

# The Impact Of Adhesive Remnant Removal Using Burs During Debonding Of Orthodontic Brackets On The Pulp – A Systematic Review

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## Abstract:

The Debonding Procedure In Orthodontics Is A Very Crucial Step In The Entire Treatment Plan As It Involves The Proper Removal Of The Attachment And All The Adhesive Resin From The Tooth Surface. Debonding Of Brackets Is Followed By Clean-Up Procedures To Remove Residual Composite. This Clean-Up Can Be Accomplished By Scraping Of The Remnant Adhesive With A Very Sharp-Edged Plier Or Scalers, Or By Use Of Burs. Therefore, The Purpose Of This Study Is To Analyse The Impact Of Adhesive Remnant Removal Using Burs Post Debonding Of Orthodontic Brackets On The Pulp. The Electronic Search Was Performed From 2000 To 2022 Producing A Total Of 627 Records By Different Databases: Pubmed, Web Of Science, Scopus. After Duplicates Removal, A Total Of 41 Potentially Significant Records Were Assessed. Titles And Abstracts Were Screened And 10 Full-Text Articles Were Identified For Eligibility, While 31 Records Were Excluded According To Inclusion And Exclusion Criteria. Procedures Without Water Cooling Significantly Raised The Temperature In The Pulpal Chamber When Compared To Procedures With Water Cooling, And Clean-Up With Water Cooling Never Produced Temperature Changes That Exceeded The Critical Value. According To The Findings, Removal Of The Majority Of The Residual Resin With Water Cooling And Cleaning Up The Remaining Adhesive With Adequate Air Cooling Is Recommended So That The Enamel And Adhesive Can Be Distinguished.

**Key Word:** Debonding, Pulpal Necrosis, Burs, LASER, Adhesive Remanent Removal

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## I. Introduction

Orthodontists have placed considerable importance on evaluating the quality of the remaining enamel surface after employing various debonding techniques. Furthermore, they have directed their attention towards assessing the enamel loss that may occur during clean-up procedures<sup>1</sup>. The clean-up procedure may have a damaging effect on pulpal tissue because of the increase in the temperature which has been a matter of concern for dentists. This may result in various histopathological changes such as burn reactions at the periphery of the pulp including the formation of “blisters,” ectopic odontoblasts and their destruction, protoplasm coagulation, and expansion of the liquid in the dentinal tubules and pulp, with increased outward flow from tubules<sup>2</sup>. This procedure has the potential to impact the blood vessels within the pulp, resulting in vascular damage and subsequent tissue death.

The debonding procedure in orthodontics is a very crucial step in the entire treatment plan as it involves the proper removal of the attachment and all the adhesive resin from the tooth surface without damaging the tooth and restoring the surface back as closely as possible to its pre-treatment condition without inducing iatrogenic damage. There are 4 different techniques of bracket debonding, which are

1. Mechanical
2. Thermal

3. LASER
4. Ultrasonic

Debonding with mechanical aid involves the use of a debonding plier, whose beaks are engaged against the mesial and distal edges of the bracket and the wings are squeezed mesiodistally and the bracket is pulled with a peel force. Thermal debonding involves the use of heated tips of a utility plier which are engaged into the bracket and a light rotational force is given after some time, which leads to snapping of the bracket from the tooth surface. The debonding done by LASER's work on three mechanisms, i.e.

1. Thermal softening
2. Thermal ablation
3. Photoablation.

Thermal softening involves the heating of the bonding agent with LASER leading to sliding off of the bracket from the tooth surface. In thermal ablation, there is fast heating of the resin, enough to reach the resin's vaporization range, and photoablation occurs when high-energy LASER light interacts with the adhesive material. The ultrasonic technique works by applying vibrations on the adhesive-bracket interphase which causes the particles to move leading to a lowering of the bond strength and causing the bracket to get debonded.

Debonding of brackets is followed by clean-up procedures to remove residual composite. The amount of remnant adhesive on the tooth surface can be evaluated with the help of the ARI (Adhesive remnant index) given by Artun (1984). This clean-up can be accomplished by scraping of the remnant adhesive with a very sharp-edged plier or scalers, or by use of burs such as dome-shaped tungsten carbide bur or ultrafine diamond bur or white stone finishing bur. However, use of rotary instruments were found to generate heat and may have adverse effects on the pulpal tissues if not dissipated with an appropriate coolant. Various factors can influence the production of heat, including the size and type of bur utilized, the length of contact, torque, the abrasiveness of the instrument, the load applied, and the extent of residual adhesive removal. According to Zach and Cohen (1965), temperature increases of more than 5.50°C in the dental pulp caused inflammation that could not be reversed, they also discovered that any temperature increase of 11°C or greater resulted in necrosis<sup>3</sup>. As a result, determining a suitable debonding procedure for removing brackets in orthodontic practice is critical.

