

# The effect of alcohol-containing mouthwash and alcohol-free mouthwash towards the power chains force decay

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Power chains is the common device used in fixed orthodontic treatment. Force decay in power chains is a problem that can affect the teeth movement due to a continuous force cannot be maintained. Force decay in power chain can be affected by the use of alcohol-containing mouthwash or alcohol-free mouthwash. The objective of this study was to determine the effect of alcoholic-containing mouthwash, alcohol-free mouthwash, and artificial saliva towards the power chains force decay.

**Methods:** This research was an experimental analytic laboratory in-vitro with the comparative approach. The sample in this study were 40 power chain, short A (SA); 40 power chain, short B (SB); 40 power chain, long A (LA); and 40 power chain, long B (LB), which divided into 5 groups that were consecutively exposed to the artificial saliva as control group; Minosep® with 0.1% of chlorhexidine gluconate; Listerine® with 0% of alcohol; Hexadol® with 9% of alcohol; and Listerine® with 26.9% of alcohol. The measurement of force decay was performed with digital force gauge on day 0, 1, 14, and 28. The statistical analysis was done by using the Wilcoxon and Mann-Whitney tests. **Result:** There was a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) between the force decay of power chain that exposed to the alcohol-containing mouthwash, alcohol-free mouthwash, and the artificial saliva. **Conclusion:** The force decay level of power chain that exposed to an alcohol-containing mouthwash was higher compared to the force decay level of power chain that exposed to an alcohol-free mouthwash and an artificial saliva.

**Keywords:** Force decay, power chain, alcohol-containing mouthwash, alcohol-free mouthwash, artificial saliva

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## INTRODUCTION

Fixed orthodontic treatment is a treatment to rehabilitate the malocclusion of the teeth by moving the teeth through a force generated from

tools such as wire, coil spring, elastic, and synthetic elastomeric materials. Power chain is a synthetic elastomeric material and is a very common tool used in the treatment of fixed orthodontic for canine retracting or closing the space as well as

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keeping it from reopening the space. Power chains have a polyurethane synthetic polymeric base material containing a chain of urethane chains. Polyurethane rubber synthesized by combining polyester (polyether glycol, and polyhydrocarbons diol) with diisocyanate material.<sup>1</sup>

There are advantages and disadvantages of power chain usage. The advantages include: easy to use, low price, reduce the risk of intraoral trauma, the patient is easy to adapt, relatively hygienic, and available in various sizes and colours. The disadvantages of power chains will diminish in shape over time, absorbing salivary fluids thus affecting their elasticity.<sup>2</sup>

The decline in power chain shape is a problem that can affect the movement of teeth because of light and continuous shape difficult to maintain. As a result of the late teeth movement, as well as the number of patient visits for the activation of the tool will increase. In this regard, many studies have been conducted, such as monitoring the reduction of power chain shape over time, reduction of forces based on different levels of activation, distance of room closure, stretching prior to use, environmental factors, and storage media.<sup>2</sup>

The power chain force decreases rapidly in the first 24 hours by 50 to 70%, then steadily decreases 10 to 20% for 4 weeks. In dry air, the percentage decrease in force after 21 days by 42 to 63%, otherwise the decrease in force will be greater in moist air or if immersed in water. The results showed that the greatest decrease in force occurred in the first 3 hours and then decreased constantly over the next 21 days.<sup>3</sup> Another factor that influenced the decrease in power chain shape was the first applied load. The greater the first load applied, the greater the decrease in force. A thermal rotation study on water to create an atmosphere in the mouth suggests a decrease in the lower force in the first 30 minutes by 23 to 37%, after 21 days by 39 to 61%.<sup>4</sup>

Mouthwash is a common product used in improving oral hygiene. Some of the mouthwashes that were sold on the market containing alcohol and some not. As a product that has antiseptic and antiplaque, mouthwash is always promoted to prevent plaque, caries, gingivitis, and bad breath. A total of 20 ml of mouthwash gargled for 30 seconds in the mouth and then discarded.

