



## COMPARISON BETWEEN MAXIMUM BITE FORCE ON FIRST MOLAR WITH PROSTHESIS AND CONTRALATERAL FIRST MOLAR WITHOUT PROSTHESIS

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### Keyword

Maximum bite force, T-scan, First Molar with and without prosthesis, Prosthetic outcome, Craniomandibular biomechanics

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Bite force is an indicator of the functional state of the masticatory system that results from the action of jaw elevator muscles modified by the craniomandibular biomechanics. Bite force measurement is essential in dental treatment as an extreme bite force on tooth may affect health of periodontium and increase risk of prosthesis fracture. A patient with low biting force may be helpful for the successful long-term outcome of prosthesis. A variety of devices has been used to record human bite force. Nowadays, sensitive electronic devices are used those are both accurate and precise enough. Recently, T-scan has been more popular to record the pattern of occlusion. The T-scan system precisely and dynamically records the occlusal contact time, force, and area in percentage. T-scan identifies both force and timing which are the most fundamental parameters for measuring occlusion. The present study was designed to compare maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis by using T-scan. **Objectives:** To compare maximum bite force (MBF) on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis. **Materials and Methods:** This quasi-experimental type study was conducted in the Department of Prosthodontics, BSMMU. The patients were selected by a consecutive sampling technique, requiring permanent restoration in endodontically treated first molar on one side and natural first molar on contralateral side. The selected tooth was prepared for full veneer crown following standard procedure with armamentarium. Symptomless patients up to 3 months were measured bite force on cemented prosthesis and contralateral natural tooth. Bite force was measured with T-scan for three times with 30 sec interval and highest value was recorded in a data collection sheet for each patient to compare maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis in the same patient. **Result:** The maximum bite force at the first molar without prosthesis was  $14.30 \pm 4.2\%$  and first molar with prosthesis was  $12.05 \pm 3.55\%$ . Tooth without prosthesis maximum bite force was significantly more than the tooth with prosthesis.

### INTRODUCTION

The bite force is the coordination of different components of the masticatory system. Bite force is one indicator of the functional state of the masticatory system that results from the action of jaw elevator muscles modified by the craniomandibular biomechanics.<sup>1</sup> Bite force magnitude is directly dependent on the number of natural teeth i.e., increasing the number of teeth increases bite force.<sup>2</sup> Chewing efficiency depends on many factors, such as occlusal contact, bite force, and masticatory muscle. The maximum bite force is the most reliable index of bite force, and it is used to assess the functional status of the masticatory system.<sup>3</sup>

Bite force measurement has been widely used to understand the biomechanics of masticatory muscles and outcomes of prosthodontic treatments. The bite force is significant for the diagnosis and treatment of dysfunction and behavior of the stomatognathic system.<sup>4</sup> Bite force measurement is essential when planning dental treatment. Some patients can generate extreme bite force that may affect health of periodontium and increase the risk of prosthesis fracture. A patient with low biting force may be helpful for the successful long-term outcome of prosthesis.<sup>5</sup> Two methods can measure bite force. One is Direct, by placing a suitable load transfer tool between the dental arches, and another is indirect, using physiological variables related to the masticatory force.<sup>4</sup> Several factors influence the direct measurements of the bite force. Different investigators found a wide range of maximum bite force values. The variation in bite force values depends on the anatomical and physiologic characteristics of the subjects. Accuracy and precision of the bite force levels are affected by the bite force recording system.<sup>6</sup>

The measurement of bite force is helpful to evaluate the jaw muscle function and assess the prosthesis performance. These measurements are complicated, and the reliability of the result depends on several factors, such as craniofacial morphology, age, sex, periodontal support of teeth, temporomandibular disorders, presence of pain, and dental status. Increased bite force values with increasing age, height, weight, and body mass index (BMI)<sup>7, 8</sup> have been observed by different researchers. However, Braun et al.<sup>9</sup> have reported low correlation between bite force and body variables. Higher bite force in male than female also reported by some authors.<sup>10, 11</sup> In the case of periodontal support of teeth, when force exerts during mastication, the masticatory muscles are controlled by a mechanoreceptor of the periodontal ligament. Reduced periodontal support may decrease the threshold level of the mechanoreceptor function. This condition may change the bite force. Biting ability with healthy periodontium is significantly higher than chronic periodontitis.<sup>12</sup>

