensile (100 MPa) and compressive strength limits (173 MPa) of cortical bone were not exceeded [40]. In the present study, high stress and strain were observed in the cervical area around the implant-abutment neck under both vertical and oblique loading. This result agreed with the study by Joseph *et al.* [41].

## 5. STUDY LIMITATIONS

Thus, the inherent limitation was that all materials tested were assumed to be linear elastic, homogeneous, and isotropic in the finite-element model. Moreover, load duration and the load's dynamic nature may be considered in future studies. Various restorative crown and abutment materials with lower elastic moduli may be considered in future studies. Different implant locations in the jawbone, accounting for varying bone density, should be measured in future research. Moreover, the crown design served as a cornerstone for subsequent superstructure designs in subsequent studies. In addition, static loading is typically used and is acceptable when stress levels are below the yield and fatigue limits. Finally, assuming complete osseointegration and simulating a crown without cusps were useful for eliminating any other factors or effects attributable to the source, except the study variables.

## 6. CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

The clinical significance of these findings highlights a balance between the superstructure's material stiffness and static loading. Zirconia is generally considered a preferred material for high-load, implant-supported prosthesis in the posterior region due to its superior strength and favorable stress distribution characteristics for the implant and bone. It can withstand high masticatory forces. This was observed with variable levels of stress correlated with the type of bone tissue supporting.

## CONCLUSION

Within the limitations of this study, the following conclusions were drawn:

(1) As the crown material changes from multilayered zirconia to lithium disilicate to polymer-infiltrated hybrid ceramic, there is growth in the stress and deformations of the crown body, cement layer, and implant complex. One exception was observed under oblique loading, where the trend was reversed.

(2) Oblique load exerted higher stress than vertical loading on all models' components by about 5-10 times greater.

(3) Cortical bone showed minor changes (about 1%), while spongy bone and mucosa showed insensitive reactions with changing crown materials.

(4) All stress values within this study were within physiological limits, and no sign of sudden or fatigue failure.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

The authors confirm their contribution to the paper as follows: H.E., S.Y., M.A. and M.M.: Study conception and design; H.E.: Data collection; S.A., H.E., F.B. and K.K.: Analysis, and interpretation of results; M.A.: Draft manuscript; A.E., M.A., A.R. R.A.: All of the authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FEA	=	Finite Element Analysis
MZ	=	Multilayered Zirconia
LD	=	Lithium Disilicate

## ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

Not applicable.

## HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Not applicable.

## CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

## AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIALS

The data and supporting information are available in the article.

## FUNDING

None.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Declared none.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Avila G, Galindo-Moreno P, Soehren S, Misch CE, Morelli T, Wang HL. A novel decision-making process for tooth retention or extraction. *J Periodontol* 2009; 80(3): 476-91. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1902/jop.2009.080454> PMID: 19254132
- [2] Ionescu RN, Totan AR, Imre MM, *et al.* Prosthetic materials used for implant-supported restorations and their biochemical oral interactions: A narrative review. *Materials* 2022; 15(3): 1016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ma15031016> PMID: 35160962
- [3] Lemos CAA, Verri FR, Gomes JML, *et al.* Ceramic versus metal-ceramic implant-supported prostheses: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Prosthet Dent* 2019; 121(6): 879-886.e4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.prosdent.2018.09.016> PMID: 30661882
- [4] Alsulimani O, Yousief S, Al-Dabbagh R, *et al.* The effect of chewing simulation on the flexural strength of different lithium

