

**UNIVERSIDADE DE UBERABA  
MESTRADO ACADÊMICO EM ODONTOLOGIA**

**KAIO LUCA GIMENES RIBEIRO**

**EFEITO DAS CONDIÇÕES DA CAVIDADE BUCAL NAS PROPRIEDADES DE UM  
ADESIVO PROTÉTICO MODIFICADO COM VANADATO DE PRATA  
NANOESTRUTURADO: ESTUDO *IN VITRO***

**UBERABA – MG**

**2026**



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Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Odontologia – Mestrado Acadêmico da Universidade de Uberaba, como requisito parcial para obtenção do título de Mestre em Odontologia, área de concentração em Clínica Odontológica Integrada

Orientadora: Profa. Dra. Denise Tornavoi de Castro

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## RESUMO

O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar, *in vitro*, o efeito das condições da cavidade bucal nas propriedades de um adesivo protético modificado com vanadato de prata nanoestruturado ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) decorado com nanopartículas de prata (AgNPs). O  $\text{AgVO}_3$  foi incorporado ao adesivo protético (AP) Ultra Corega Creme nas concentrações de 2,5%, 5% e 10%, sendo também avaliado um grupo controle sem adição do nanomaterial. A caracterização química, estrutural e térmica dos adesivos foi realizada por Espectroscopia no Infravermelho por Transformada de Fourier (FTIR), microscopia a laser e análise termogravimétrica (TGA). Amostras de resina acrílica termopolimerizável tratadas com os adesivos foram imersas em saliva artificial com pH 2, 7 e 10 por 24 horas, e a liberação de íons  $\text{Ag}^+$  e  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$  foi determinada por espectrometria de massas com plasma indutivamente acoplado (ICP-MS). Para a análise volumétrica e da força adesiva, as amostras foram submetidas a diferentes condições de pH (2, 7 e 10), temperatura ( $0^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $37^\circ\text{C}$  e  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ) e tempo de imersão, simulando hipossalivação, salivação normal e hipersalivação. A alteração volumétrica (%) foi avaliada por microscopia a laser e a força adesiva em máquina universal de ensaios mecânicos (N). Os dados de liberação de íons e força adesiva foram analisados por ANOVA e pós-teste de Bonferroni, enquanto os dados volumétricos foram analisados pelo teste de Kruskal-Wallis seguido do pós-teste de Dunn ( $\alpha=0,05$ ). O FTIR evidenciou bandas características das vibrações V–O, confirmando a incorporação do  $\text{AgVO}_3$  à matriz do adesivo, corroborada pela microscopia a laser. As análises térmicas indicaram comportamento semelhante entre os grupos, com maior resíduo final nas formulações contendo o nanomaterial. A liberação de  $\text{Ag}^+$  foi influenciada pelo pH, sendo maior no pH neutro para o grupo com 10% de  $\text{AgVO}_3$  em comparação ao meio ácido ( $p=0,001$ ), enquanto a liberação de  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$  não foi afetada pelo pH ( $p>0,05$ ). Não foram observadas diferenças na alteração volumétrica entre os grupos submetidos à mesma condição de salivação; entretanto, variações significativas ocorreram dentro de cada grupo conforme o nível de salivação ( $p<0,05$ ). O pH não influenciou a variação volumétrica, enquanto temperaturas elevadas promoveram maior aumento de volume em todos os grupos ( $p<0,05$ ). A força adesiva foi influenciada pela temperatura, com maiores valores a  $0^\circ\text{C}$  e menores a  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . O nível de salivação afetou principalmente o grupo com 10% de  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , que apresentou menor adesão em hipossalivação. De modo geral, o grupo controle apresentou melhor desempenho adesivo na maioria das condições, especialmente em pH ácido e neutro. Conclui-se que o  $\text{AgVO}_3$  foi incorporado com sucesso ao adesivo protético, porém seu desempenho foi sensível às condições ambientais simuladas, sobretudo temperatura e salivação, enquanto o pH influenciou principalmente a liberação de íons  $\text{Ag}^+$ .

**Palavras-chave:** Nanotecnologia; nanopartículas metálicas; prótese dentária; saliva artificial; resistência à tração.



## ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to evaluate, *in vitro*, the effect of buccal cavity conditions on the properties of a denture adhesive modified with nanostructured silver vanadate ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) decorated with silver nanoparticles (AgNPs).  $\text{AgVO}_3$  was incorporated into Ultra Corega Creme denture adhesive (DA) at concentrations of 2.5%, 5%, and 10%, and a control group without the addition of the nanomaterial was also evaluated. The chemical, structural, and thermal characterization of the adhesives was performed by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), laser microscopy, and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). Samples of heat-cured acrylic resin treated with the adhesives were immersed in artificial saliva with pH 2, 7 and 10 for 24 hours, and the release of  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$  ions was determined by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). For volumetric and adhesive strength analysis, the samples were subjected to different conditions of pH (2, 7 and 10), temperature ( $0^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $37^\circ\text{C}$ , and  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ), and immersion time, simulating hyposalivation, normal salivation, and hypersalivation. The volumetric change (%) was evaluated by laser microscopy and the adhesive strength in a universal mechanical testing machine (N). The ion release and adhesive strength data were analyzed by ANOVA and Bonferroni post-test, while the volumetric data were analyzed by the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's post-test ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). FTIR revealed characteristic bands of V–O vibrations, confirming the incorporation of  $\text{AgVO}_3$  into the adhesive matrix, corroborated by laser microscopy. Thermal analyses indicated similar behavior between the groups, with higher final residue in formulations containing the nanomaterial.  $\text{Ag}^+$  release was influenced by pH, being higher at neutral pH for the group with 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$  compared to the acidic medium ( $p=0.001$ ), while  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$  release was not affected by pH ( $p>0.05$ ). No differences in volumetric change were observed between the groups subjected to the same salivation condition; however, significant variations occurred within each group according to the level of salivation ( $p<0.05$ ). pH did not influence volumetric variation, while high temperatures promoted greater volume increase in all groups ( $p<0.05$ ). Adhesive strength was influenced by temperature, with higher values at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and lower values at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . The level of salivation mainly affected the group with 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , which showed lower adhesion in hyposalivation. In general, the control group showed better adhesive performance under most conditions, especially at acidic and neutral pH. It can be concluded that  $\text{AgVO}_3$  was successfully incorporated into the denture adhesive, but its performance was sensitive to the simulated environmental conditions, especially temperature and salivation, while pH mainly influenced the release of  $\text{Ag}^+$  ions.

**Keywords:** Nanotechnology; metal nanoparticles; dental prosthesis; artificial saliva; tensile strength.



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## 1. INTRODUÇÃO

Aproximadamente 600 milhões de pessoas têm 60 anos ou mais em todo o mundo, e existe a previsão de que, até 2050, serão cerca de dois bilhões de idosos (FALLAHI *et al.*, 2018). O edentulismo está relacionado ao envelhecimento, podendo aumentar a probabilidade do desenvolvimento de doenças crônicas ou induzir à mortalidade (XU, 2023).

Por muitos anos, a única opção de tratamento para pacientes completamente edêntulos foi a prótese removível convencional. As vantagens dessa abordagem incluem custo relativamente baixo e método de aplicação sem traumas, o que faz com que essa ainda seja a forma de tratamento mais comumente utilizada (FALLAHI *et al.*, 2018; ZHURAKIVSKA *et al.*, 2023).

No entanto, à medida que o envelhecimento avança, torna-se difícil manter o aparelho protético confortavelmente na cavidade oral, devido a múltiplas doenças sistêmicas, distúrbios do movimento oral, boca seca causada por efeitos secundários de medicamentos, reabsorção do rebordo alveolar e alterações mandibulares (DOUGLASS, SHIH; OSTRY, 2002; THARAKAN *et al.*, 2021). Assim, ao longo das próximas décadas, os cirurgiões-dentistas deverão enfrentar o desafio relacionado à reabilitação oral de um número crescente de idosos que não conseguem manter seus próprios dentes naturais.

Para prevenir o movimento indesejado das próteses removíveis, os adesivos protéticos têm sido recomendados. Esses materiais são formulações de polímeros hidrofílicos sintéticos, disponíveis em pó, creme ou tiras, capazes de absorver saliva, expandir de volume e aderir às glicoproteínas da mucosa oral (VARGHESE *et al.*, 2019).

Os adesivos atuam como intermediários entre a superfície interna da prótese e a mucosa, melhorando a retenção e a eficiência mastigatória, além de proporcionar conforto, segurança e bem-estar aos usuários (SHU *et al.*, 2021). Adicionalmente, reduzem o acúmulo de resíduos sob a prótese e a pressão exercida sobre a mucosa (POLYCHRONAKIS *et al.*, 2021; PERALTA *et al.*, 2023).

Em contrapartida, esses materiais podem ser difíceis de remover da mucosa e da superfície da prótese, tornando-se substrato para a colonização microbiana (DE OLIVEIRA JUNIOR *et al.*, 2018; COSTA *et al.*, 2022). Espécies de *Candida* fazem parte da flora normal da cavidade oral, mas podem causar infecções leves em indivíduos saudáveis e graves em pacientes imunocomprometidos. A incidência de candidíase vem aumentando devido ao envelhecimento

populacional e ao maior número de pacientes com imunidade reduzida (CANNON, 2022; BABA *et al.*, 2022).