This is done twice a day.<sup>5</sup> Alcohol contained in the mouthwash is ethanol. Alcohol in mouthwash is used as a solvent of various active chemicals and serves as an antiseptic and active ingredient as much as 12 percent. Mouthwashes that are widely sold in the market contain lots of alcohol and who consume most of them are adults. This is according to some researchers allow as the cause of oral cancer.<sup>6</sup>

In the presence of various side effects from the use of an alcohol-containing mouthwash, many health practitioners recommend using alcohol-free mouthwash. Alcohol-free mouthwashes commonly recommended are mouthwashes containing active ingredients such as chlorohexidine gluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, and essential oils.<sup>7</sup>

Orthodontic treatment in patients often leads to difficulty in maintaining the cleanliness of the mouth, such as frequent plaque stuck, food impurities, and bad breath. Therefore, patients often use mouthwash to maintain oral hygiene. Mouthwashes were commonly used are alcohol-containing mouthwashes such as Listerine® which has an alcohol content of 26.9% and an alcohol-free mouthwash containing chlorhexidine gluconate 0.12%. Power chains in contact with alcohol and alcohol-containing mouthwashes will experience a greater force reduction.<sup>8</sup> The objective of this study was to determine the effect of alcohol-containing mouthwash, alcohol-free mouthwash, and artificial saliva towards the power chains force decay.

## METHODS

This research was an experimental laboratory analytic research in vitro with a comparative approach. The research was conducted at the Orthodontic Clinic of Dental Hospital of Universitas Padjadjaran and Research Laboratory of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science Universitas Padjadjaran. Statistical analysis used non-parametric technique Wilcoxon and Mann-Whitney test.

Sample in this research were 40 sets of power chain SA (short power chain, from OrthoOrganizer®) with interlink distance 5 eyelet, 40 sets of power chain SB (short power chain, from 3M Unitek® Power Supply) with interlink distance 5 eyelet, 40 sets of LA (long power chain from

OrthoOrganizer®) with 4 eyelet interlink spacings, 40 sets of LB (long power chain from 3M Unitek®) with interlink 4 eyelet, Minosep® mouthwash (contain chlorhexidine), Listerine® mouthwash (contain 0% alcohol), 9% Hexadol® mouthwash (contain 9% alcohol), Listerine® mouthwash (contain 26.9% alcohol), and artificial saliva.

The tool used in this research was a square acrylic board measuring 18x5x1 cm provided as many as 10 pieces, on the board there were 2 pins that are 25 mm as much as 16 lines and face each other on one line, digital force gauge, stopwatch, plastic storage containers as immersion media, acrylic board support boards, needle holders, ligature cutter, and screwdrivers.

Preparation phase: Power chain SA and SB was cut with 5 eyelet distance, 40 pieces each. LA and LB power chains was cut with 4 eyelets, 40 each. Minosep®, Listerine® with 0 and 26.9% alcohol, Hexadol®, respectively, were poured into 150 ml immersion baths. Artificial saliva was provided in five groups. Stopwatch was used to measure the immersion time and force gauge was provided to measure the power chain shape.

An acrylic board with 10 ready-made pin boards, divided into five groups: Group I was a control group, two acrylic boards (board A setting for eight SA and eight SB power chains, board B setting for eight LA and eight LB power chains) will be immersed into artificial saliva. Group II was two acrylic boards (Board C setting for eight SA and eight SB power chains, board D setting for 8 LA and eight LB power chains) to be immersed in Minosep mouthwash. Group III was two acrylic boards (Board E setting for eight SA and eight SB power chains, Board F setting for eight LA and eight LB power chains) to be immersed in Listerine mouthwash. Group IV was two acrylic boards

(Board G setting for eight SA and eight SB power chains, board H setting for eight LA and eight LB power chains) to be immersed into Hexadol® mouthwash. Group V was two acrylic board (Board I setting for eight SA and eight SB power chains, board J setting for eight LA and 8 LB power chain) to be immersed into Listerine® mouthwash with 26.9% alcohol.