Characterizing the leftover enamel surface following various debonding methods has been a primary emphasis in orthodontics. In addition, the enamel loss linked with clean-up operations has gotten a lot of attention. Some rotating instrument techniques have also shown to generate heat, which can harm pulpal tissues if not dispersed with a suitable coolant.

Regardless of the pressure used or the type of bur linked with the equipment, air-water spray cooling is important in adhesive cleaning procedure post orthodontic bracket debonding. With diamond tips, steel, or carbide burs, adequate cooling prevents excessive drying and enhances cutting efficiency. Hand devices, sandpaper discs, green rubber wheels and pumice, and tungsten carbide burs have all been recommended for cleaning in orthodontics. A tungsten carbide bur has been claimed to be the best tool for removing residual composite left on the enamel surface following debonding.

However, very less information about pulp chamber temperature changes associated with routinely used adhesive remnant clean-up techniques is available. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyse the impact of adhesive remnant removal using burs post debonding of orthodontic brackets on the pulp.

## **II. Material And Methods**

Research was carried by hand searching and 30yrs database records based on following inclusion and exclusion criteria:

Inclusion criteria:

1. Cohort study
2. Randomized control trial
3. Cross-sectional studies
4. Survey-based study

Exclusion criteria:

1. Animal studies
2. Historic reviews
3. Commentaries
4. Case report
5. Letters to the editor

**Search strategy:**

Literature was searched systematically, and studies were identified based on the- PICO (Glossary of Evidence Based Terms 2007)

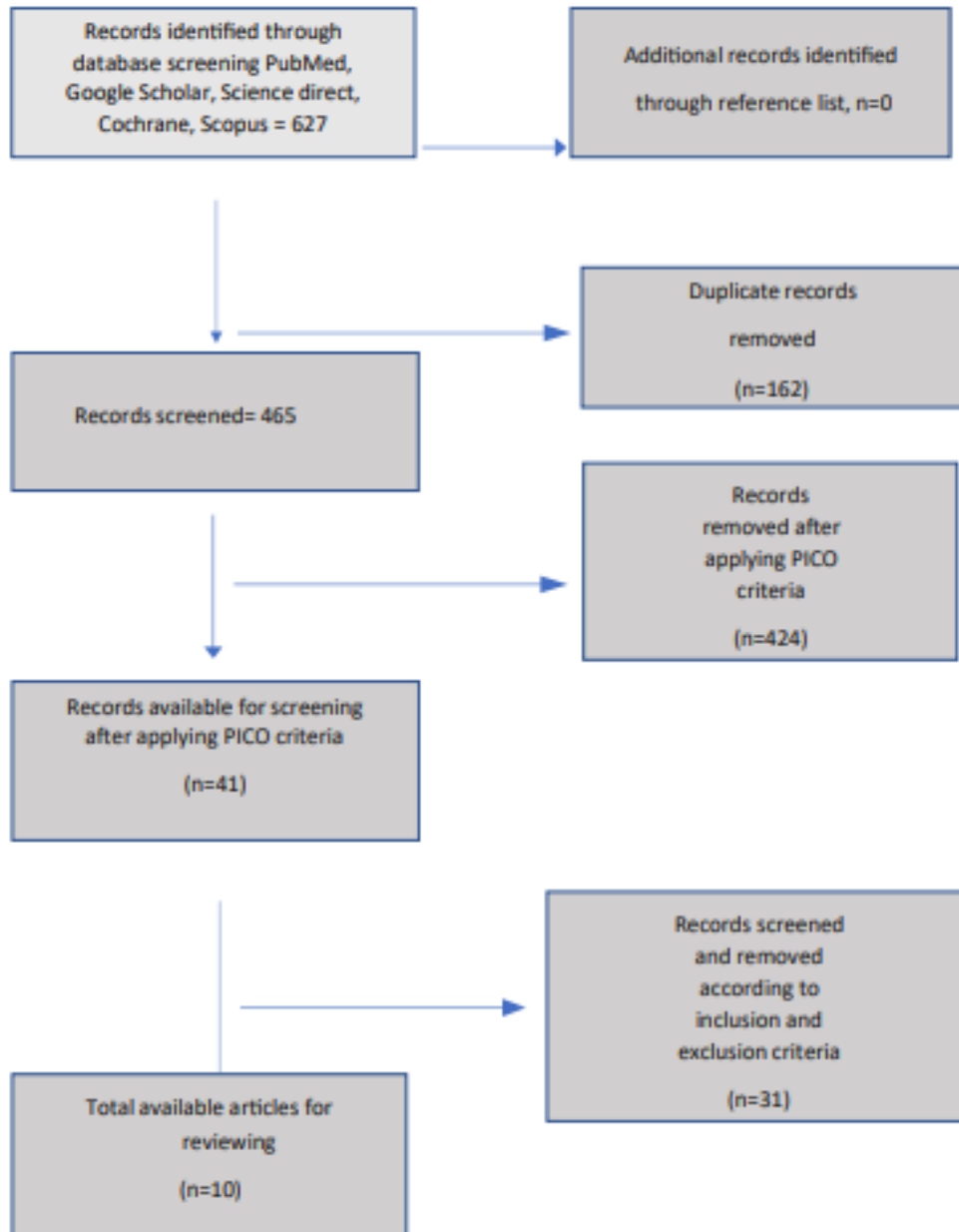
P – Patients who have undergone fixed orthodontic therapy