As próteses dentárias atuam como fatores locais favorecendo a colonização fúngica, e usuários de próteses removíveis apresentam maior frequência de *Candida* em comparação com não usuários. Isso se deve a condições locais criadas pela prótese, como a redução do contato da mucosa com saliva e oxigênio, favorecendo o crescimento fúngico. Além disso, as características da superfície protética, como rugosidade e porosidade do poli(metacrilato de metila) (PMMA), especialmente quando associadas a resíduos de adesivo, facilitam a adesão microbiana e a formação de biofilme (PATEL, 2022; DE OLIVEIRA JUNIOR *et al.*, 2018; NAMANGKALAKUL *et al.*, 2020; COSTA *et al.*, 2022)

O tratamento da candidíase orofaríngea inclui a utilização de antifúngicos, associados a uma higiene oral adequada e à substituição da prótese infectada (PAPPAS *et al.*, 2016; NAMANGKALAKUL *et al.*, 2020). No entanto, esta abordagem tem limitações, uma vez que a presença de fluidos orais, bem como o movimento da língua e a deglutição, pode minimizar a ação dos antifúngicos na superfície interna das próteses (ALMEIDA *et al.*, 2018). Assim, manter a concentração eficaz do fármaco topicamente torna-se um desafio, portanto a utilização de um adesivo de prótese associado a um agente antimicrobiano pode ser benéfica para evitar problemas locais e até sistêmicos.

As propriedades antibacterianas da prata são conhecidas desde os primórdios. Biomateriais à base de prata têm sido utilizados em várias áreas da odontologia por causa de suas propriedades antimicrobianas de amplo espectro. Esses biomateriais podem ser compostos por diversos materiais, como a prata presente em restaurações de amálgama, citrato de prata, fluoreto de diamina de prata, prata coloidal e nanopartículas de prata (AgNPs) (SONG; GE, 2019).

Holtz *et al.*, 2010 desenvolveram o vanadato de prata nanoestruturado (AgVO<sub>3</sub>) decorado com nanopartículas de prata (AgNPs). Trata-se de um material híbrido, no qual os nanofios de AgVO<sub>3</sub> suportam AgNPs que libertam íons Ag<sup>+</sup> inibindo o crescimento de bactérias, ao desencadear uma ruptura nas paredes celulares. Associado a isto, o vanádio no estado oxidativo V<sup>5+</sup> liga-se a proteínas celulares e pode levar as bactérias ao stress oxidativo.

Portanto, o AgVO<sub>3</sub> é um composto capaz de interferir no metabolismo celular bacteriano (HOLTZ *et al.*, 2012; DE CAMPOS *et al.*, 2021) e tem sido incorporado em diferentes materiais odontológicos, tais como resinas acrílicas (DE CASTRO *et al.*, 2016), vitrocerâmicas (FERREIRA

*et al.*, 2020; BAPTISTA *et al.*, 2022), materiais de moldagem (DE CASTRO *et al.*, 2019), cimentos endodônticos (TEIXEIRA *et al.*, 2021), cimentos resinosos (KREVE *et al.*, 2022) e tratamento de superfícies de implantes (OLISCOVICZ *et al.*, 2018), a fim de reduzir as infecções causadas pelo acúmulo de biofilme. Recentemente, estudos demonstraram que adesivos protéticos incorporados com AgVO<sub>3</sub> apresentam potencial atividade antimicrobiana contra biofilmes monoespécie e multiespécies com efeito positivo na resistência adesiva e biocompatibilidade (DE CASTRO *et al.*, 2024; ALVIM *et al.*, 2024).

Uma vez aplicado na prótese e inserido na cavidade oral, o adesivo protético absorve a saliva, atingindo a consistência desejada. O conteúdo de água é fundamental para o desempenho desses materiais (HONG *et al.*, 2011; FALLAHI *et al.*, 2018), sendo proveniente diretamente da saliva. A produção salivar varia entre os indivíduos: em pacientes normais, a taxa não estimulada de saliva está entre 0,1 e 0,2 mL/min; em casos de boca seca, é inferior a 0,1 mL/min; e em pacientes com sialorreia, supera 0,35 mL/min (HUMPHREY; WILLIAMSON, 2001; DE ALMEIDA *et al.*, 2008). Dessa forma, a taxa de produção salivar pode influenciar o teor de água do adesivo após sua aplicação (SIPAHÍ *et al.*, 2007; TURNER; JAHANGIRI; SHIP, 2008). Além disso, pH e temperatura da cavidade oral podem afetar a força adesiva. Ambos são regulados pela saliva e podem sofrer alterações temporárias devido ao consumo de alimentos e bebidas (NEWMAN; MARTIN, 2001; AFRAMIAN; DAVIDOWITZ; BENOLIEL, 2006). Por exemplo, refrigerantes gaseificados apresentam pH em torno de 3, enquanto bebidas quentes e frias podem alterar a temperatura da prótese, afetando a adesão. Uma bebida quente pode elevar a temperatura média oral para aproximadamente 54°C, enquanto uma bebida fria pode reduzi-la para menos de 4°C (NEWMAN; MARTIN, 2001).

O adesivo protético, mesmo frente às variações da cavidade oral, deve preservar suas propriedades, resistindo a alterações de pH, às variações de temperatura decorrentes de alimentos e hábitos, e aos diferentes níveis de salivação.

## 2. OBJETIVOS

### 2.1. Objetivo geral

O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar o efeito das condições ambientais nas propriedades de um adesivo para próteses dentárias modificado com vanadato de prata nanoestruturado ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) decorado com nanopartículas de prata (AgNPs).

### 2.2. Objetivos específicos

- Sintetizar vanadato de prata nanoestruturado ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) decorado com nanopartículas de prata (AgNPs) e incorporar diferentes concentrações (2,5%, 5% e 10%) em um adesivo protético disponível comercialmente.
- Avaliar a incorporação de  $\text{AgVO}_3$  na matriz do adesivo protético por meio da espectroscopia no infravermelho por transformada de Fourier (FTIR/ATR) e microscopia a laser.
- Avaliar a variação de massa do adesivo protético (perda e/ou ganho) em função da temperatura por análise termogravimétrica (TGA).
- Avaliar o efeito do pH na liberação de íons de prata ( $\text{Ag}^+$ ) e vanádio ( $\text{V}^{4+}$  /  $\text{V}^{5+}$ ) por espectrometria de massas com plasma indutivamente acoplado (ICP-MS).
- Avaliar o efeito da temperatura, do nível de salivagem e do pH na força adesiva e na alteração volumétrica do adesivo protético modificado com  $\text{AgVO}_3$ .

### 3. CAPÍTULO 1

#### **Effect of pH, temperature, and salivation level on the properties of a denture adhesive modified with antimicrobial nanomaterial**

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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effect of pH, temperature, and salivation level on the properties of a denture adhesive modified with antimicrobial nanomaterial

### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate, *in vitro*, the effect of simulated oral cavity conditions on the properties of a denture adhesive (DA) modified with nanostructured silver vanadate ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) decorated with silver nanoparticles (AgNPs). The adhesive incorporated with 2.5%, 5%, and 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$  was chemically, structurally, and thermally characterized by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), laser microscopy, and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). Samples were immersed in artificial saliva at pH 2, 7, and 10, and the release of  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$  ions was quantified by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). For volume variation and adhesive strength analyses, samples were subjected to different pH values (2, 7, and 10), temperatures ( $0^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $37^\circ\text{C}$ , and  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ), and salivation levels (hyposalivation, normal salivation, and hypersalivation). Ion release and adhesive strength data were analyzed using ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's post hoc test, while volumetric changes were assessed using the Kruskal–Wallis test with Dunn's post hoc test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). FTIR analysis revealed characteristic V–O vibrational bands, and laser microscopy confirmed the successful incorporation of  $\text{AgVO}_3$  into the adhesive matrix. Thermogravimetric analysis showed similar thermal behavior among groups, with a higher final residue in formulations containing the nanomaterial. In the 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$  group,  $\text{Ag}^+$  release was significantly higher at neutral (pH 7) than under acidic conditions (pH 2) ( $p = 0.001$ ). Temperature and salivation level significantly affected adhesive volume ( $p < 0.05$ ). Adhesive strength was higher at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and lower at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ , with the 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$  formulation showing greater sensitivity to hyposalivation. The volume and adhesive strength of both commercial and  $\text{AgVO}_3$ -modified

denture adhesives were primarily influenced by temperature and salivation level, whereas pH mainly affected  $\text{Ag}^+$  ion release.

### 3.1. INTRODUCTION

Tooth loss is associated with functional changes, systemic impacts, and accelerated aging [1]. Conditions such as reduced salivary flow, mucosal thinning, and alveolar ridge resorption compromise denture stability and increase the need for additional retention aids [2].

The literature indicates that approximately 15–30% of removable complete denture wearers regularly use denture adhesives, and that more than five million individuals in the United States rely on these products [3]. The use of denture adhesives has been associated with faster patient adaptation, reduced denture displacement during mastication, and decreased foreign body sensation, thereby enhancing comfort and acceptance of the prosthesis, even under unfavorable anatomical conditions [4-7].

Given the widespread use of denture adhesives, it is essential that these materials exhibit effective antimicrobial properties. Accordingly, the incorporation of antimicrobial agents represents a relatively recent strategy recommended to manufacturers, as it may contribute to the prevention and/or treatment of denture stomatitis (DS), a condition affecting approximately 20–80% of denture wearers [8].

A variety of organic [9,10] and inorganic [11,12] compounds have been incorporated into denture adhesives for this purpose, with nanomaterials receiving particular attention. Advances in nanoscience have renewed interest in silver-based systems due to their well-established antimicrobial activity. Peralta et al [13] demonstrated inhibition of *Candida albicans* in samples treated with combinations of denture adhesive and silver nanoparticles (AgNPs). Similarly,

Castro et al [14] and Alvim et al [4] reported that the incorporation of nanostructured silver vanadate decorated with silver nanoparticles ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) into denture adhesives effectively reduced biofilm formation and improved adhesive properties without compromising material biocompatibility [4,14].