Early chain power shape measurement stage: Short power chain with 5 eyelet distance, mounted on each acrylic board with a pin. The long power chain with a distance of 4 eyelets, mounted on each acrylic board (Fig. 1). Initial force measurements on power chain samples were performed on day 0 with force gauge. Measurement mode: the power chain edge on one side of the pin is attached to the force gauge link and was measured in terms of shape and then attaches again to the pin (Fig. 1).

Immersion stage. After the initial power chain measurement was finished, proceed to the immersion stage. Group 1 as a control group was immersed in artificial saliva. Group II was immersed into Minosep® mouthwash with a concentration of 0.1% chlorhexidine gluconate. Immersion in mouthwash was done twice a day every 12 hours according to the mouth rinse.

The length of immersion in each mouthwash was 30 seconds measured using a stopwatch. After immersion, the Group II board was removed and then immersed in an artificial saliva separate from Group I. This was done for 28 days following the procedure as above. Group III was immersed in Listerine® mouthwash with a 0% alcohol concentration. The immersion procedure was the same as that done in Group II. Group IV was immersed into Hexadol® mouthwash with 9% alcoholic concentration. The immersion procedure



Figure 1. Power chain force measurement with the force gauge

was the same as that done in Groups II and III. Group V was immersed into Listerine mouthwash with an alcohol concentration of 26.9%. The immersion procedure was the same as done in Groups II, III and IV. After the immersion stage, each group was placed in a container and stored in an incubator with a constant temperature of 37°C.

Measurement stages of power chain decrease. Measurement of force drop was done on each group with force gauge. Measurement of the force drop was done three times on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> days. After the measurement of the

shape drop was completed, the power chain in the acrylic board was re-stored in the incubator.

## RESULTS

The results were analyzed by Wilcoxon and Mann-Whitney test with  $p < 0.05$ . The results of the study as follows:

Table 1 shows the largest percentage of power-chain power loss was the LA power chain. The smallest power chain decrease percentage was the SB power chain. The biggest percentage reduction of power chain shape was LA power chain

Table 1. The percentage average of the force decay (%) and the remaining force of the power chain (gr) immersed in the artificial saliva

Power Chain	H0	Artificial saliva		
		D1	D14	D28
SA	100%	46.3%	59.3%	65.2%
	360.12±6 gr	193.25±3.9 gr	146.38±3 gr	125.25±2.8 gr
SB	100%	32.2%	42.5%	45.9%
	381.75±6.5 gr	258.75±4.3 gr	219.62±3.6 gr	206.38±3.5 gr
LA	100%	47.7%	62.1%	67.9%
	343 ± 2.7 gr	179.38±4.9 gr	130.12±3.8 gr	110.25±4.2 gr
LB	100%	39.8%	50.3%	55.2%
	363.38±2.2 gr	218.88±4.1 gr	180.62±2.4 gr	162.88±3 gr

Table 2. The percentage average of the force decay (%) and the remaining force of the power chain (gr) immersed in Minosep® on day 0, 1, 14, dan 28

Power Chain	H0	Minosep® mouthwash		
		D1	D14	D28
SA	100%	46.8%	59.7%	65.3%
	363.50±5.6 gr	193.25±3.0 gr	146.50±3 gr	126.00±2.7 gr
SB	100%	32.4%	42.6%	46.1%
	382.50±4.8 gr	258.38±3.0 gr	219.38±2.4 gr	206.25±3.6 gr
LA	100%	47.6%	62.3%	68.3%
	344.00±3.1 gr	180.38±2.8 gr	129.75±3.0 gr	108.88±3.0 gr
LB	100%	40.3%	50.4%	55.3%
	364.25±3.9 gr	217.62±3.7 gr	180.75±1.7 gr	162.75±3.4 gr

Table 3. The percentage average of the force decay (%) and the remaining force of the power chain (gr) immersed in Listerine® with 0% alcohol on day 0, 1, 14, dan 28