I – The interventions of significance are debonding of orthodontic brackets and adhesive clean-up with burs

C – Teeth which do not get debonded or do not undergo any fixed orthodontic therapy

O – Pulpal reaction to debonding and adhesive clean-up

Research Question: is there any impact of adhesive remnant removal using burs during debonding of orthodontic brackets on the pulp?



**PRISMA chart (Table 1)**

### III. Results

The electronic search was performed from 2000 to 2022, producing 627 records by different databases: Pubmed, Web of Science, Scopus. After duplicates removal, a total of 41 potentially significant records were assessed. Titles and abstracts were screened and 10 full-text articles were identified for eligibility, while 31 records were excluded according to inclusion and exclusion criteria.

S. NO.	FIRST AUTHOR	STUDY DESIGN	SAMPLE TYPE	SAMPLE SIZE	OUTCOME MEASURE	CONCLUSION
1	Mark E. Vukovich	Experimental study	consecutive	122 ceramic brackets, 8 extracted teeth	A small thermocouple probe fixed to the pulpal wall subjacent to the bracket position.	Significant increase in pulp chamber temperature, in case of low-speed grinding without coolant
2	Tancan Uysal	In – vitro study	consecutive	90 extracted human maxillary central incisors	A J-type thermocouple wire was positioned in the centre of the pulp chamber.	Significant temperature in pulpal chamber of maxillary extracted teeth
3	Seong-Sik Kim	Experimental study	Consecutive	20 extracted human Pre molars	Temperature change and removal time were recorded, and surface profiles were examined with 3-dimensional profilometry	There were significantly greater temperature changes in the LS group than in the SS group
4	Ali Altug Bicakci	In – vivo study	Consecutive	40 extracted sound max. and mand. Premolars	Histological examination	Adhesive removal without water cooling caused some vascular and pulpal tissue alterations
5	Sabrina Mank	In – vitro study	Consecutive	10 Human incisors	Thermoelement introduced into the pulp chamber	Carbide burs and polishing disks can be used safely and without risk to the pulp, even without cooling
6	Sogra Yassaei	Experimental study	Consecutive	90 extracted teeth	Thermocouple sensor fitted on to the buccal wall of the pulp chamber	Tungsten carbide bur and composite bur generated more heat compared to Er:YAG laser and Tungsten carbide bur were the fastest and Er:YAG laser were the slowest to remove adhesive residue
7	Philipp Kley	Experimental study	Consecutive	5 extracted human molars	Temperature measurements with a thermographic infrared camera on the enamel surface and with measuring probes in the pulp cavity	If a carbide bur is properly used, there is a low risk of reaching critical intra-pulpal temperatures during debonding of residual bracket adhesive even in the absence of dedicated cooling and no risk if the instrumentation is accompanied by air or water cooling
8	Gokmen Kurt	Experimental study	Consecutive	80 extracted max Pre molars	The temperature changes and cool down times were evaluated with a thermal camera	Appropriate cooling procedures and fine tungsten carbide burs should be used during the removal of remnant adhesives after bracket debonding in order to prevent adverse pulpal reactions.
9	Maurício Barbieri Mezomo	In – vitro study	Consecutive	20 extracted human maxillary second pre molars	Pulp chamber temperature was measured with a thermocouple probe and time spent was recorded with a digital stopwatch	BurH-cool, BurH and BurL are safe adhesive removal techniques, whereas DiscL and BurFGL may damage pulp tissues and time spent on adhesive removal has direct effect on temperature rise in the

						pulp chamber
10	Mihri Amasyali	Experimental study	Consecutive	90 maxillary premolars	human Measurements done using a non-contact optical profilometer	A one-step finisher and polisher bur created the smoothest enamel surface, whereas Er:YAG laser the roughest and Tungsten carbide and aluminium oxide-based burs generated more heat than Er:YAG laser.