Saliva plays a crucial role in the performance of denture adhesives, as its absorption by the material is essential for the development of adhesive strength [15,16]. Temperature variations also influence the mechanical behavior and stability of these adhesives during clinical use [16]. Additionally, reduced salivary flow, a common condition among elderly individuals and patients undergoing polypharmacotherapy can compromise denture retention and promote biofilm accumulation. In such cases, the use of denture adhesives has proven particularly beneficial, enhancing stability and comfort even under conditions of low oral moisture [17].

In addition to variations in salivary flow and oral temperature, salivary pH represents another relevant factor influencing denture adhesive performance. Unstimulated saliva has an average pH of approximately 6.8, however, factors such as salivary flow rate, mineral concentration, breathing pattern (nasal or oral), and dietary habits can significantly affect these fluctuations [16,18]. According to Fallahi et al [16], acidic environments promote increased hydrogen bond formation between the polymer chains of denture adhesives. In contrast, alkaline conditions favor the formation of ionic bonds among these chains, resulting in reduced adhesive strength.

The incorporation of  $\text{AgVO}_3$  into denture adhesives has been proposed as a strategy to impart antimicrobial activity without compromising material properties [4,14,19]. Considering the variations in pH, temperature, and salivary flow present in the oral cavity, this study evaluated, for the first time, the effects of these conditions on ion release, volumetric changes, and adhesive strength of a denture adhesive modified with  $\text{AgVO}_3$ . The null hypothesis tested

was that variations in pH, temperature, and salivation level do not influence the properties of the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified denture adhesive.

## 3.2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Experimental Design

The factors investigated were the concentration of AgVO<sub>3</sub> incorporated into the denture adhesive (DA; DA + 2.5% AgVO<sub>3</sub>; DA + 5% AgVO<sub>3</sub>; and DA + 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub>), pH (2, 7, and 10), temperature (0 °C, 37 °C, and 60 °C), and salivation level (hyposalivation, normal salivation, and hypersalivation). The incorporation of the nanomaterial into the adhesive was assessed using Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and laser microscopy, while thermal stability was evaluated by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA).

The quantitative response variables included the release of Ag<sup>+</sup> and V<sup>4+</sup>/V<sup>5+</sup> ions (mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), volumetric change (%), and adhesive strength (N). The experimental design of the study is illustrated in Figure 1.

### Synthesis of Nanostructured Silver Vanadate (AgVO<sub>3</sub>)

Nanostructured silver vanadate (AgVO<sub>3</sub>) was synthesized via a precipitation reaction using silver nitrate (AgNO<sub>3</sub>, Merck 99.8%) and ammonium vanadate (NH<sub>4</sub>VO<sub>3</sub>, Merck 99%), following previously described methodologies [14,20,21,22].

### Specimen Preparation

Specimens were fabricated from thermopolymerizable acrylic resin (Clássico Artigos Odontológicos, São Paulo, SP, Brazil) [4] to simulate the base of complete dentures, in

accordance with ISO 10873 recommendations for denture adhesive testing [23]. Surfaces designated for adhesive application were standardized by controlled sanding ( $3.0 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{m}$ ) [24] using 150-grit wet sandpaper (Norton, Guarulhos, SP, Brazil) and subsequently cleaned. Specimens were stored in distilled water at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 hours prior to testing.

The geometry of the test specimens was defined according to the type of analysis: rectangular specimens ( $6 \times 10 \times 3 \text{ mm}$ ) were used for ion release and  $\text{AgVO}_3$  distribution in the adhesive matrix; quadrangular specimens ( $10 \times 10 \times 2 \text{ mm}$ ) were used for volumetric assessment; and cylindrical specimens ( $\text{Ø}25 \times 35 \text{ mm}$ ) were used for adhesive strength testing.

### **Preparation of Artificial Saliva**

Artificial saliva was prepared following the formulation described by Fusayama et al [25] by dissolving sodium chloride ( $\text{NaCl}$ , 0.4 g), potassium chloride ( $\text{KCl}$ , 0.4 g), anhydrous calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 0.8 g), anhydrous monobasic sodium phosphate ( $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 0.79 g), and urea [ $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$ , 1.0 g] in distilled water, with the final volume adjusted in a volumetric flask.

The pH of the solutions was calibrated in triplicate using standard buffer solutions and a digital bench pH meter (Ávila Científica, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil). The pH was adjusted by controlled addition of 6 mol/L hydrochloric acid ( $\text{HCl}$ ) or 3 mol/L sodium hydroxide ( $\text{NaOH}$ ), yielding solutions with pH values of 2, 7, and 10, corresponding to acidic, neutral, and alkaline conditions.

### **Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)**

For the modified experimental groups,  $\text{AgVO}_3$  was weighed on a precision analytical balance according to the pre-established concentrations (w/w). The adhesive was then weighed, and the mass corresponding to the nanomaterial was subtracted from the total to maintain a

constant final proportion of the material.  $\text{AgVO}_3$  was manually incorporated into the adhesive using a metal spatula on a polished glass plate to ensure uniform dispersion within the adhesive matrix.

The infrared spectra of the adhesive, with and without  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , were obtained using attenuated total reflectance Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR/ATR) with an IRPrestige-21 spectrometer (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) equipped with an ATR accessory. Spectra were recorded over the range of  $4000\text{--}600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , with 25 scans per sample and a resolution of  $2\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

#### **Analysis of $\text{AgVO}_3$ Distribution in the Denture Adhesive Matrix**

To assess the distribution of  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , 0.025 g of denture adhesive was evenly applied with a spatula to the surface of the acrylic resin specimen. The surface was then evaluated using a 3D laser measuring microscope (OLS5100, Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan), and images were acquired with a  $5\times$  objective lens.

#### **Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)**

Thermogravimetric analysis was performed to evaluate the mass loss behavior of both the commercial and  $\text{AgVO}_3$ -modified adhesives. Analyses were conducted using a simultaneous thermal analyzer (SDT Q600; TA Instruments, USA) with heating from room temperature to  $900\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  at a rate of  $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  under a nitrogen atmosphere. Mass loss curves as a function of temperature were used for qualitative characterization of the thermal decomposition of the materials.

## **Analysis of Silver ( $\text{Ag}^+$ ) and Vanadium ( $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) Ion Release by Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS)**

The release of silver ( $\text{Ag}^+$ ) and vanadium ( $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) ions was evaluated using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). For each experimental group, three adhesive-coated specimens ( $n = 3$ ) were suspended by nylon thread in polypropylene tubes (BD Falcon) containing 9 mL of artificial saliva at different pH values and incubated for 24 hours. After this period, the specimens were removed, and the solutions were quantitatively analyzed using calibration curves constructed on a NexIon 300X instrument (PerkinElmer) [26-28].

## **Volume Analysis**

Acrylic resin specimens ( $n = 3$ ) were treated with 0.015 g of commercial adhesive modified with  $\text{AgVO}_3$ . The samples were maintained in an incubator at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  under saturated humidity. Subsequently, they were immersed in 200 mL of artificial saliva under varying pH, temperature, and salivation conditions (Table 1), following the methodology described by Fallahi et al [16].

To simulate hyposalivation, samples were incubated for 15 minutes and subsequently immersed in artificial saliva for 5 minutes. For hypersalivation, samples were incubated for 45 minutes and then immersed in saliva for 15 minutes.

Before and after exposure to the seven experimental conditions, the samples were positioned parallel to the base of a 3D laser measuring microscope, and images of a central  $1 \times 1$  mm area were acquired using a  $20\times$  objective lens, encompassing both the adhesive and the acrylic specimen. The volume change (%) was calculated from these images.

## Adhesive Strength Analysis

Adhesive strength ( $n = 10$ ) was evaluated following a protocol adapted from Costa et al [29] using pairs of thermopolymerizable acrylic resin cylinders ( $\text{Ø}25 \times 35$  mm). Each base cylinder received 0.20 g of adhesive (Ultra Corega Creme), corresponding to the amount sufficient to retain a maxillary denture in place, as described by Chew [30].

The samples were then exposed to the seven experimental conditions described above. Subsequently, the pairs of cylinders were placed in universal testing machine (Emic 1000) and subjected to a compressive load of 12 N for 30 seconds to simulate initial denture seating under light occlusion. Tensile testing was then performed at a crosshead speed of 1 mm/min, and the maximum force at failure (N) was recorded.

## Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS (version 22.0; IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). Adhesive strength and ion release data were analyzed by two-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's post-hoc test, while volume change (%) was evaluated using the Kruskal–Wallis test followed by Dunn's post-hoc test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). Analyses for chemical, morphological, and thermal characterization were assessed qualitatively.

## 3.3 RESULTS

### Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)

Table 2 and Figure 2 present the FTIR bands and their respective assignments. The analysis revealed the characteristic bands of the adhesive polymer matrix in all formulations, with signals corresponding to O–H ( $\sim 3420$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), C–H ( $2957$ – $2849$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), C=O ( $1709$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), and C–O ( $1224$ – $1085$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) stretching vibrations. In samples containing  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , additional bands were

observed at approximately  $788\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to V–O and V–O–V vibrations, confirming the incorporation of the nanomaterial.

