


Selective adhesive luting: A novel technique for improving adhesion achieved by universal resin cements

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Abstract

Objective: We aimed to introduce the concept of “Selective adhesive luting—SAL” which is explained through clinical steps and supported by preliminary laboratory evidence.

Clinical Considerations: Cementation with rubber dam is difficult to perform in case of short abutment teeth and/or subgingival crown margins. By means of universal resin cements/universal adhesive systems, which can be employed in self-adhesive as well as adhesive luting procedures, this paper presents a novel technique allowing clinicians to perform reliable cementation where rubber dam isolation is difficult. The SAL technique entails the application of a universal adhesive system only on easily accessible abutment surfaces, enabling simultaneous adhesive and self-adhesive luting in different portions of the abutment. The SAL clinical workflow is explained through prosthodontic rehabilitation of maxillary right central incisor affected by microdontia and restored with a lithium-disilicate crown. Furthermore, our laboratory microshear bond strength study supports the rationale behind SAL application demonstrating higher bond strength even when the adhesive resin is placed only on one portion of the cementation substrate.

Clinical Significance: This article advocates the application of SAL technique in clinical situations where effective adhesive luting is uncertain, since it can improve the adhesion between the tooth and universal resin cements.

KEYWORDS

adhesive system, crown, luting, universal resin cement

1 | INTRODUCTION

The shift from restoring teeth with conventional metal-ceramic to all-ceramic crowns has been possible due to great advancements achieved in the field of dental materials and adhesive dentistry. Unlike metal-ceramic crowns, all-ceramic restorations offer improved esthetics with

clinical longevity.¹ Indeed, lithium-disilicate (LiSi) ceramic has demonstrated low annual failure rate (only 0.17% per year) during 16.9-year follow up, with low risk of failure regardless the patients' age/sex and restoration's thickness.² Such optimal clinical performance is directly related to the formation of a reliable and durable bond between the tooth structure and ceramic material. To this end, the choice of luting

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FIGURE 1 Short abutment where proper rubber dam placement during luting phase can be difficult.

material, as well as strictly following the adhesive procedure steps as recommended by the manufacturer, is fundamental.³

Resin-based composite cements are considered the materials of choice for luting of partial and full-coverage indirect restorations made of LiSi ceramics.⁴ Current dental market offers a great variety of resin cements, mainly classified according to their polymerization mechanism (light-, self-, and dual-cure)⁵ or the number of clinical steps and adhesive mechanism used during luting procedures (multi-step/adhesive and one-step/self-adhesive resin cements).⁶ Unlike multi-step/adhesive resin cements that require the use of a previous conditioning of a dental substrate with a primer/adhesive, self-adhesive cements do not entail any pre-treatment and are applied directly to the tooth surface,⁷ thus making it an attractive choice for clinicians seeking simplicity. Although evidence from laboratory studies suggests that higher bond-strength values can be obtained when indirect restorations are cemented with multi-step resin cements,⁸ a recent systematic review of clinical trials has reported no differences between multi-step and self-adhesive luting in terms of survival rates of LiSi ceramic crowns.⁹

Universal resin cements (URCs) represent the latest novelty in dental adhesive industry.^{10,11} These materials can be used either in the self-adhesive mode or in combination with their respective adhesive system,¹² depending on the clinical situation and dentist's preference. According to a recent laboratory study, when a universal resin cement is used with its adhesive system (adhesive luting technique), increased bond-strength to both enamel and dentin were obtained.⁷ Unlike self-adhesive, adhesive luting achieved by multi-step cements is sensitive to clinical procedures requiring certain prerequisites to be accomplished, such as a completely dry work field.⁹ Consequently, the versatility of URCs can be appealing in challenging clinical situations where proper isolation with rubber dam is difficult to achieve, such as short abutments (Figure 1) or preparations with subgingival crown margins. In these situations, a sort of a “hybrid technique” could be performed, relying on simultaneous adhesive and self-adhesive luting of indirect restorations. This could be achieved by selective application of the adhesive system solely on abutment surfaces that are easily accessible and controllable from saliva and blood contamination (i.e., occlusal/incisal portions of crown preparations)—thus performing adhesive luting in this portion of the abutment, whereas the rest of abutment surfaces are subjected to the self-adhesive luting.