Power Chain	H0	Listerine® with 0% alcohol		
		D1	D14	D28
SA	100%	46.2%	59.4%	64.9%
	358.12±6.6 gr	192.63±4.4 gr	145.50±2.4 gr	125.62 ± 2.6 gr
SB	100%	32.6%	42.8%	46.1%
	383.25±3.7 gr	258.50±3.5 gr	219.25±3.4 gr	206.62 ± 3.6 gr
LA	100%	47.9%	62.1%	68.5%
	343.38±2.6 gr	178.88±3.3 gr	130.00±3.3 gr	108.12 ± 4.0 gr
LB	100%	40.5%	50.4%	55.4%
	364.62±3.4 gr	217.00±3.0 gr	180.75±2.7 gr	162.62 ± 3.4 gr

by 47.6% (180.38±2.8 gr) at day 1, 62.3% (129.75 ±3.0 gr) at day 14, and 68.3% (108.88±3.0 gr) at day 28. The smallest power chain decline percentage was the power chain SB of 32.4% (258.38±3.0 gr) at day 1, 42.6% (219.38±2.4 gr) at day 14, and 46.1% (206.25±3.6gr) at day 28 (Table 2).

The largest percentage reduction of power chain shape was LA power chain at 47.9% (178.88±3.3 gr) at day 1, 62.1% (130.00±3.3 gr) day 14, 68.5% (108.12±4.0 gr) at day 28. The smallest power chain decline percentage was the power chain SB of 32.6% (258.50±3.5 gr) at day 1, 42.8% (219.25±3.4 gr) at day 14, 46.1% (206.62±3.6 gr) at day 28 (Table 3).

The largest percentage reduction in power chain shape was the LA power chain of 52.6% (163.50±3.0 gr) at day 1, 66.2% (116.38±2.0 gr) at day 14, 71.5% (98.12±2.8 gr) at day 28. The smallest power chain decline percentage was the power chain SB of 37.8% (238.50±4.1 gr) at day 1, 47.9% (199.50±3.1 gr) at day 14, 51.8% (184.75±3.2 gr) at day 28 (Table 4).

The largest percentage reduction of power chain shape was LA power chain of 56.4% (150.25± 5.0 gr) at day 1, 70.0% (103.75±3.1 gr) at day 14, 75.9% (83.00±2.8 gr) at day 28. The smallest power chain decline percentage was the power chain SB of 40.7% (226.50±1.6 gr) at day 1, 51.3% (186.00±2.4 gr) at day 14, 55.8% (168.87±2.2 gr) at day 28 (Table 5).

With the p-value <0.05 means that comparison between the power chain of LA, LB, SA, and SB immersed with artificial saliva, Minosep®, Listerine® with 0 and 26.9% alcohol, Hexadol® on days 1, 14, and 28 was significant. It can be seen in Table 6.

The result of Mann-Whitney statistical analysis test was obtained by comparison value of power chain force of LA, LB, SA, and SB soaked in artificial saliva, Minosep®, Listerine® 0%, Hexadol® 9%, Listerine® 26,9% on day 1, 14 and 28 were 0.001. It means that the p-value was <0.05, so the test has significant differences (Table 6).

Table 4. The percentage average of the force decay (%) and the remaining force of the power chain (gr) immersed in Hexadol® with 9% alcohol on day 0, 1, 14 dan 28

Power Chain	H0	Hexadol® with 9% alcohol		
		D1	D14	D28
SA	100% 361.88±4.3 gr	51.1% 177.00±2.8 gr	62.4% 136.00±1.7 gr	68.4% 114.25±2.5 gr
SB	100% 383.50±5.1 gr	37.8% 238.50±4.1 gr	47.9% 199.50±3.1 gr	51.8% 184.75±3.2 gr
LA	100% 344.62±2.9 gr	52.6% 163.50±3.0 gr	66.2% 116.38±2.0 gr	71.5% 98.12±2.8 gr
LB	100% 365.12±3.2 gr	46.3% 196.13±4.0 gr	55.0% 164.25±3.2 gr	60.2% 145.38±3.0 gr