A variety of devices with different design and working principle has been used to record human bite force. The earlier devices were mechanical. Borelli built the first device in 1681. It was called a gnathodynamometer.<sup>13</sup> Nowadays, sensitive electronic devices are used in most of the bite force devices. Such devices are both accurate and precise enough for common load measuring purposes. Most of the devices can record a wide range of force (50-800 N) with accuracy (10 N) and precision (80%).<sup>14</sup> The GM10 force gauge consists of a hydraulic pressure gauge with a biting element made of a vinyl material, covered with polyethylene tube called a disposable occlusal cap.<sup>15</sup> The most widely accepted recording device is the strain-gauge bite force transducer and is available in different heights and widths. Another recording device is the dental prescale system which consists of a horse-shoe-shaped bite foil of a pressure-sensitive film and a computerized scanning system for analysis of the load.<sup>6</sup>

Recently, T-scan has been more popular to record the pattern of occlusion. The T-scan system precisely and dynamically records the occlusal contact time, force, and area using a thin, flexible, pressure-sensitive bite transducer embedded in a dental arch-shaped recording sensor.<sup>16</sup> Articulating paper is the most commonly used diagnostic tool in dentistry. It highlights the occlusal contact point between maxillary and mandibular teeth, and the size of the mark represents the contact is heavy or light. Articulating paper can not quantify their intensity accurately and magnitude of the occlusal force.<sup>17</sup> T-scan identify both force and timing two of the most fundamental parameters for measuring occlusion. Evaluation of bite force is a prime concern for a successful prosthesis with a survival rate. The present study was designed to compare the maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis by using T-scan to evaluate the maximum bite force and to determine whether a relationship exists between the maximum bite force and the person's gender, age, and body mass index (BMI).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This quasi-experimental type study was carried out in the Department of Prosthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka, Bangladesh from April 2021 to October 2021. A study sample was chosen that required a full veneer crown on endodontically treated first molar teeth selected from regularly attending patients at the Department of Prosthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. The study included 37 samples. Consecutive sampling technique was used to select the cases for this study. All the available subjects were picked up who was met the preset inclusion criteria set for this study till the desired sample size was reached. It was ensured more representativeness of the selected sample. The selected endodontically treated tooth was examined and isolated to follow the standard principles of the tooth preparation for a full veneer crown. Then bite force was measured bilaterally at the molar region.

## OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

**Fixed prostheses:** Fixed dental prostheses are used to replace missing or damaged teeth that the patient can not remove.

**Full veneer crown:** A full veneer crown is a restoration provided to the patient; the crown will cover all the coronal tooth surfaces that are mesial, distal, buccal, lingual, and occlusal or incisal.

**First molar with prosthesis:** The fixed prosthesis that was fabricated and cemented on an endodontically treated first molar.

**First molar without prosthesis:** The first molar which healthy, was unaltered, and free of large filling, caries, and root canal treatment.

**Endodontically treated teeth:** The teeth from which pulp, composed of the blood vessel and nerve are removed and inside of the teeth will be cleaned and sealed and need to restore a coronal portion of teeth with full veneer crown.

**Bite force:** The pressure which is exerted on the teeth during biting.

**T scan:** T scan is a device that is used to record digital occlusal analysis systems. This device gives accurate 2D and 3D re-presentation of bite force with timing information relative to dental occlusion.

**Stomatognathic system:** It's an anatomical system comprising the teeth, jaws, and associated soft tissues.

## RESULTS

In this study, the comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis was evaluated in relation to age, sex, BMI by using paired T test. 22 of the patients (59%) were male and 15 were female (41%). In this study, the age range was 20-67 years. The highest number of patients participated in this study were from 20-29 (48.6%) years age group. In distribution of patients by BMI types, 43% (16 patients) were normal weight, 43% (16 patients) were overweight, 5.5% (2 patients) were underweight, and 8% (3 patients) were obese. Comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis has been tabulated in Table 1. Paired T test was done. The result shows significant difference (P value < 0.05).

**Table1: Comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis.**

Significant p value (<0.05) Statistical analysis was done by Paired T test.

Comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis according to gender has been shown in Table 2. No significance difference of maximum bite force was found in between male and female (p value > 0.05).

**Table2: Comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis**

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**according to gender.**

Significant p value (<0.05). Statistical analysis was done by Paired T test.

Also, no significance difference of maximum bite force was observed in different age groups (Table 3).