In the light of abovementioned and with the intent to exploit the benefits of URCs, this paper aimed to introduce the clinical concept of

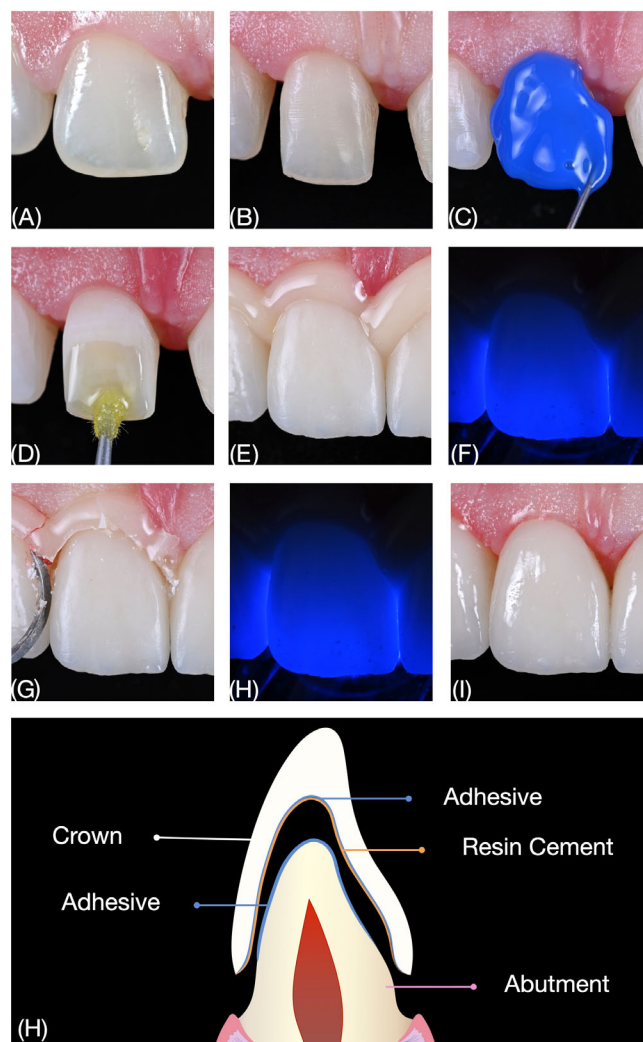


FIGURE 2 (A) Pre-treatment intraoral photograph of maxillary right central incisor. (B) Clinical situation after the preparation of maxillary right central incisor. (C) 37% phosphoric acid etching for 15 s. (D) A universal adhesive (CLEARFIL Universal Bond Quick) is applied with rubbing motion to the incisal surface. (E) Lithium-disilicate crown (IPS e. Max Press Multi A1; Ivoclar) layered with feldspathic ceramic powder (IPS Ivocolor Shade; Ivoclar) luting with a universal resin cement (PANAVIA SA Cement Universal) compatible with its universal adhesive system. (F) Light-cure with a polywave Valo lamp (Ultradent Products Inc.) with 1450 mW/cm² for 2 s. (G) Removal of the excess resin cement with a sharp instrument. (H) Light-curing for a total of 40 s (20 s from palatal, followed by additional 20 s from the labial side). (I) Post-cementation intraoral photograph of maxillary right central incisor restored with a lithium-disilicate crown. (K) Schematic representation of the SAL technique where the adhesive system is applied onto easily accessible tooth surfaces, positioning it away from the gingival margin, where saliva and blood contamination might accidentally occur.

a hybrid technique herein referred as “Selective Adhesive Luting—SAL.” A laboratory study was conducted to investigate whether the selective application of adhesive systems used before their respective URC could achieve a more reliable bond strength when cementing indirect restorations.

