**Cover letter for submission of a research paper**

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Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We wish to submit a new manuscript entitled “Effect of decontamination procedures on marginal and internal adaptation in saliva contaminated resin composite restorations” for consideration by the Journal of Oral Health and Dental Management.

We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, we report on the effect of saliva contamination on the adhesive interface. The paper should be of interest to readers in the areas of Restorative Dentistry.

Preventing the restoration area from contamination by oral fluids is a prerequisite for the success and longevity of adhesive restorations. However, contamination of the operative field is a frequent problem in dental practice, thus the topic addressed is of major clinical importance. The vast majority of previous studies on saliva contamination evaluate the effect of contamination on bond strength. In the present study, marginal adaptation and gap formation were evaluated in order to obtain information concerning the sealing ability of the adhesive system on a contaminated substrate as it is thought to be more clinically relevant to evaluate the capability of an adhesive to maintain the tooth-restoration interface sealed, rather than to compare bond strength values.

At the end of the letter you may find attached the emails, postal addresses and affiliations of all authors. The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Authors’ contribution: E.P. collected samples, researched data, ran the tests, performed data analysis, result interpretation and wrote the manuscript. Additionally, E.P. drew the graphical pictures shown in Figures 1 and 2. K.M. reviewed and edited the manuscript. V.M. conducted the statistical analyses and performed results’ interpretation. A.K. conceived and supervised the study and significantly assisted in data interpretation and manuscript editing. All authors discussed the results, commented on the manuscript and contributed to manuscript preparation and writing.

All co-authors have read the final version of the paper, are happy to be listed and give their permission for the paper to be submitted to the journal.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to effiepappa84@yahoo.com

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Eftychia Pappa

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