### **Distribution of AgVO<sub>3</sub> in the denture adhesive matrix**

Differences in the optical appearance of the matrix were observed depending on the incorporation of the nanomaterial. The control formulation exhibited a homogeneous, opaque, and whitish appearance. Upon addition of AgVO<sub>3</sub>, particulate structures became visible within the matrix, accompanied by a progressive increase in coloration, consistent with the presence and rising concentration of the nanomaterial. Formulations with higher AgVO<sub>3</sub> content showed greater particle density and more intense characteristic coloring of the nanomaterial (Figure 3).

### **Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)**

The thermal decomposition of the adhesive was not affected by the incorporation of AgVO<sub>3</sub> at different concentrations, with all TGA curves exhibiting similar behavior and degradation occurring across five temperature ranges (Table 3 and Figure 4). The increase in residual mass percentage corresponds to the amount of AgVO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles incorporated, confirming their presence within the adhesive matrix.

### **Analysis of silver (Ag<sup>+</sup>) and vanadium (V<sup>4+</sup>/V<sup>5+</sup>) ion release by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)**

In the control group (DA), the release of Ag<sup>+</sup> and V<sup>4+</sup>/V<sup>5+</sup> was low and minimally affected by pH, with similar values observed at pH 2, 7 and 10, showing no statistically significant difference ( $p = 1.000$ ). In contrast, in the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified groups, Ag<sup>+</sup> release was influenced by pH, generally being lower under acidic conditions. Specifically, the group containing 10%

AgVO<sub>3</sub> exhibited reduced Ag<sup>+</sup> release at acidic pH (2) compared to neutral pH (7) ( $p = 0.001$ ). The release of V<sup>4+</sup>/V<sup>5+</sup>, however, was not affected by pH ( $p > 0.05$ ).

Across all pH values, the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-containing groups exhibited higher ion release compared to the DA control. A concentration-dependent effect was observed, with progressive increases in release corresponding to higher AgVO<sub>3</sub> content. The DA + 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub> group showed the highest ion release ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 4).

### **Volume analysis**

Figure 5 shows the volumetric variation (%) of samples exposed to different pH values (2, 7, and 10). pH did not significantly affect the volumetric change of the material ( $p = 0.113$ ). Additionally, no statistically significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) were observed between the DA control and the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified groups, regardless of the pH.

Figure 6 shows the volumetric variation (%) of the samples at different temperatures (0 °C, 37 °C, and 60 °C). Temperature had a significant effect on the volumetric change of the material ( $p = 0.001$ ), with higher temperatures generally resulting in greater volume expansion compared to samples kept at 0 °C ( $p < 0.05$ ). No statistically significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) were observed between the DA control and the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified groups, regardless of the temperature.

Figure 7 shows the volumetric variation (%) of samples exposed to different salivation conditions (hyposalivation, normal salivation, and hypersalivation). The level of salivation significantly affected the volumetric change of the material ( $p = 0.004$ ), with samples subjected to hypersalivation generally exhibiting greater volume gain than those under hyposalivation. Additionally, adhesives modified with 2.5% ( $p = 0.049$ ) and 10% ( $p = 0.027$ ) AgVO<sub>3</sub> showed lower volume gain under hyposalivation compared to normal salivation. No statistically

significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) were observed between the DA control and the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified groups, regardless of the salivation level.

### **Adhesive strength analysis**

Figure 8 shows that pH had no significant effect on adhesive strength within the experimental groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). When comparing groups under the same pH condition, at pH 2 the DA control group exhibited significantly higher values than the groups modified with 2.5% ( $p < 0.001$ ) and 5% AgVO<sub>3</sub> ( $p < 0.001$ ). At pH 7, the DA group maintained superior adhesive strength, with statistically significant differences compared to the other groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). At pH 10, the group modified with 2.5% AgVO<sub>3</sub> showed significantly lower values compared to the remaining groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Figure 9 shows a significant effect of temperature within the experimental groups, as well as differences between groups under the same thermal conditions ( $p < 0.05$ ). In the DA group, adhesive strength decreased significantly with increasing temperature ( $p < 0.05$ ), with the highest values observed at 0 °C, intermediate values at 37 °C, and the lowest values at 60 °C. In the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified groups, no significant differences were observed between 0 °C and 37 °C ( $p > 0.05$ ); however, adhesive strength at 60 °C was significantly reduced compared to the lower temperatures ( $p < 0.05$ ).

When comparing groups under the same thermal condition, at 0 °C the DA group exhibited significantly higher adhesive strength than the AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified groups ( $p < 0.05$ ), which did not differ from each other ( $p > 0.05$ ). At 37 °C, the DA group differed significantly from the groups containing 2.5% ( $p = 0.007$ ) and 5% AgVO<sub>3</sub> ( $p = 0.042$ ), whereas the group containing 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub> showed intermediate behavior, with no statistically significant

differences relative to the other groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). At 60 °C, the DA group exhibited significantly lower adhesive strength compared to the group containing 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub> ( $p = 0.007$ ).

The adhesive strength did not differ significantly among normal salivation, hypersalivation, and hyposalivation conditions ( $p > 0.05$ ), except for the group containing 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub>, in which hyposalivation resulted in significantly lower adhesive strength compared to normal salivation ( $p = 0.008$ ). When comparing groups under the same salivation condition, the group containing 2.5% AgVO<sub>3</sub> exhibited lower adhesive strength than the control under hypersalivation ( $p = 0.001$ ). Under hyposalivation, the group containing 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub> showed inferior adhesive strength compared to the control ( $p = 0.011$ ). Under normal salivation, the control group maintained significantly higher adhesive strength than all AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified adhesives ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 10).

### **3.4. DISCUSSION**

The results of this study led to rejection of the null hypothesis, as variations in pH, temperature, and salivation level significantly influenced the properties of both the commercial and AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified denture adhesives.

FTIR analysis demonstrated that the characteristic bands of the adhesive matrix were preserved following the incorporation of AgVO<sub>3</sub>, indicating that the chemical structure of the material remained unchanged. The presence of the nanomaterial was further confirmed by the appearance of bands associated with V–O vibrations.

Microscopy analyses revealed that formulations containing AgVO<sub>3</sub> exhibited particulate features distributed throughout the matrix, with an increased number and a greater tendency toward clustering at higher concentrations. This behavior is consistent with previous studies

reporting the formation of domains and small agglomerates in polymeric materials modified with  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , even when the surface appears visually homogeneous [31]. The morphology of silver vanadate comprising nanowires decorated with metallic nanoparticles favors the formation of these accumulation sites as the filler content increases, as described by de Castro et al [20].

The TGA curves indicated that the incorporation of  $\text{AgVO}_3$  did not alter the thermal degradation profile of the adhesive. Given that the adhesive contains poly(methyl vinyl ether–maleic anhydride) (PMVEMA), a highly hydrophilic polymer, an initial mass loss of approximately 10–20% was observed below 200 °C, which can be attributed to moisture adsorbed from the environment. As the temperature increased from 200 °C to 400 °C, the adhesive underwent substantial degradation, with a mass loss of approximately 50%. This pronounced mass loss is associated with the thermal degradation of both PMVEMA and carboxymethylcellulose present in the adhesive formulation.

The initial volatilization followed by the collapse of polymer chains has been described by Fallahi et al [16]. Additionally, an increase in residual mass after thermal degradation up to 900 °C was observed, which correlated with the increasing content of  $\text{AgVO}_3$  nanoparticles, confirming their incorporation into the adhesive matrix. These findings indicate that the nanomaterial remains thermally stable under the evaluated conditions and does not interfere with the thermal decomposition behavior of the organic polymer components.

The release of  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$  ions from the adhesive was dependent on the concentration of incorporated  $\text{AgVO}_3$ . This behavior suggests that the antimicrobial activity of the modified adhesive is modulated by the  $\text{AgVO}_3$  dose, as reported in previous studies [4,14]. However, under acidic conditions, silver release was reduced, particularly in the 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$  group, possibly due to the formation of passivating layers or precipitates that limit  $\text{Ag}^+$  availability [32]. This reduction could temporarily constrain the antimicrobial effect in the

presence of biofilm; nevertheless, studies using biofilm formation models by Alvim et al [4] and de Castro et al [14] demonstrated that adhesives containing  $\text{AgVO}_3$  remain effective, likely due to the synergistic action of vanadium, whose release was not significantly affected by pH, thereby ensuring continued antimicrobial activity.

These observations are consistent with studies on other dental materials modified with  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , which also reported concentration-dependent ion release [26,33]. Moreover, released ion levels in denture adhesives modified with  $\text{AgVO}_3$  are compatible with biocompatibility, exhibiting only mild effects even at higher concentrations [4]. Artal et al [34] reported that silver exhibits higher cytotoxic potential compared to vanadium. In this context, the relatively higher release of vanadium observed in the present study may contribute to a safer and more stable biological profile [4,33].

Denture adhesives are typically composed of mixtures of synthetic polymers, and their mode of action relies on increased viscosity and expansion, which fill the space between the prosthesis and the mucosa, thereby improving the seal [35]. The retention of removable prostheses thus depends on the interaction of the adhesive with saliva, which hydrates the material, triggers its expansion mechanism, and enhances adhesion to the mucosa, in addition to maintaining adhesive stability during hydration [35]. Consequently, evaluating the performance of denture adhesives under different environmental conditions is essential [16].

The results of the present study showed that pH did not have a significant effect on the volumetric changes or adhesive strength of Ultra Corega Creme<sup>®</sup>, either in its commercial form or when modified with  $\text{AgVO}_3$ . In contrast, Fallahi et al [16] reported pH sensitivity for Poligrip Free<sup>®</sup>, which may be related to differences in composition, the proportion of copolymers, or specific experimental conditions.