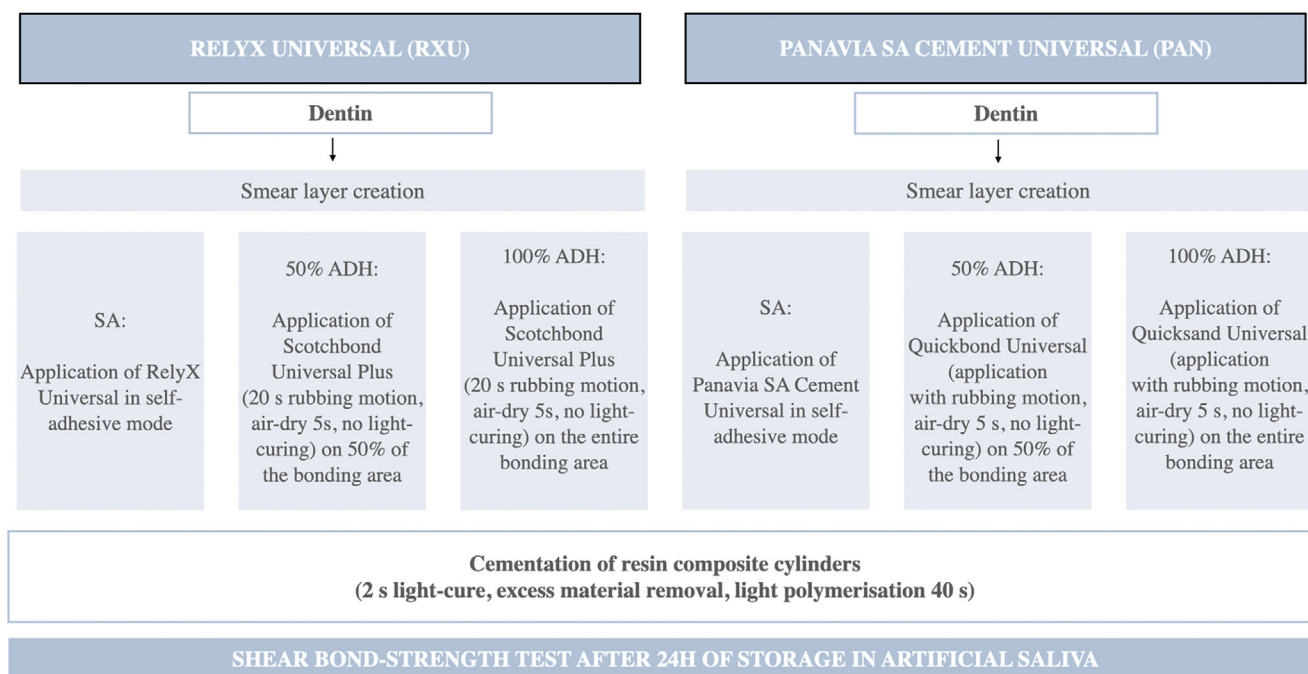


FIGURE 3 Schematic representation of treatment progression for each of the experimental groups on dentin.