- disilicate ceramics. *Clin Cosmet Investig Dent* 2025; 17: 67-76.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2147/CCIDE.S504292> PMID: 39896916
- [5] de Oliveira TT, Valente MLC, Simões IG, *et al.* Analysis of stress/strain distribution in dental mini-implants manufactured by additive manufacturing and machining. *J Biomed Mater Res B Appl Biomater* 2023; 111(10): 1751-62.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jbm.b.35282> PMID: 37212516
- [6] Benli M, Turkyilmaz I, Martinez JL, Schwartz S. Clinical performance of lithium disilicate and zirconia CAD/CAM crowns using digital impressions: A systematic review. *Prim Dent J* 2022; 11(4): 71-6.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/20501684221132941> PMID: 36533368
- [7] Graf T, Schweiger J, Stimmelmayer M, Erdelt K, Schubert O, Güth JF. Influence of monolithic restorative materials on the implant-abutment interface of hybrid abutment crowns: An *in vitro* investigation. *J Prosthodont Res* 2023; 67(3): 450-9.  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.2186/jpr.JPR\\_D\\_22\\_00115](http://dx.doi.org/10.2186/jpr.JPR_D_22_00115) PMID: 36517017
- [8] De Angelis P, Passarelli PC, Gasparini G, Boniello R, D'Amato G, De Angelis S. Monolithic CAD-CAM lithium disilicate versus monolithic CAD-CAM zirconia for single implant-supported posterior crowns using a digital workflow: A 3-year cross-sectional retrospective study. *J Prosthet Dent* 2020; 123(2): 252-6.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.prosdent.2018.11.016> PMID: 31202552
- [9] Marimon X, Cerrolaza M, Ferrer M, Cantó-Navés O, Cabratosa-Termes J, Pérez R. A systematic study of restorative crown-materials combinations for dental implants: Characterization of mechanical properties under dynamic loads. *Int J Mol Sci* 2022; 23(15): 8769.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijms23158769> PMID: 35955903
- [10] Harada A, Shishido S, Barkarmo S, *et al.* Mechanical and microstructural properties of ultra-translucent dental zirconia ceramic stabilized with 5 mol% yttria. *J Mech Behav Biomed Mater* 2020; 111: 103974.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2020.103974> PMID: 32769070
- [11] Ban S. Classification and Properties of Dental Zirconia as Implant Fixtures and Superstructures. *Materials (Basel)* 2021; 14(17): 4879.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ma14174879> PMID: 34500970
- [12] Akbas O, Greuling A, Stiesch M. The effects of different grading approaches in additively manufactured dental implants on peri-implant bone stress: A finite element analysis. *J Mech Behav Biomed Mater* 2024; 154: 106530.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2024.106530> PMID: 38552334
- [13] Strasding M, Marchand L, Merino E, Zarauz C, Pitta J. Material and abutment selection for CAD / CAM implant-supported fixed dental prostheses in partially edentulous patients - A narrative review. *Clin Oral Implants Res* 2024; 35(8): 984-99.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/clr.14315> PMID: 38864592
- [14] Cuzic C, Rominu M, Pricop A, *et al.* Clinician's guide to material selection for all-ceramics in modern digital dentistry. *Materials* 2025; 18(10): 2235.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ma18102235> PMID: 40428971
- [15] Ilie CE, Jivănescu A, Pop D, *et al.* Exploring the properties and indications of chairside CAD/CAM materials in restorative dentistry. *J Funct Biomater* 2025; 16(2): 46-6.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/jfb16020046> PMID: 39997580
- [16] Dimashkieh MR, Yousief SA, Demachkia AM, *et al.* Assessment of stress distribution around traditional and sleeve fixed partial denture designs: Finite element analysis. *Eur J Dent* 2025; 19(3): 667-77.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0044-1791761> PMID: 39657935
- [17] Alberto LHJ, Kalluri L, Esquivel-Upshaw JF, Duan Y. Three-dimensional finite element analysis of different connector designs for all-ceramic implant-supported fixed dental prostheses. *Ceramics* 2022; 5(1): 34-43.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ceramics5010004> PMID: 39749100
- [18] Botsali M, Botsali H. Comparison of biomechanical behavior of dental all-ceramics in tooth or implant supported 3-unit fixed partial prosthesis with finite element analysis. *International Archives of Dental Sciences* 2025; 46(1): 27-34.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5505/iads.2025.94557>
- [19] Cheng KC, Liu PH, Chen HS, Lan TH. Stress distribution of four-unit implant-supported fixed partial prosthesis with different numbers and positions of fixtures in maxilla anterior region-3D FEA. *J Med Biol Eng* 2022; 42(4): 526-33.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s40846-022-00729-0>
- [20] Ceddia M, Lamberti L, Trentadue B. FEA comparison of the mechanical behavior of three dental crown materials: Enamel, ceramic, and zirconia. *Materials* 2024; 17(3): 673.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ma17030673> PMID: 38591528
- [21] Sabri L, Hussein F, AL-Zahawi A, Abdulrahman B, Salloomi K. Biomechanical finite element analysis of a single implant threaded in anterior and posterior regions of maxilla bone. *Indian J Dent Res* 2020; 31(2): 203-8.  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/ijdr.IJDR\\_510\\_18](http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/ijdr.IJDR_510_18) PMID: 32436898
- [22] Oyar P, Durkan R, Deste G. The effect of the design of a mandibular implant-supported zirconia prosthesis on stress distribution. *J Prosthet Dent* 2021; 125(3): 502.e1-502.e11.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.prosdent.2020.05.027> PMID: 32893017
- [23] Unsal G. Three-dimensional finite element analysis of different implant configurations in enlarged first molar areas. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants* 2020; 35(4): 675-83.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.11607/jomi.8143> PMID: 32724918
- [24] El-Anwar MI, El-Mofty MS, Awad AH, El-Sheikh SA, El-Zawahry MM. The effect of using different crown and implant materials on bone stress distribution. *Egypt J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 2014; 5(2): 58-64.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/01.OMX.0000444266.10130.4c>
- [25] Assaf J, Hardan L, Kassis C, *et al.* Influence of resin cement thickness and elastic modulus on the stress distribution of zirconium dioxide inlay-bridge: 3D finite element analysis. *Polymers* 2021; 13(22): 3863.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/polym13223863> PMID: 34833162
- [26] Lima JC, Tribst J, Anami L, *et al.* Long-term fracture load of all-ceramic crowns: Effects of veneering ceramic thickness, application techniques, and cooling protocol. *J Clin Exp Dent* 2020; 12(11): e1078-85.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4317/jced.57352> PMID: 33262875
- [27] Falahchai M, Babae Hemmati Y, Neshandar Asli H, Rezaei E. Effect of tooth preparation design on fracture resistance of zirconia-reinforced lithium silicate overlays. *J Prosthodont* 2020; 29(7): 617-22.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jopr.13160> PMID: 32147878
- [28] Albelasy E, Hamama HH, Tsoi JKH, Mahmoud SH. Influence of material type, thickness and storage on fracture resistance of CAD/CAM occlusal veneers. *J Mech Behav Biomed Mater* 2021; 119: 104485.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2021.104485> PMID: 33812289
- [29] Geng JP, Tan KB, Liu GR. Application of finite element analysis in implant dentistry: A review of the literature. *J Prosthet Dent* 2001; 85(6): 585-98.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1067/mp.2001.115251> PMID: 11404759
- [30] Abu-Hammad O, Khraisat A, Dar-Odeh N, El-Maaytah M. Effect of dental implant cross-sectional design on cortical bone structure using finite element analysis. *Clin Implant Dent Relat Res* 2007; 9(4): 217-21.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1708-8208.2007.00048.x> PMID: 18031443
- [31] Kannuchamy SK, Murugesan K, Rai R, Ahmed S, Kesavan R, Kodali MVRM. Evaluation of effect of stress and strain on two different implant abutment materials: A comparative finite element analysis study. *J Interdiscip Dent* 2025; 15(2): 153-9.  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/jid.jid\\_264\\_24](http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/jid.jid_264_24)
- [32] Merickske-Stern R, Venetz E, Fahrlander F, Bürgin W. *In vivo* force measurements on maxillary implants supporting a fixed prosthesis or an overdenture: A pilot study. *J Prosthet Dent* 2000; 84(5): 535-47.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1067/mp.2000.110264> PMID: 11105009
- [33] Alemayehu DB, Jeng YR. Three-dimensional finite element investigation into effects of implant thread design and loading