#### IV .Discussion

Orthodontic therapy has been an integral part of dentistry since many decades. It is a well- known fact that it has changed many lives by bringing beautiful smile on people’s face, but everything has its own merits and demerits. One of the demerits of debonding in orthodontic therapy is that it causes changes in the enamel surface such as remaining adhesive remnants, enamel damage or enamel indentation.

Once the excess resin has been removed, the enamel surface must be left intact. Adhesive remnant and damages caused to the enamel structure are unavoidable regardless of the type of bracket and the removal technique. Using rotating instruments for adhesive remnant removal leads to enamel erosion at both high (19.2 μm) and low (11.3 μm) speeds<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, the latter has greater damage to pulp vitality, because of the heat. This incomplete removal of remnant adhesive from the tooth surface leads to irregular surfaces which causes plaque accumulation and a predisposition for decalcification on the surface is also seen. As a result, the adhesives must be removed with the least amount of harm to the enamel and loss of intact enamel tissue possible, and the tooth's vitality must be safeguarded against temperature variations that may occur throughout the treatment.

The prevailing belief is that the temperature within the pulp chamber is akin to the body's temperature, approximately 37 °C, despite the absence of precise measurements. Previous in vitro experiments, which aimed to simulate blood flow within the pulp, determined that the pulp temperature ranged from 33 to 35 °C, while demonstrating the pulp's ability to tolerate temperature fluctuations within the range of 25 to 42°C.<sup>5-6</sup>. According to the study done by Monika Machoy, the study concluded that temperature considered safe and within the pulp adaptation range, is about 40–42°C. Rotary instrument techniques have been found to generate heat, which can be harmful to the pulpal tissues if not dissipated with an appropriate coolant. The types of coolant are water coolant and air coolant. In water cooling, a jet of cold or normal water is directed towards the rotating burs and tooth surface during the remnant adhesive removal and air cooling involves the high-pressured air blow which is directed again towards the tooth surface and the rotating bur. These two methods lower down the heat that is generated during the clean-up procedure and tries to maintain the temperature within the safe range.

The size and type of bur used, the duration of contact, torque, instrument abrasiveness, load, and the amount of residual adhesive removed are all factors that influence heat generation. Lee- Knight et al<sup>7</sup> (1997) investigated pulp chamber temperature and found that debonding of metal brackets without an air or water coolant may harm the pulp. The pulpal and dentinal trauma caused by rotary instruments can be attributed to multiple factors, including pressure, revolutions per minute, bur design and the type of coolant used. These factors collectively impact the temperature increase and the level of vibration experienced. The diverse clinical responses observed in the pulp and dentin are ascribed to the interconnected factors involved. Schuchard<sup>8</sup> (1975) and Sato<sup>9</sup> (1983) reported that excessive heat adduction can result in structural changes to the hard dental tissues and damage the dental pulp. Robinson and Lefkowitz<sup>10</sup> (1962), Taira et al<sup>11</sup> (1990), and Moulding and Loney<sup>12</sup> (1991) all reported that cooling techniques, such as the use of an air-water spray, were effective in limiting the temperature rise in the pulpal chamber. According to Takla and Shivapuja (1995), they proposed that inflammatory alterations in the pulp can be reversed if the temperature remains below 6.8°C, considering the normal physiological value of 35.3°C, and taking into account the initial condition of the pulp and its reparative capacity.

There is very less information available about pulp chamber temperature changes associated with commonly used orthodontic techniques, hence attempt was made to conduct the present systematic review to update the knowledge of available evidence about the impact of adhesive remnant removal using burs during debonding of orthodontic brackets on the pulp.

The review encompassed a total of ten studies. Because of the different risk of bias given by various study designs, as well as the difficulty in assessing outcomes and reaching reliable results and conclusions, strict methodology in both data extraction and quality analysis was attempted.