Table 5. The percentage average of the force decay (%) and the remaining force of the power chain (gr) immersed in Listerine® with 26.9% alcohol on day 0, 1, 14, dan 28

Power Chain	H0	Listerine® with 26.9% alcoho		
		D1	D14	D28
SA	100% 359.38±5.4 gr	54.7% 162.88±2.9 gr	65.1% 125.25±2.7 gr	72.1% 100.13±2.0 gr
SB	100% 382.25±3.0 gr	40.7% 226.50±1.6 gr	51.3% 186.00±2.4 gr	55.8% 168.87±2.2 gr
LA	100% 345.00±3.2 gr	56.4% 150.25±5.0 gr	70.0% 103.75±3.1 gr	75.9% 83.00±2.8 gr
LB	100% 363.88±3.1 gr	49.3% 184.62±4.0 gr	58.8% 149.88±2.1 gr	64.5% 129.12±2.2 gr

Table 6. The power chain force decay comparison analysis

The force decay comparison analysis of the power chain LA					
Immersion solution	n	$\bar{X}\bar{X}$ (SD)	p-value D1	p-value D14	p-value D28
Saliva-Minosep®	8	180.1±3.8	0.866°	1.000°	0.302°
Saliva-Listerine® 0%	8	178.5±4.0	0.866°	0.944°	0.182°
Saliva-Hexadol® 9%	8	171.4±3.9	0.012*	0.012*	0.011*
Saliva-Listerine® 26.9%	8	164.9±4.9	0.012*	0.012*	0.012*
Hexadol® 9%-Listerine® 26.9%	8	156.9±2.5	0.012*	0.012*	0.011*
The force decay comparison analysis of the power chain SA					
Immersion solution	n	$\bar{X}\bar{X}$ (SD)	p-value D1	p-value D14	p-value D28
Saliva-Minosep®	8	218.25±3.85	0.497°	0.723°	0.888°
Saliva-Listerine® 0%	8	218.75±3.5	0.441°	0.864°	0.786°
Saliva-Hexadol® 9%	8	207.50±4.0	0.012*	0.012*	0.012*
Saliva-Listerine® 26.9%	8	201.75±4.0	0.012*	0.012*	0.011*
Hexadol® 9%-Listerine® 26.9%	8	190.35±4.0	0.017*	0.012*	0.011*
The force decay comparison analysis of the power chain LA and LB					
Immersion solution	n	$\bar{X}\bar{X}$ (SD)	p-value D1	p-value D14	p-value D28
Saliva-Minosep®	8	193.30±3.5	0.888°	0.752°	0.482°
Saliva-Listerine® 0%	8	192.90±4.1	0.777°	0.276°	0.671°
Saliva-Hexadol® 9%	8	185.15±3.4	0.011*	0.012*	0.012*
Saliva-Listerine® 26.9%	8	178.10±3.4	0.012*	0.011*	0.011*
Saliva-Listerine® 26.9% Hexadol® 9%-Listerine® 26.9%	8	170.30±2.8	0.011*	0.011*	0.012*
Hexadol® 9%-Listerine® 26.9%	8	193.30±3.5	0.888°	0.752°	0.482°
The force decay comparison analysis of the power chain SA and SB					
Immersion solution	n	$\bar{X}\bar{X}$ (SD)	p-value D1	p-value D14	p-value D28
Saliva-Minosep®	8	258.55±3.7	0.944°	0.547°	1.000°
Saliva-Listerine® 0%	8	258.60±3.9	1.000°	0.725°	0.799°
Saliva-Hexadol® 9%	8	248.60±4.3	0.012*	0.011*	0.012*
Saliva-Listerine® 26.9%	8	242.52±2.9	0.012*	0.012*	0.011*
Hexadol® 9%-Listerine® 26.9%	8	232.50±2.8	0.011*	0.011*	0.012*
The force decay comparison analysis of the power chain LA and LB					
Immersion solution	n	$\bar{X}\bar{X}$ (SD)	p-value D1	p-value D14	p-value D28
Artificial Saliva	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	S
Minosep®	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	M
Listerine® 0%	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	L 0%
Hexadol® 9%	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	H 9%
Listerine® 26.9%	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	L 26.9%
The force decay comparison analysis of the power chain SA and SB					
Immersion solution	n	$\bar{X}\bar{X}$ (SD)	p-value D1	p-value D14	p-value D28
Artificial Saliva	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	S
Minosep®	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	M
Listerine® 0%	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	L 0%
Hexadol® 9%	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	H 9%
Listerine® 26.9%	16	0.001*	0.001*	0.001*	L 26.9%