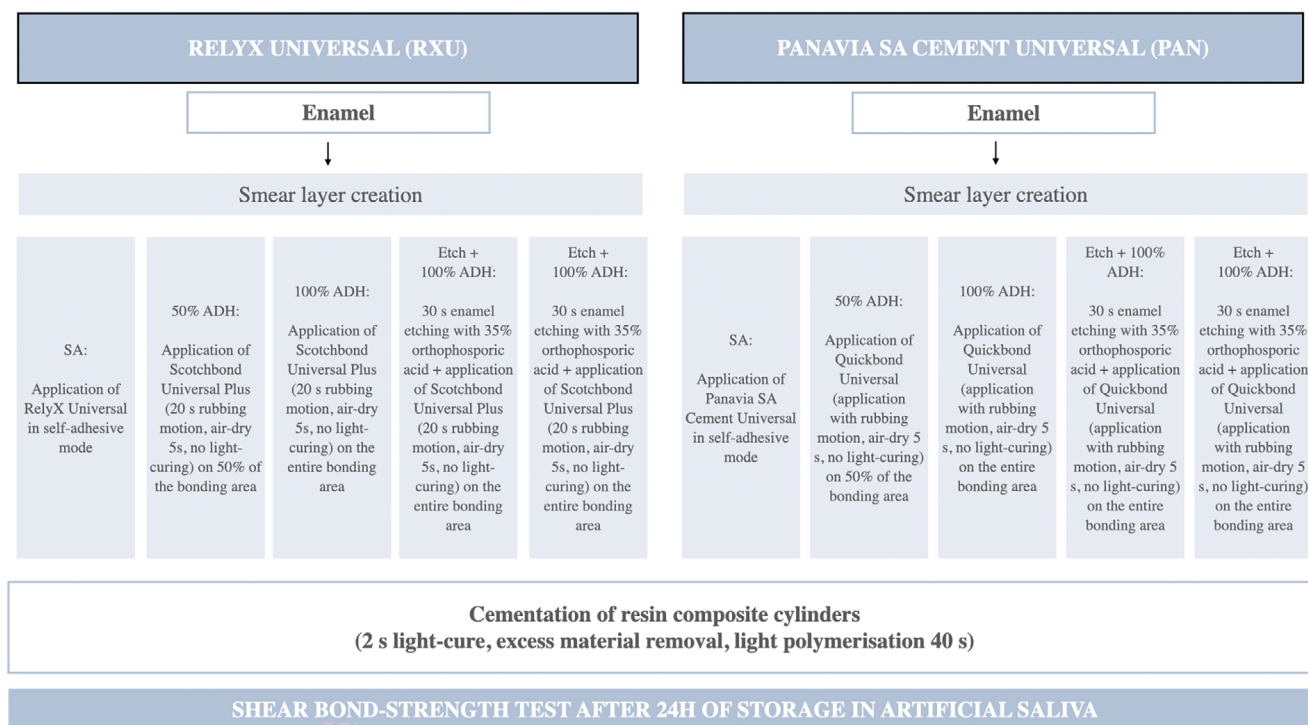


FIGURE 4 Schematic representation of treatment progression for each of the experimental groups on enamel.

2 | CLINICAL WORKFLOW OF THE SAL TECHNIQUE

A 40-year-old female patient who had been unsatisfied with the esthetics of the maxillary right central incisor was referred to a private

dental practice in May 2022. The diagnosis of microdontia was confirmed by intraoral and radiographic examination and, after discussing treatment options and obtaining patient's informed consent, the tooth was prepared for LiSi crown in accordance with the principles of minimally invasive dentistry.¹³ Due to the short abutment, it was not

possible to adequately place the rubber dam before the cementation procedures. In order to improve the retention of the restoration without performing the adhesive procedures in the cervical portion of the abutment prone to saliva and blood contamination, the adhesive resin was applied only to the incisal half of the abutment without polymerization, and a URC was used for luting, enabling a simultaneous self-adhesive and adhesive luting—the SAL technique. The SAL workflow during the cementation phase is presented and described in Figure 2.