Elevated temperatures led to greater volumetric expansion of the adhesives, reflecting increased water absorption and higher polymer chain mobility, which in turn resulted in reduced adhesive strength at 60 °C. Conversely, lower temperatures (0 °C) limited swelling, preserving the structural stability of the polymer matrix and promoting higher adhesive strength. This behavior suggests that excessive volumetric expansion compromises the internal cohesion and rigidity of the adhesive, thereby reducing adhesion, whereas conditions that restrict swelling help maintain material integrity. These findings are consistent with previous studies [16,36,37].

Under hyposalivation conditions, a lower volumetric gain was accompanied by reduced adhesive strength, particularly in the 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub> group. This effect can be attributed to the higher content of nanomaterial particles and the lower proportion of hydratable polymer, which limited water absorption and prevented the formation of a cohesive interface. Conversely, under hypersalivation conditions, increased water uptake by the adhesive was observed without compromising adhesive strength. These findings highlight that water balance at the adhesive–substrate interface is critical for effective adhesion, as reported by Fallahi et al [16] and supported by other studies demonstrating the influence of moisture on volumetric expansion and adhesive performance over time [29,38].

The findings of this study underscore the importance of considering physiological oral conditions when evaluating the performance of commercial or AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified denture adhesives. The results indicate that the adhesive formulation containing AgVO<sub>3</sub> maintains both functionality and stability, representing a promising strategy to enhance microbial resistance without compromising adhesion. Among the study limitations, it should be noted that only a single commercial formulation was evaluated and that all experiments were conducted under laboratory conditions, with specific ranges of pH, temperature, and salivation simulations, which may not fully replicate the complexity of the oral environment. Future studies should assess

additional formulations, simulate dynamic salivary conditions, and consider the presence of biofilm to more comprehensively evaluate the clinical performance of AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified adhesives.

### 3.5. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The volumetric behavior and adhesive strength of both the commercial and AgVO<sub>3</sub>-modified adhesives were primarily influenced by temperature and salivation level.
2. pH mainly affected the release of Ag<sup>+</sup> ions.

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## TABLES

**Table 1.** Experimental conditions

Experimental procedure	Environmental conditions	Salivary flow	pH	Temperature	Incubation time (min)	Immersion time in saliva (min)
1	Hyposalivation	Low	7	37°C	15	5
2	Normal salivation	Normal	7	37°C	30	10
3	Hypersalivation	High	7	37°C	45	15
4	Acidic (pH 2)	Normal	2	37 °C	30	10
5	Alkaline (pH 10)	Normal	10	37 °C	30	10
6	Low temperature (0 °C)	Normal	7	0 °C	30	10
7	High temperature (60 °C)	Normal	7	60 °C	30	10

**Table 2.** FTIR band assignments for the samples.

Band (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	FTIR band assignments for the samples
3420	<b>O–H groups:</b> strong, broad bands attributed to hydrogen bonding in polymers.
2957	<b>C–H groups:</b> stretching vibrations of primary (CH <sub>3</sub> ) and secondary (CH <sub>2</sub> ) carbons.
2916	
2849	
1709	<b>C=O (carbonyl, carboxylic acid, or ketone):</b> strong stretching vibration.
1600	<b>C=C (aromatic or conjugated alkene):</b> stretching vibration of the conjugated double bond.
1461	<b>C–H (deformation, methyl/methylene):</b> bending vibrations characteristic of alkyl groups.
1372	
1224	<b>C–O (ester, ether, or alcohol):</b> stretching vibration of the C–O bond.
1085	<b>C–O (alcohol or ether):</b> strong stretching vibration, typically observed in primary alcohols.
788	<b>V–O:</b> assigned to the antisymmetric stretching vibrations of the V–O bond.
718	<b>C–H (out-of-plane):</b> vibrations in aromatics or alkenes, indicative of aromatic substitution patterns.
667	<b>V–O–V:</b> vibrations associated with the symmetric and asymmetric stretching modes of V–O–V bonds.

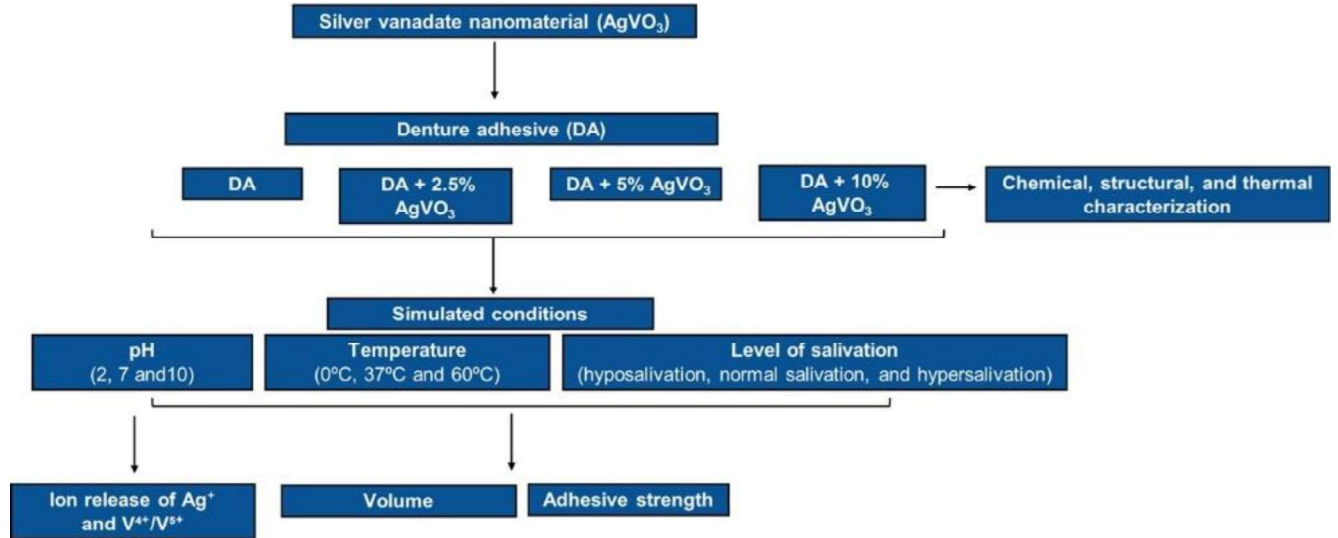
**Table 3.** Mass loss percentages of commercial adhesive samples containing AgVO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles.

<b>Temperature range</b>	<b>Denture adhesive (DA)</b>	<b>DA + 2.5% AgVO<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>DA + 5% AgVO<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>DA+ 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub></b>
25 – 200 (°C)	9.80%	20.74%	17.40%	15.22%
200 – 400 (°C)	56.76%	45.86%	46.67%	48.28%
400 – 600 (°C)	12.69%	11.01%	11.12%	10.79%
600– 750 (°C)	5.04%	5.55%	5.43%	4.92%
750 – 850 (°C)	3.12%	1.93%	2.76%	2.90%
Residue	10.22%	12.07%	16.62%	17.89%

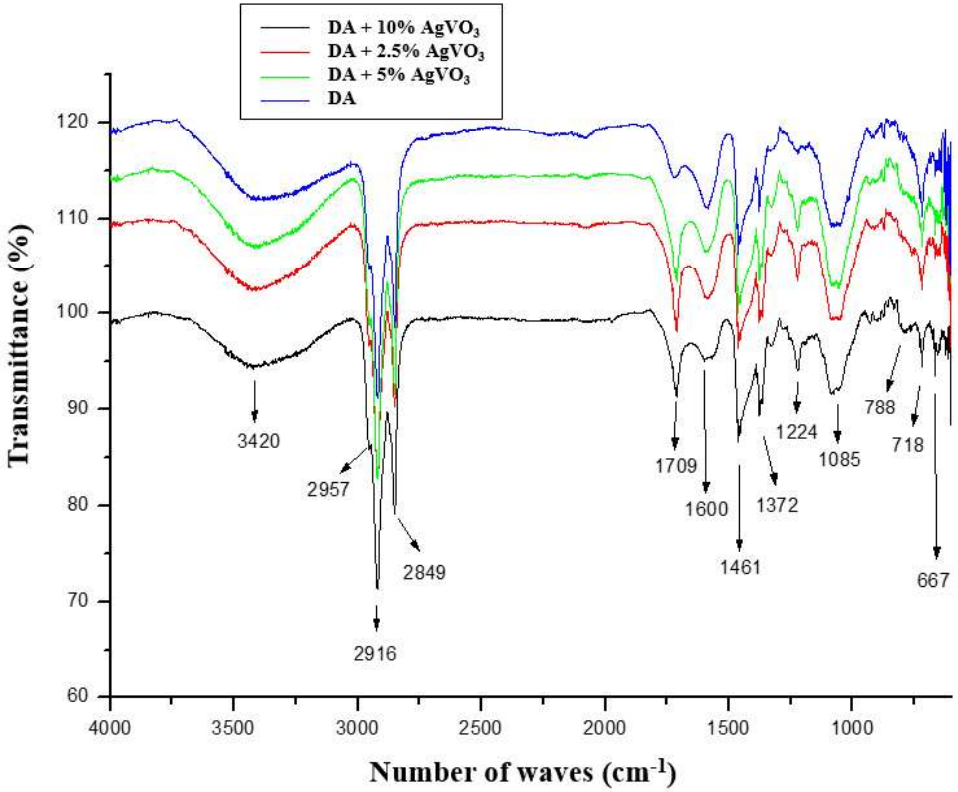
**Table 4.** Release of silver ( $\text{Ag}^+$ ) and vanadium ( $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) ions from adhesive samples.