Notes: ° Non significant, \* Significant

## DISCUSSION

In this research, there was a huge difference in the force between LA, LB, SA, and SB power chains and there was a difference in power chain

shape that were in contact with artificial saliva, alcohol-free mouthwash, and alcohol-containing mouthwash. All power chains used in this study decreased in shape over time and were unable to produce constant force.<sup>9</sup>

The results of the research on day 0 showed that all of the power chains were still elastic and produce a great force. The power chain force decreases continuously, the measurement of force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day showed the greatest decrease, followed by the 14<sup>th</sup> day shape measurement of a decrease in force with the remaining force smaller than the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Measurements on day 28 showed the smallest remaining forces and reduced power chain state of elasticity.

The greatest decrease in power chain force was treated by artificial saliva, alcohol-containing mouthwash, and alcohol-free mouthwash on day 1, with a 40-50% reduction in force. On the 28<sup>th</sup> day, the average power chain force remaining is between 30-40%. The power chain LA on day 1 experienced the greatest shape decline between 47-55%. The power chain SB on the 1<sup>st</sup> day experienced the smallest shape decrease between 32-37% and the force remaining on day 28 was between 45-55%. The decline of power chain shape began to stabilize around 10-15% between day 1 and day 14, between day 14 and day 28 about 5-9%.

Comparisons of power chain LA, LB, SA, and SB shapes in contact with control saliva and alcohol-free mouthwash (Minosep® and Listerine® 0%) on days 1, 14 and 28 had no significant difference ( $p>0.05$ ). The comparison of power chain shapes LA, LB, SA, and SB in contact with control saliva and alcohol-containing mouthwash (Hexadol® 9% and Listerine® 26.9%) at days 1, 14 and 28 had significant differences ( $p<0.05$ ). The power chains that come into contact with an alcohol-containing mouthwash will decrease in a larger force when compared to those in contact with artificial saliva and alcohol-free mouthwash. Alcohol (ethanol) with chemical formula  $\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{-OH}$  contained in mouthwash binds to polyurethane polymer bonds in power chain.<sup>8</sup>

The comparison of power chain shapes LA, LB, SA, and SB in contact with Hexadol® 9% and Listerine® 26.9% on days 1, 14 and 28 had significant differences ( $p<0.05$ ). The results showed that the contact power chain with listerine with an alcohol concentration of 26.9% decreased the force greater than the power chain that was in contact with the alcohol Hexadol® 9% concentration.

The results of comparative studies of the

power chain LA and LB decline, the comparison of SA and SB power-chain shapes showed that on days 1, 14, and 28, LB and SB power chains have larger rest shapes and a smaller percentage decrease in force from power chains LA and SA. Statistical analysis showed a significant difference ( $p<0.05$ ). Patients receiving orthodontic treatment may be advised to use non-alcohol mouthwash to maintain oral hygiene. Orthodontists can be more selective and careful in choosing the type and brand of power chain to be used for orthodontic treatment.

## CONCLUSION

The force decay level of power chain that exposed to an alcohol-containing mouthwash was higher compared to the force decay level of power chain that exposed to an alcohol-free mouthwash and an artificial saliva.

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