3 | LABORATORY STUDY: DEMONSTRATION OF SAL CONCEPT

3.1 | Methods

Two commercially available URCs, RelyX Universal (3M, Oral Care, St Paul, MN, USA) and Panavia SA Cement Universal (Kuraray Noritake Dental Inc, Okayama, Japan) in SA mode, and in combination with

their universal adhesive systems—Scotchbond Universal Plus (3M, Oral Care, St Paul, MN, USA) and Clearfil Universal Bond Quick (Kuraray Noritake Dental Inc, Okayama, Japan), respectively, were used in the study. The adhesive system was applied either on the entire bonding interface or on 50% of the bonding interface (SAL technique). The groups are presented in Figures 3 and 4 and a detailed description of the laboratory study which investigated the influence of SAL on shear bond-strength of indirect restorations can be found in Supporting information. Table 1 summarizes compositions of the materials used in the present study.

4 | RESULTS

Results of the present study are shown in Tables 2 and 3. The shear bond strength (SBS) to dentin was significantly influenced by both “cement” and “adhesive strategy” ($p < 0.01$) and their interactions were also significant ($p = 0.035$). In general, both URCs performed

TABLE 1 Material composition obtained from manufacturer's information and safety data sheets.

Material type	Name and batch number	Composition
Universal adhesive	Clearfil Universal Bond Quick (Kuraray Noritake Dental Inc, Okayama, Japan) LOT 220289	Bisphenol A diglycidylmethacrylate Ethanol 2-Hydroxyethyl methacrylate 10-Methacryloyloxydecyl dihydrogen phosphate Hydrophilic amide monomers Colloidal silica Silane coupling agent Sodium fluoride dl-Camphorquinone Water
Universal adhesive	Scotchbond™ Universal Plus (3M, Oral Care, St Paul, MN, USA) LOT 8110903	2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, diesters with 4,6-dibromo- 1,3-benzenediol 2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl 3-hydroxypropyl diethers 10-Methacryloyloxydecyl dihydrogen phosphate 2-Hydroxyethyl Methacrylate 2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, reaction products with 1,10-decanediol and phosphorus oxide 2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, 3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl ester, reaction products with silica and 3-(triethoxysilyl)-1-propanamine Ethanol Water Synthetic amorphous silica, fumed, crystalline-free Methacrylic acid, 3-(Triethoxysilyl)Propyl Ester Campherquinone Copolymer of acrylic and itaconic acid N,N-Dimethylbenzocaine (3-aminopropyl) triethoxysilane Diethylene glycol dimethacrylate
Universal resin cement	RelyX™ Universal (3M, Oral Care, St Paul, MN, USA) LOT 8272192	Diurethanedimethacrylate Ytterbium (III) fluoride Glass powder (65997-17-3), surface modified with 2-propenoic acid, 2 methyl- 0.3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl ester (2530-85-0) and phenyltrimethoxy silane (2996-92-1), bulk material Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate L-Ascorbic acid, 6-hexadecanoate, hydrate (1:2) Silane, trimethoxyoctyl-, hydrolysis products with silica 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate Titanium Dioxide Triphenyl Phosphite

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Material type	Name and batch number	Composition
Universal resin cement	Panavia SA Cement Universal (Kuraray Noritake Dental Inc, Okayama, Japan) LOT AT0139	Bisphenol A diglycidylmethacrylate Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate 2-Hydroxyethyl methacrylate Sodium fluoride Silanated barium glass filler Silanated colloidal silica Aluminum oxide filler 10-Methacryloyloxydecyl dihydrogen phosphate Hydrophobic aromatic dimethacrylate Silane coupling agent dl-Camphorquinone Peroxide Accelerators Catalysts Pigments
Resin composite	Filtek™ Z250 (3M/ESPE Dental Products, St Paul, MN, USA) LOT NC35376	Silane treated ceramic Bisphenol A polyethylene glycol diether dimethacrylate Diurethane dimethacrylate (1-Methylethylidene)bis[4,1-phenyleneoxy(2-hydroxy-3,1-propanediyl)] bismethacrylate 2,2'-Ethyleneoxydiethyl dimethacrylate Aluminum oxide

TABLE 2 Shear bond strength values (with mean and standard deviation) in MPa, for dentin as substrate ($n = 15$).