**Table3: Comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis**

**according to age.**

Significant p value (<0.05). Statistical analysis was done by Paired T test

Table 4 showing comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis according to BMI. No Significant difference of maximum bite force was found in different types of BMI (p value >0.05).

**Table4: Comparison between maximum bite force on first molar with prosthesis and contralateral first molar without prosthesis according to BMI.**

Significant p value (<0.05). Statistical analysis was done by Paired T test.

**DISCUSSION**

The successful outcome of a dental prosthesis depends on the maximum bite force. Optimum bite force helps to preserve health of periodontium as well as longevity of the prosthesis.

The measurement of bite force is useful in evaluating muscle function and is also an adjunct in assessing the performance of prosthesis. Measurements related to bite force are difficult to detect and the reliability of the result depends on large number of factors, such as gender, age, craniofacial morphology, occlusal factors,

presence of pain, and temporomandibular disorder. Apart from these physiological factors, recording devices and techniques play major role and are important factors in bite pressure measurement. To evaluate bite pressure, various techniques and devices are utilized including portable hydraulic pressure gauges, the bite fork, force sensing resistors, strain gauge transducers, pressurized rubber tube, foil transducers, pressure-sensitive sheets, and the gnathodynamometer.<sup>18</sup>

In this study, tooth without prosthesis maximum bite force was significantly higher than tooth with prosthesis. Patients feel discomfort to chew on the tooth with prosthesis side and psychologically patients chew more frequently on the tooth without prosthesis side than the tooth with prosthesis side. Gupta et al.<sup>18</sup> and Al-Zarea<sup>19</sup> stated that MBF of tooth without prosthesis was significantly higher than tooth with prosthesis which was similar with the current study.

In the present study, the MBF of tooth with prosthesis was (12.05±3.55%) which was less than the tooth without prosthesis (14.302 ± 4.204%). Al-Zarea<sup>19</sup> stated that the MBF of tooth with prosthesis was 580.9±74.3N that was less than the tooth without prosthesis MBF. This difference could be due to use of different devices, different type of prosthesis and other patients as control. In this study contralateral side of the jaw of the same patient was used as control.

In the present study, MBF of tooth without prosthesis was 14.30±4.20%. According to Al-Zarea<sup>19</sup> the MBF of tooth without prosthesis was 596.2±76.3N. The difference could be due to the use of different devices with different biting elements. Populations from different racial backgrounds could have different bite forces as a result of different eating habit, body features and life styles. Singhal et al. Also found similar result in their study.<sup>20</sup>

The detected difference between implant treated and the natural dentition sides could have been influenced by the chewing side preference as implant side was edentulous for longer time.<sup>21, 22</sup> Furthermore, the potential of jaw flexure as well as variations in muscle tonicity during unilaterally closing down on hard objects might potentially affect the recorded bite force value.<sup>20</sup>

Although bite force values were different between dentate and treated sides, this difference might be considered clinically unimportant because the bite force at both sides is more than what is required for sufficient mastication and chewing in humans.<sup>7, 8, 23, 24</sup>

In the present study, male reported higher maximum bite force than female but the difference was statistically nonsignificant. The maximum bite force of tooth with prosthesis was 12.41±3.08% for male and 11.52±4.20% for female (table 2). Male reported higher maximum bite force than the female and the difference was statistically nonsignificant. Abu Alhaija et al.<sup>7</sup> found no significant difference between men and women regarding the MBF which was similar with the current study. Koc et al.<sup>25</sup>. Bonakdarchain et al.<sup>26</sup> stated that men had statistically higher maximum bite force than women. The reasons of this difference may be due to less sample size and decrease number of female patients.

No significance difference of maximum bite force was found in different age groups. Koc et al.<sup>25</sup> found that maximum bite force was higher in the senior age group than the younger age group which was not similar with

the current study. The reasons of this difference may be due to the most of the patients were in 20-29 years of age group.

In this study, no significant difference of maximum bite force was found in different types of BMI. This finding is in agreement with the results of other studie].<sup>7, 27, 28</sup> Al-Zarea<sup>19</sup> demonstrated a significant relationship between BMI and MBF. Koc et al.<sup>25</sup> found no correlation between BMI and maximum bite force which was similar with the current study.

## Conclusion

According to the results of this study, it can be concluded that maximum bite force was significantly higher in tooth without prosthesis than the tooth with prosthesis. The difference of maximum bite force was not statistically significant in relation to gender, age and BMI.

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