Group	pH 2		pH 7		pH 10	
	$\text{Ag}^+$	$\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$	$\text{Ag}^+$	$\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$	$\text{Ag}^+$	$\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$
<b>Denture Adhesive (DA)</b>	0.121 (0.150) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.000 (0.000) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.026 (0.037) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.000 (0.000) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.018 (0.021) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.006 (0.005) <sup>Aa</sup>
<b>DA + 2.5% <math>\text{AgVO}_3</math></b>	0.451 (0.0132) <sup>Aa</sup>	19.136 (4.908) <sup>Aab</sup>	0.850 (0.483) <sup>Aa</sup>	18.700 (2.641) <sup>Aab</sup>	1.952 (0.663) <sup>Aa</sup>	20.566 (2.829) <sup>Ab</sup>
<b>DA + 5% <math>\text{AgVO}_3</math></b>	0.628 (0.276) <sup>Aa</sup>	30.213 (10.254) <sup>Abc</sup>	0.850 (0.487) <sup>Aa</sup>	37.136 (15.901) <sup>Abc</sup>	2.020 (1.693) <sup>Aa</sup>	30.340 (12.477) <sup>Abc</sup>
<b>DA + 10% <math>\text{AgVO}_3</math></b>	2.239 (0.456) <sup>Ab</sup>	42.896 (8.129) <sup>Ac</sup>	5.489 (2.120) <sup>Bb</sup>	55.033 (9.424) <sup>Ac</sup>	3.739 (0.248) <sup>ABb</sup>	45.406 (10.937) <sup>Ac</sup>

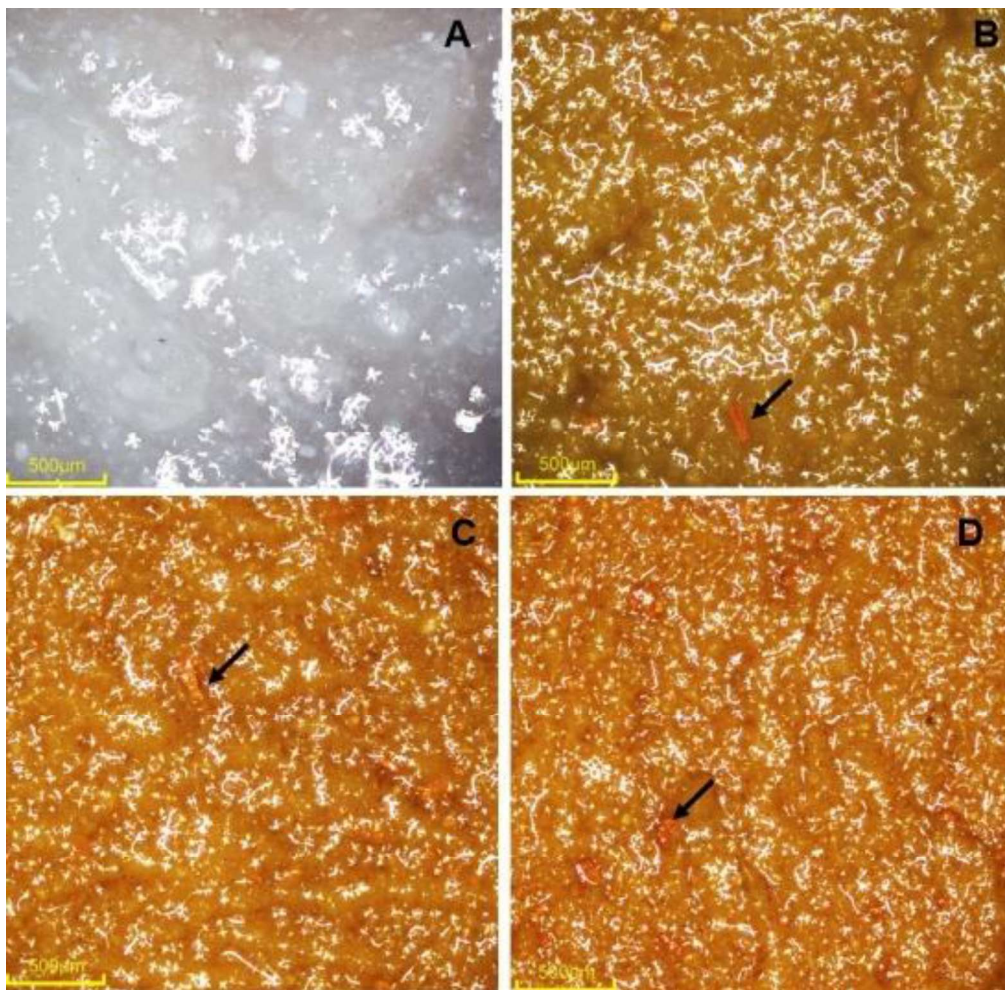
Different capital letters indicate statistically significant differences in the release of the same ion ( $\text{Ag}^+$  or  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) within a given group (DA, DA + 2.5%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , DA + 5%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , or DA + 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) across different pH values (column-wise comparison). Different lowercase letters indicate statistically significant differences between groups (DA, DA + 2.5%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , DA + 5%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , and DA + 10%  $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) at the same pH for the release of the same ion ( $\text{Ag}^+$  or  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) (row-wise comparison).

**FIGURES****Figure 1.** Study flowchart

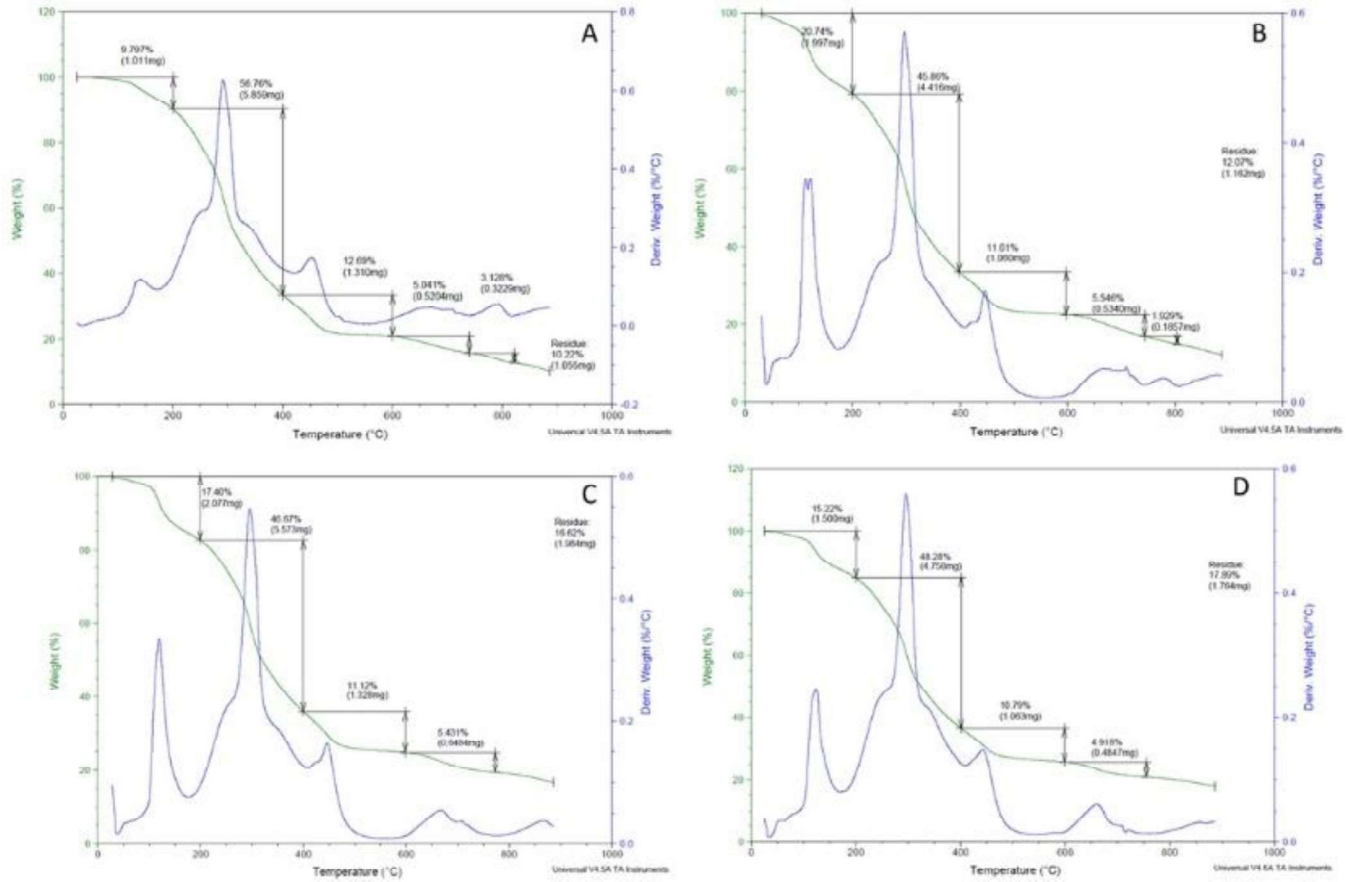
**Figure 2.** FTIR spectra of the denture adhesive samples, with the main characteristic bands indicated.