Cement	Groups		
	SA	50% ADH	100% ADH
PAN	8.12 ± 3.18 ^{Ab} (6.6M/0AD/0AC/93.3CC)	12.10 ± 3.51 ^{Ba} (75M/25AD/0AC/0CC)	13.76 ± 2.88 ^{Ba} (73.3M/26.6AD/0AC/0CC)
RXU	9.48 ± 3.0 ^{Ac} (25M/75AD/0AC/0CC)	19.4 ± 6.69 ^{Ab} (91.7M/8.3AD/0AC/0CC)	24.64 ± 5.02 ^{Aa} (100M/0AD/0AC/0CC)

Note: The percentages of different failure modes are presented in parentheses under each respective bond strength value.

Abbreviations: AD, adhesive at the dentin interface; AC, adhesive at the composite interface; CC, cohesive in composite; M, mixed failure; PAN, Panavia SA Cement Universal; RXU, RelyX Universal; SA, self-adhesive; 50% ADH, adhesive system applied on 50% of the bonding interface; 100% ADH, adhesive system applied on the entire bonding interface.

better when used in combination with their respective adhesive systems than in the self-adhesive mode, and in the latter they obtained the lowest SBS values among the groups ($p < 0.05$). No statistically significant differences were observed between the two cements when they were used in self-adhesive mode, although the p -value was marginal ($p = 0.05$). However, when associated with their adhesive systems, RelyX Universal showed higher bond-strength values when compared to Panavia SA Cement Universal ($p < 0.001$), regardless of the percentage of surface covered with the adhesive (50% or 100%).

Similarly to dentin, the SBS to enamel was significantly influenced by both “cement” and “adhesive strategy” ($p < 0.05$) and their interactions were also significant ($p < 0.05$). No statistically significant differences were observed between the two cements used in self-adhesive mode ($p = 0.37$). When associated with adhesive systems and/or etching procedure, RelyX Universal showed superior performance compared to Panavia SA Cement Universal ($p < 0.05$). Within the groups, RelyX Universal associated with its adhesive system and/or etching, generally performed better compared to self-adhesive mode ($p < 0.05$). Lastly, Panavia SA Cement Universal used with its adhesive system and etching, as well as with the adhesive system covering the entire bonding interface demonstrated

significantly higher SBS values compared to self-adhesive mode ($p < 0.05$).

Failure modes distribution of the tested specimens, expressed as percentages of the total number of samples tested, are presented in Tables 2 and 3. A prevalence of mixed failure was largely observed among groups both in dentin and enamel (Tables 2 and 3).

5 | DISCUSSION

The growing need for simplification and versatility has opened the doors to the “universal” concept, both for adhesive systems and resin cements. The term “universal” is commonly referred to the possibility of using the same product in a variety of clinical situations with greater tolerance to technique sensitivity, decreased clinical chair-side time compared to multi-step cements, and decreased number of materials to be used in dental office.

Up to this date, several laboratory studies^{14–19} that investigated biomechanical properties of URCs can be found in the literature. According to the manufacturers, the bonding performance of URCs to dentin can be enhanced with the previous application of their

TABLE 3 Shear bond strength values (with mean and standard deviation) in MPa, for enamel as substrate ($n = 15$).

Cement	Groups		100% ADH	Etch + 50% ADH	Etch + 100% ADH
	SA	50% ADH			
PAN	10.4 ± 2.6 ^{Ab} (71.4M/28.8AE/OAC/OCC)	13.2 ± 2.7 ^{Aa,b} (25M/75AE/OAC/OCC)	15.2 ± 2.6 ^{Ba} (87.5M/12.5AE/OAC/OCC)	13.9 ± 2.8 ^{Ba} (50M/50AE/OAC/OCC)	15.2 ± 2.4 ^{Ba} (83.3M/16.7AE/OAC/OCC)
RXU	10.9 ± 3.4 ^{Ad} (85.8M/75AE/OAC/OCC)	14.2 ± 2.1 ^{Ac} (60M/40AE/OAC/OCC)	19.2 ± 3.0 ^{Aa} (83.3M/16.7AE/OAC/OCC)	16.5 ± 5.1 ^{Ab} (100M/OAE/OAC/OCC)	18.6 ± 2.9 ^{Aa,b} (100M/OAE/OAC/OCC)