- rate on stress distribution in dental implants and anisotropic bone. *Materials* 2021; 14(22): 6974.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ma14226974> PMID: 34832374
- [34] Jameel RM, Al-Khafaji AM. The influence of various superstructure materials on stress distribution for implant-supported prosthesis: Three-dimensional finite element analysis. *Prosthesis* 2024; 6(5): 1133-48.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/prosthesis6050082>
- [35] Fabris D, Moura JPA, Fredel MC, Souza JCM, Silva FS, Henriques B. Biomechanical analyses of one-piece dental implants composed of titanium, zirconia, PEEK, CFR-PEEK, or GFR-PEEK : Stresses, strains, and bone remodeling prediction by the finite element method. *J Biomed Mater Res B Appl Biomater* 2022; 110(1): 79-88.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jbm.b.34890> PMID: 34173713
- [36] Vieira FR, Bitencourt SB, Rosa CDDRD, Vieira AB, Santos DM, Goiato MC. Influence of different restoring materials on stress distribution in prosthesis on implants: A review of finite element studies. *Eur J Dent* 2023; 17(1): 001-6.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0042-1747955> PMID: 35728615
- [37] Kilic E, Doganay O. Evaluation of stress in tilted implant concept with variable diameters in the atrophic mandible: Three-dimensional finite element analysis. *J Oral Implantol* 2020; 46(1): 19-26.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1563/aaid-joi-D-19-00066> PMID: 31647683
- [38] Muhsin SA, Mohammed EK, Bander K. Finite element analysis: Connector designs and pontic stress distribution of fixed partial denture implant-supported metal framework. *J Long Term Eff Med Implants* 2024; 34(4): 33-47.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1615/JLongTermEffMedImplants.2023048378> PMID: 38842231
- [39] Epifania E, di Lauro AE, Ausiello P, Mancone A, Garcia-Godoy F, Mendes Tribst JP. Effect of crown stiffness and prosthetic screw absence on the stress distribution in implant-supported restoration: A 3D finite element analysis. *PLoS One* 2023; 18(5): e0285421.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0285421> PMID: 37146083
- [40] Lenz U, dos Santos RB, Satpathy M, Griggs JA, Della Bona A. Fatigue resistance of customized implant-supported restorations. *Materials* 2025; 18(14): 3420.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ma18143420> PMID: 40731630
- [41] Joseph JK, Kalpana D, Jadhav P, et al. Comparison of stress distribution on a straight and angulated abutment of different internal hex connections - finite element analysis. *Indian J Dent Sci* 2025; 17(2): 60-3.  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/ijds.ijds\\_138\\_24](http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/ijds.ijds_138_24)