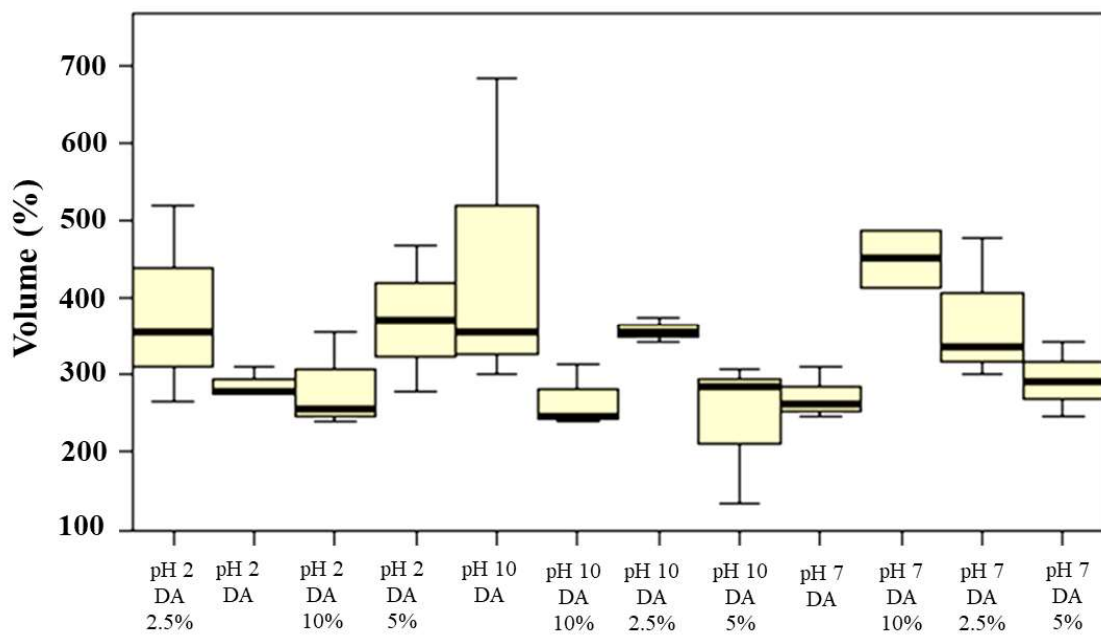
**Figure 3.** Confocal laser microscopy images (5 $\times$ ) obtained using a 3D laser measurement microscope (OLS5100, Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). (A) Control: DA; (B) DA + 2.5% AgVO<sub>3</sub>; (C) DA + 5% AgVO<sub>3</sub>; (D) DA + 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub>. Arrows indicate the presence of AgVO<sub>3</sub> particles.



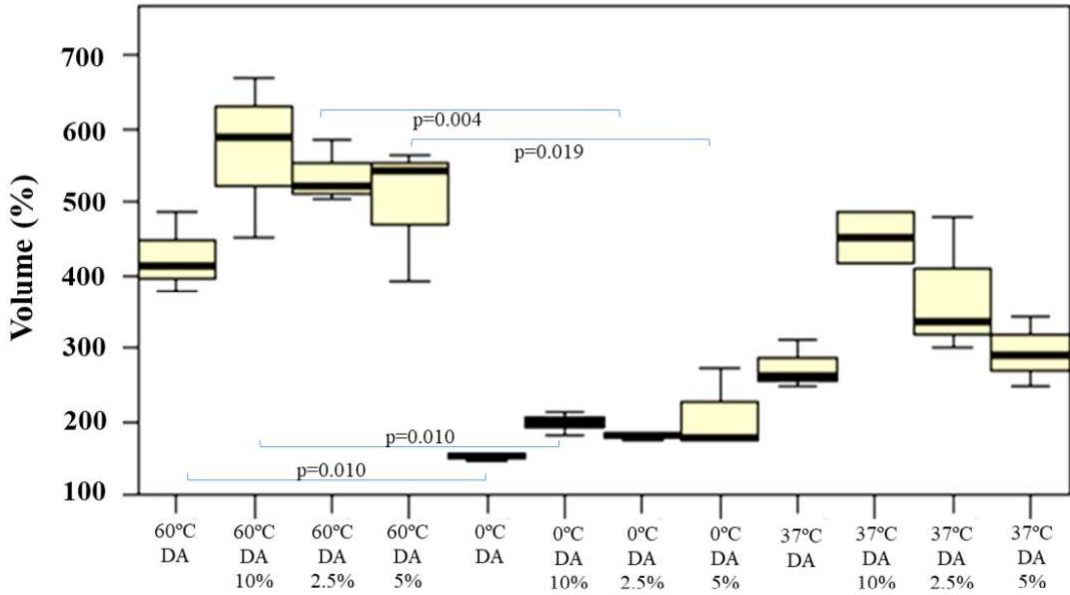
**Figure 4.** Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) curves of the adhesive samples: (A) DA; (B) DA + 2.5% AgVO<sub>3</sub>; (C) DA + 5% AgVO<sub>3</sub>; (D) DA + 10% AgVO<sub>3</sub>.



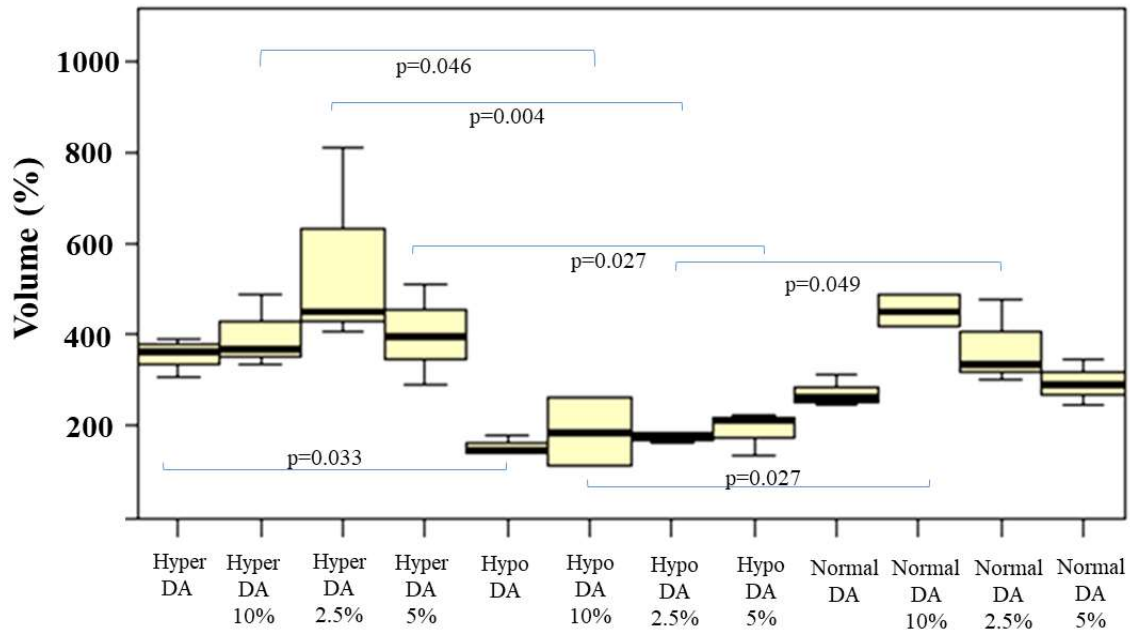
**Figure 5.** Volumetric variation (%) of samples exposed to different pH levels (2, 7, and 10). Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's post hoc test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).



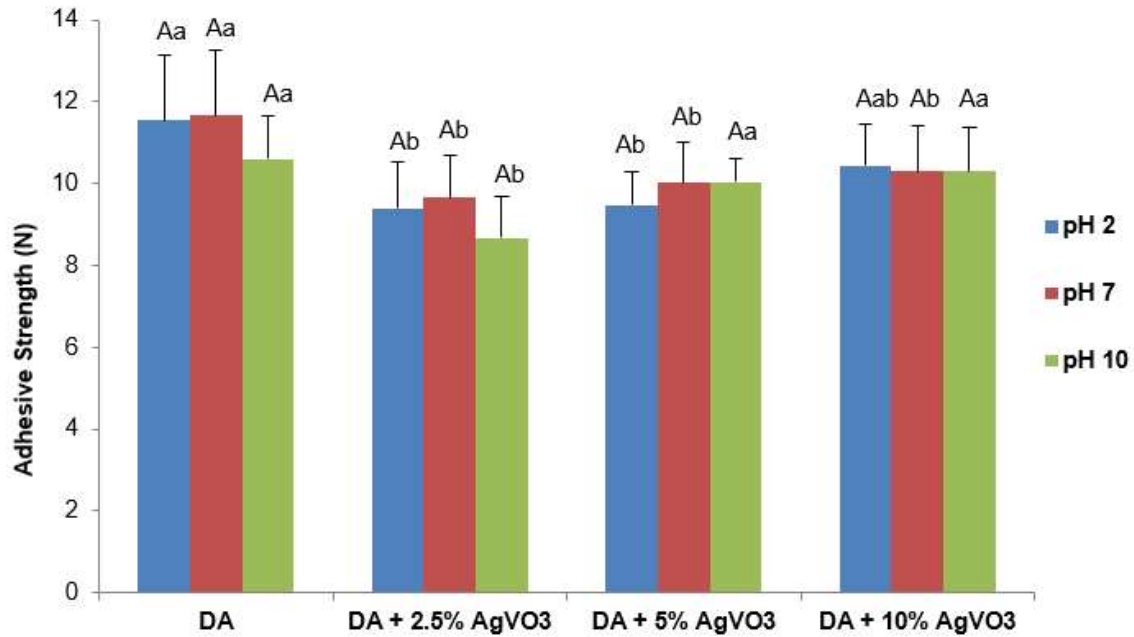
**Figure 6.** Volumetric variation (%) of samples exposed to different temperatures (0 °C, 37 °C, and 60 °C). Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn’s post hoc test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).