Note: Different superscript letters indicate significant differences. Lower case letters refer to differences within the rows, upper case letters refer to differences within the columns. The percentages of different failure modes are presented in parentheses under each respective bond strength value. Abbreviations: AE, adhesive at the enamel interface; AC, cohesive in composite; CC, cohesive at the composite interface; PAN, Panavia SA Cement Universal; RXU, RelyX Universal; SA, self-adhesive; 50% ADH, adhesive system applied on 50% of the bonding interface; 100% ADH, adhesive system applied on the entire bonding interface.

respective universal adhesives. However, to the best of our knowledge, at the moment this claim has been confirmed in only one research article.²⁰ In this study, the tested URC (RelyX Universal) associated with its adhesive system and a multi-step cement demonstrated similar bond strength values to dentin.²⁰ In particular, as commonly occurs in a clinical setting, the adhesive system has been applied on the entire bonding area, resulting in a completely adhesive luting.

Adhesive luting requires well-defined prerequisites of which proper isolation with rubber dam and a careful adherence to adhesive protocols are necessary for effective outcomes.²¹ Although the use of the rubber dam should always be preferred in all adhesive procedures, in practice, dentists do not always face ideal clinical situations, and the presence of short abutments and often subgingival finishing lines make its positioning difficult,²² if not impossible. In these situations, the use of self-adhesive resin cements, much more tolerant to wet conditions,^{9,23} can be a valid option.

The peculiarity of URCs is the possibility to combine the two luting strategies in the same clinical case in order to benefit from both approaches. In the case of clinical situations that do not allow the use of the rubber dam, the selective application of the adhesive system only in the area away from contamination with saliva and blood (i.e. occlusal surface of molars and premolars) would allow an adhesive luting, while the rest of the preparation rely on self-adhesive luting that tolerates better the possible presence of saliva and oral fluids.

In the light of these considerations, a novel luting technique—“Selective Adhesive Luting—SAL” as named by the authors of this article, is suggested to be used in the above-described clinical situations (Figure 2).

The results from our laboratory study revealed that the bonding performance to dentin of the tested universal URCs can be improved even if their respective adhesive systems are applied to small dentinal surface instead on the whole bonding area, in a material-dependent manner. Indeed, no differences were observed between the selective application of Clearfil Universal Bond Quick and the entire coverage of the bonding area when Panavia SA Cement Universal was used, and comparable bond strengths were achieved between the two luting strategies (Table 2). These results cautiously suggest that, even if unable to position the rubber dam, the application of the SAL technique would allow to obtain bonding performance which is equal to totally adhesive luting. Contrary, the bonding potential to dentin of RelyX Universal continued to increase, reaching its peak when Scotchbond Universal Plus was applied to the entire bonding interface.

SAL technique was also an effective way of improving the cements' bond-strength to enamel (Table 3). In particular, when combining SAL with previous etching procedure, higher bond-strength values were observed for both cements compared to self-adhesive luting. Similarly to dentin, the bonding strength to enamel of RelyX Universal continued to increase, reaching its peak when Scotchbond Universal Plus was applied to the entire bonding

interface after acid etching step. Interestingly, acid etching step seemed to improve the efficacy of SAL technique when using RelyX Universal cement.

Another important information from the present study that should be mentioned is that self-adhesive luting resulted in lower bonding values compared to the adhesive technique, irrespective of the resin cement used (Tables 2 and 3). The following section will summarize practical considerations and benefits of applying the SAL technique.

