

Treating cavities in weak molar teeth of children: a study comparing three gentle filling methods

Submission date 21/03/2025	Recruitment status Recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 01/07/2025	Overall study status Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 01/07/2025	Condition category Oral Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Conventional caries removal utilizing rotary instruments is prevalent in dentistry. However, it has several drawbacks, such as the generation of heat and pressure, which can lead to pulpal damage, excessive tissue removal, anxiety and stress. Children with molar incisor hypomineralisation (MIH) experience greater dental fear and anxiety compared to their peers. Numerous alternative methods have been developed, including lasers, smart burs, chemomechanical caries removal methods, and the atraumatic restorative technique (ART). MIH-affected molar is more susceptible to caries due to the hypomineralized enamel properties, making it more sensitive to thermal and mechanical stimuli. Therefore, the proposed treatment for MIH should be minimally invasive, aiming to protect, restore, and preserve tooth structure. However, there is currently a lack of guidelines regarding treatment options for this condition, so it is essential to find alternatives that are painless and more acceptable to children.

Who can participate?

Children aged 6-10 years old with permanent first molar affected by severe MIH

What does the study involve?

Participants will be randomly divided into three groups to be treated with atraumatic restorative technique (ART), atraumatic restorative technique with chemomechanical caries removal Brix 3000, or silver modified atraumatic restorative technique (SMART). All the teeth will be evaluated clinically and radiographically for up to one year.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Children with MIH tend to undergo more dental procedures than their healthy peers, which leads to increased anxiety and fear regarding dental care. Consequently, this aspect is crucial in the decision-making process. The ideal treatment may not always be accessible, necessitating a customized strategy that harmonizes minimally invasive methods with sustainable functional and aesthetic results.

Possible risks are postoperative pain and flair-ups that necessitate endodontic treatment.

Where is the study run from?
Damascus University (Syria)

When is the study starting, and how long is it expected to run?
February 2025 to March 2026

Who is funding the study?
Damascus University (Syria)

Who is the primary contact?
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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

IRAS number**ClinicalTrials.gov number**

Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers

UDDS-214-29042025/SRC-300

Study information

Scientific Title

Comparison of atraumatic restorative techniques for managing occlusal caries in molars with molar-incisor hypomineralization: a three-arm randomized controlled trial in pediatric patients

Study objectives

This study is designed to assess the hypothesis that silver modified atraumatic restorative technique (SMART) is a painless and more acceptable technique in children with molars affected by severe-molar-incisor hypomineralization (MIH)

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Submitted 17/03/2025, Damascus University (Almazzeah ST, Damascus, 20872, Syria; +963944372202; ep.srd@damascusuniversity.edu.sy), ref: 214

Study design

Single-center interventional single-blinded randomized controlled trial

Primary study design

Intentional

Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)

University/medical school/dental school

Study type(s)

Treatment

Participant information sheet

See study outputs table

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Molar-incisor hypomineralization (MIH) with occlusal caries, post-eruptive enamel breakdown and hypersensitive

Interventions

Permanent molars affected by MIH with occlusal caries, post-eruptive enamel breakdown and hypersensitive from healthy children aged between 6-10 years will be randomly divided into three groups using <http://www.randomization.com>:

Group A (control): teeth will be treated with an atraumatic restorative technique

Group B (study): teeth will be treated with an atraumatic restorative technique with chemomechanical caries removal brix 3000.

Group C (study): teeth will be treated with silver modified atraumatic restorative technique (SMART)

ART Group A:

The timer is set and the child is videotaped during the procedure to assess the FLACC index by two blinded evaluators. The intervention begins with the removal of carious dentin using hand excavators of multiple sizes, and the excavated caries tissue is removed with a moistened cotton pellet instead of a water-air syringe to avoid pain stimulation. During the procedure, the child is asked about discomfort or pain using age-appropriate terms, such as putting the tooth to sleep, to determine the need for anesthesia. If anesthesia is required, the timer is temporarily suspended until appropriate local anesthesia is achieved. The endpoint of excavation is evaluated by a dental probe, and the cavity is then cleaned and prepared to receive the restoration. The timer is paused, and the pain index is measured using the Wong-Baker scale. Finally, restoration is undertaken using a high-viscosity glass ionomer cement, EQUIA Forte HT Fil® (GC, Leuven, Belgium).

ART with brix3000 Group B:

The timer is set and the child is videotaped during the procedure to assess the FLACC index by two blinded evaluators. Brix 3000 gel is applied in the carious cavity, and after 60 seconds, chemomechanical removal begins using hand excavators of multiple sizes. To remove the excavated caries tissue, a moistened cotton pellet is used instead of a water-air syringe to avoid stimulating pain. During the procedure, the child is asked about discomfort or pain using age-appropriate terms, such as putting the tooth to sleep, to determine the need for anesthesia. If anesthesia is required, the timer is temporarily suspended until appropriate local anesthesia is achieved. Brix 3000 is reapplied as needed in the cavity. The endpoint of excavation is evaluated by a dental probe, and the cavity is cleaned and prepared to receive the restoration. The timer is paused, and the pain index is measured using the Wong-Baker scale. Finally, restoration is undertaken using high-viscosity glass ionomer cement, EQUIA Forte HT Fil® (GC, Leuven, Belgium).

SMART Group C:

The procedure will be conducted in two separate visits, one week apart. During the first visit, silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is applied to the carious lesion. In the second visit, the cavity is restored using high-viscosity glass ionomer cement, EQUIA Forte HT Fil® (GC, Leuven, Belgium).

Intervention Type

Procedure/Surgery

Primary outcome measure

Clinical evaluation: Patients will be asked to rate their pain at the time of the procedure (baseline) on the Wong-Baker Faces Scale, where children will set their pain levels by choosing a face; 0 = no hurt, 1 = hurts a little bit, 2 = hurts a little more 3 = hurts even more, 4 = hurts a whole lot, and 5 = hurts worst, and FLACC pain scale (Face, Legs, Activity, Cry, Consolability), and the need for anesthesia. Also, they will be recalled after to assess the restoration survival based

on ART restoration criteria and to assess the hypersensitivity using the Schiff Cold Air Sensitivity Scale (SCASS) at 3, 6 and 12 months

Secondary outcome measures

Radiographical assessment: After restoration is done a control x-ray will be taken to assess the restoration and the pulp condition at baseline, 3, 6, and 12 months after treatment

Overall study start date

01/02/2025

Completion date

01/05/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Cooperative healthy Children aged 6-10 years.
2. At least a permanent first molar affected by severe Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation (MIH) with 3 to 5 caries according to ICDAS-II.
3. The targeted molar has hypersensitivity 2 or 3 according to (SCASS) and 4a or 4b degree according to (MIH-TNI).

Participant type(s)

Patient

Age group

Child

Lower age limit

6 Years

Upper age limit

10 Years

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

75

Key exclusion criteria

1. The presence of another enamel defects such as amelogenesis imperfecta.
2. Silver allergy
3. Mouth sores, ulcerative gingivitis.
4. Irreversible pulpitis.

Date of first enrolment

01/04/2025

Date of final enrolment

01/02/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Syria

Study participating centre

Damascus University

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Funder(s)

Funder type

University/education

Funder Name

Damascus University

Alternative Name(s)

University of Damascus, , DU

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Universities (academic only)

Location

Syria

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a high-impact peer-review journal

Intention to publish date

01/05/2027

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study during this study will be included in the subsequent results publication.

IPD sharing plan summary

Published as a supplement to the results publication

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet			24/03/2025	No	Yes