These studies concluded that the different orthodontic clean-up procedures resulted in significant temperature changes in the pulpal chamber of extracted maxillary central incisor teeth. Clean-up with a tungsten

carbide bur using a high-speed contra-angle handpiece without water cooling produced a temperature increase exceeding the critical 5.58°C value for pulpal health, as compared to the procedures of water cooling and clean-up where they have not found increase in the temperature beyond the critical value. The prevailing method for removal commonly involves employing ultra-sonic scalers, a low-speed handpiece equipped with a tungsten carbide bur, and a high-speed handpiece fitted with a diamond bur.

Eminkahyaligil et al<sup>14</sup> (2006) found that high-speed tungsten carbide bur application was the most effective and the least time-consuming method to clean the teeth surfaces. Van Waes et al<sup>15</sup>(1997) and Zachrisson and Artun<sup>16</sup> (1979) suggested low-speed (below 2,00,000 RPM) tungsten carbide bur application which produced the finest scratch pattern with the least enamel loss. On the contrary, Zarrinnia et al<sup>17</sup> (1995) recommended the use of a high-speed tungsten carbide bur (above 200,000 rpm) with a 12-fluted tungsten carbide bur for removal of remnant resin. Retief and Denys<sup>18</sup> (1979) recommended the use of a tungsten carbide bur at a high speed with adequate air cooling. Adhesive removal without water cooling induced some vascular and pulpal tissue abnormalities such as haemorrhage, vascular congestion, and inflammatory cell infiltration. But these were tolerated by the pulpal tissues, therefore the changes were reversible, according to a few investigations that included histologic and immunohistochemical analyses.

On the contrary the study which was done by Mark E. Vukovich<sup>1</sup> (1991), saw that the removal of a ceramic bracket from the surface of a vital lower incisor tooth by means of a low-speed bur without coolant resulted in numerous histologic pulp changes. These alterations were typical of pulp tissue exposed to temperatures above 42.2 ° C, implying that removing brackets by this manner could result in total necrosis in at least 15% of teeth. Nyborg and Brannstrom<sup>19</sup> (1968), however, reported a relative lack of (aspirated) nuclei in the dentinal tubules. This result is attributed to the direct heating and probable desiccation of dentin in their study. The enamel was intact and the dentin was unexposed during the removal of the bracket in our experiments. Therefore, high temperatures that significantly exceed known thresholds for pulpal damage are regenerated by low-speed grinding of ceramic brackets without coolant or removal of adhesive. During the removal of brackets using either high-speed or low-speed handpieces, with water or air as coolants, temperatures well below the threshold values were consistently attained.

Based on this review, it is evident that removing the residual adhesive while cooling with water is critical for keeping the temperature stable and effective in keeping the damage within the physiologic limits of the tissues. However, the visibility of the remaining adhesive on enamel surfaces decreases with water cooling, which may result in enamel loss due to confusion of the residual adhesive from the enamel surface with the tungsten carbide bur. In general, residual adhesive on enamel surfaces is difficult to distinguish in wet conditions, and the clinician must dry the enamel surface with an air spray to clearly see the remaining adhesive layer. According to the findings, the removal of the majority of the residual resin with water cooling and cleaning up the remaining adhesive with adequate air cooling is recommended so that the enamel and adhesive can be distinguished.

## **V. Conclusion**

An important milestone in the field of orthodontics was the transition from banding to bonding, which marked a significant advancement facilitated by evolving bonding techniques. Because of the invention of bonding, orthodontic treatment has become widespread, various treatment techniques have been developed and treatment duration became shorter due to the reduction in number of appointments. Studies about debonding and adhesive clean-up procedures have reported potential risk of pulpal damage caused by the heat generated during debonding. The various techniques of debonding might lead to surface alterations regardless of the adhesive debonding and removal methods used. Surface changes after brackets are important because the external surface of the enamel contains more minerals and fluoride than the deeper layers.

Since this is a relatively unexplored topic, the current systematic review updates our understanding of the available evidence of the topic and the following conclusions can be drawn-

- The use of a tungsten carbide bur with a high-speed contra-angle handpiece without water cooling resulted in a temperature increase that exceeded the critical 5.58°C value for pulpal health.
- Procedures without water cooling significantly raised the temperature in the pulpal chamber when compared to procedures with water cooling, and clean-up with water cooling never produced temperature changes that exceeded the critical value.
- The 12 fluted high speed tungsten carbide burs have been reported as the most efficient method for residual adhesive clean-up along with water cooling and air cooling as it helps in adequately distinguishing the enamel surface from the remnant adhesive.
- According to the findings, removal of the majority of the residual resin with water cooling and cleaning up the remaining adhesive with adequate air cooling is recommended so that the enamel and adhesive can be distinguished.

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