5.1 | Hybridization of dentinal substrate

The integrity of resin-based restorations relies on the application of adhesive systems which eventually leads to the formation of a hybrid layer (HL)—a structure that is composed of demineralized collagen fibers reinforced by resin matrix.^{24,25} Due to the absence of a separate adhesive system, self-adhesive cements contain functional acidic monomers which possess demineralizing potential and the ability to chemically interact with dentin.²⁶ Still, self-adhesive cements do not form classical HLs, as the thickness of their resin-dentin interdiffusion zone does not exceed 1 μm ,²⁷ thus questioning their mechanical stability compared to HL formed by the traditional adhesive systems. Therefore, applying the recommended primer/adhesive, even in the cases where it is not possible to entirely cover the bonding interface of the future indirect restoration, can lead to the formation of HLs, which may contribute to the increase of bond-strength of URCs, as observed in our laboratory study. According to the present study, the selective application of the adhesive, resulting therefore in the formation of a partial HL, would be sufficient to contribute to the improved strength of the bonded restoration.

5.2 | Reduced chair-side time compared to multi-step cements

The peculiar characteristic of combining the abovementioned URCs with its respective adhesive system is that no light polymerization is required once the adhesive is applied on tooth surface. Instead, it is sufficient to air-dry the adhesive and, immediately after, carry on the cementation procedure. The absence of a separate light-polymerization step (usually requiring 5–20 s depending on the light source²⁸) reduces the chair-side time and lowers the possibility of dentin saliva/blood contamination, especially where isolation with rubber dam is difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, it should be noted that both Clearfil Universal Bond Quick and Scotchbond Universal Plus are not self-cured adhesives and should always be light-polymerized, unless combining them with their respective cements.

5.3 | Simplified conditioning of the prosthetic restoration

The most accepted conditioning protocol used for luting of glass-ceramic materials involves hydrofluoric acid etching, followed by the

application of a silane coupling agent,²⁹ which promotes adhesion between the resin cement and ceramic material.^{30,31} On the other hand, when cementing a LiSi crown with a universal cement such as Panavia SA Cement Universal, no separate silane application is needed, as this cement already contains silane in the form of Long-carbon chain Silane Coupling Agent (LSCI), that has already proven to be effective in providing a good bond to both ceramics and dentin.¹⁹ If however RelyX Universal (silane-free cement) is used for the luting of glass-ceramics, priming an indirect restoration with Scotchbond Universal Plus is necessary, since this adhesive system contains a mixture of silanes that showed promising laboratory results.³² Hence, the available laboratory data suggests that when using a URC, a separate silanization step is not necessary, thus reducing the potential economic cost of obtaining a separate silane coupling agent.

5.4 | Patient comfort

Due to the reduced number of clinical steps compared to multi-step resin cements, the clinical chair-side time is reduced which may lead to greater patient comfort and satisfaction.³³

5.5 | SAL technique may reduce the incidence of post-operative sensitivity (POS)

Multi-step resin cements used with an etch-and-rinse adhesive can cause greater initial POS when compared to self-adhesive and multi-step cements utilized with a self-etch adhesive, most likely due to the complete removal of the smear layer.^{34,35} Consequently, in clinical situations where dentin is the substrate for adhesive procedures, we propose the use of URCs with their universal adhesives applied in self-etch mode, as it may cause less POS.^{36,37}

6 | CONCLUSIONS

The current laboratory data concerning properties of URCs is promising, thus encouraging their clinical use. Combining a URC with its adhesive is highly recommended, as it can enhance the quality of adhesion to dentin and enamel even in cases where it is not possible to apply the adhesive to the entire bonding interface. The described technique, “Selective Adhesive luting technique—SAL,” is clinically feasible—especially where rubber dam isolation is difficult to achieve, comfortable for both patient and dentist, therefore, deserving more attention in future laboratory and clinical trials.

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DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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