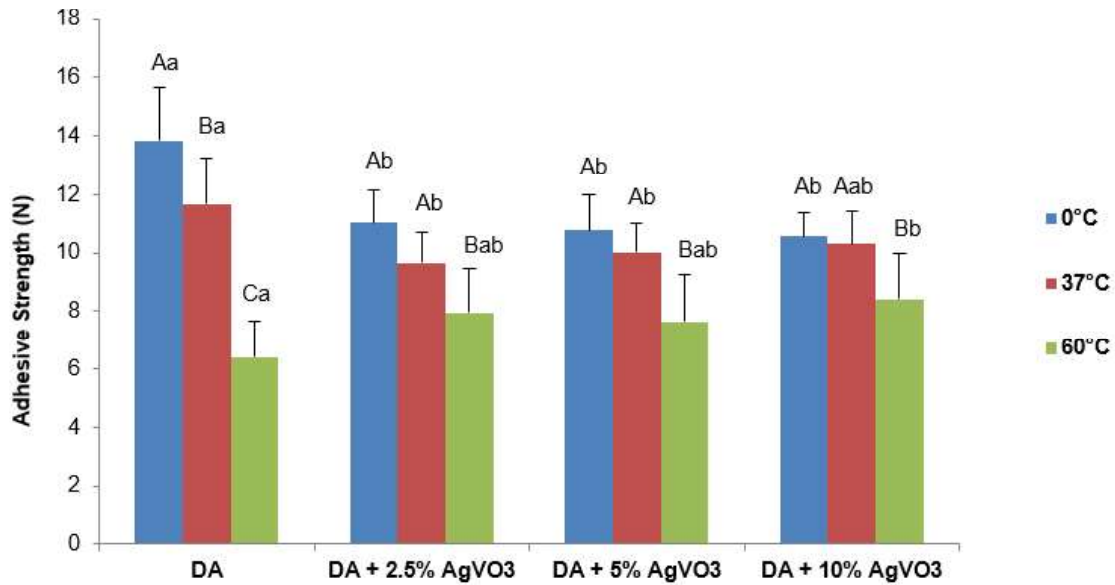
**Figure 7.** Volumetric variation (%) of specimens exposed to different salivation levels (hyposalivation, normal salivation, and hypersalivation). Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's post hoc test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).



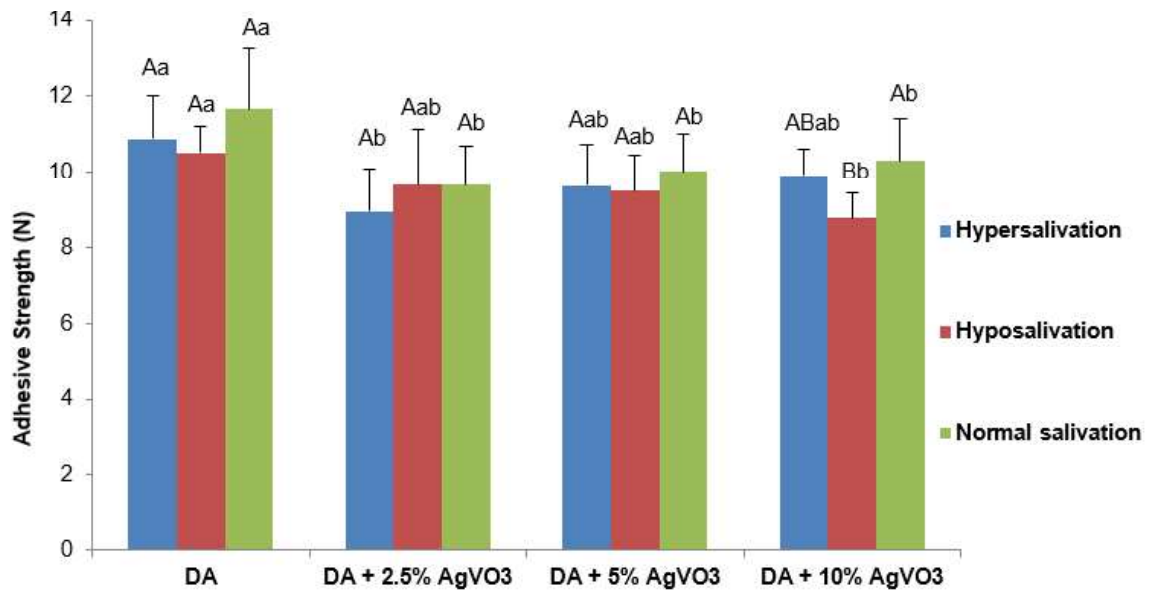
**Figure 8.** Comparison of adhesive strength (N) considering the interaction between experimental groups and pH conditions [acidic (2), neutral (7), and alkaline (10)]. Statistical analysis was performed using two-way ANOVA followed by the Bonferroni post hoc test ( $p < 0.05$ ). Identical capital letters indicate no statistically significant differences within the same group across different pH values, whereas identical lowercase letters indicate no statistically significant differences between groups under the same pH condition.



**Figure 9.** Comparison of adhesive strength (N) considering the interaction between experimental groups and temperature (0 °C, 37 °C, and 60 °C). Statistical analysis was performed using two-way ANOVA followed by the Bonferroni post hoc test ( $p < 0.05$ ). Identical capital letters indicate no statistically significant differences within the same group across different temperatures, whereas identical lowercase letters indicate no statistically significant differences between groups under the same thermal condition.



**Figure 10.** Comparison of adhesive strength (N) considering the interaction between experimental groups and salivation conditions (normal salivation, hypersalivation, and hyposalivation). Statistical analysis was performed using two-way ANOVA followed by the Bonferroni post hoc test ( $p < 0.05$ ). Identical capital letters indicate no statistically significant differences within the same group across different salivation levels, whereas identical lowercase letters indicate no statistically significant differences between groups under the same salivation condition.



#### 4. CONCLUSÃO

Conclui-se que o  $\text{AgVO}_3$  foi incorporado com sucesso ao adesivo protético, porém seu desempenho foi sensível às condições ambientais simuladas, sobretudo temperatura e salivação, enquanto o pH influenciou principalmente a liberação de íons  $\text{Ag}^+$ .

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## APÊNDICE

### Síntese do vanadato de prata nanoestruturado

O vanadato de prata nanoestruturado foi sintetizado por meio de uma reação de precipitação entre o nitrato de prata ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ , Merck, 99,8%) e o vanadato de amônio ( $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , Merck, 99%).



**Figura 1.** Reagentes para a síntese do vanadato de prata nanoestruturado decorado com AgNPs.

Inicialmente, 0,9736 g de  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$  e 1,3569 g de  $\text{AgNO}_3$  foram solubilizados, separadamente, em 200 mL de água destilada. As soluções foram mantidas sob agitação em superfície aquecida a 65 °C durante 10 minutos. Em seguida, a solução de nitrato de prata foi adicionada gota a gota à solução de vanadato de amônio, sob agitação constante e à temperatura de 65 °C, conforme esquematizado na Figura 2.



**Figura 2.** Esquema ilustrativo da síntese do vanadato de prata.

O precipitado formado foi lavado repetidamente com água destilada e álcool absoluto, sendo posteriormente filtrado e seco em linha de vácuo por 10 horas. O material obtido,

correspondente ao vanadato de prata nanoestruturado decorado com nanopartículas de prata (AgNPs) ( Figura 3).



**Figura 3.** Vanadato de prata nanoestruturado decorado com AgNPs.

### Adesivo para prótese dentária

Foi utilizado o adesivo comercial para prótese dentária Ultra Corega Creme® (GSK Brasil Ltda., Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil), na forma de creme (Figura 4).



**Figura 4.** Apresentação comercial do adesivo para prótese dentária Ultra Corega Creme®

A composição do material é detalhada na Tabela 1.

**Tabela 1.** Componentes presentes na formulação do adesivo comercial

Material	Fabricante	Composição
Ultra Corega Creme®	GSK Brasil Ltda., Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil	Sais de sódio-cálcio de poli (metilviniléter/ácido maleico)
		Carboximetilcelulose
		Óleo mineral
		Vaselina

### Resina acrílica termopolimerizável

A resina acrílica termopolimerizável à base de polimetilmetacrilato (Clássico Artigos Odontológicos, São Paulo, SP, Brasil) foi utilizada na confecção dos corpos de prova deste estudo, conforme as recomendações do fabricante. A composição do material encontra-se descrita na Tabela 2. A proporção de manipulação recomendada pelo fabricante foi de 2 partes de pó para 1 parte de líquido, correspondendo a 14 g de pó para 7 mL de líquido.

**Tabela 2.** Marca comercial da resina acrílica utilizada

Resina	Classificação	Pó	Líquido
Clássico (Clássico®, Art. Clássico, São Paulo, Brasil)	Termopolimerizável	Polímero Metil Metacrilato Peróxido de Benzoíla Pigmentos	Monômero Metil Metacrilato Topanól

### Preparo da saliva artificial

A saliva artificial foi preparada com base na formulação descrita por Fusayama *et al.*, 1963 mediante a pesagem dos seguintes reagentes: 0,4 g de cloreto de sódio (NaCl), 0,4 g de cloreto de potássio (KCl), 0,8 g de cloreto de cálcio anidro (CaCl<sub>2</sub>), 0,79 g de fosfato de sódio monobásico anidro (NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) e 1,0 g de ureia [(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO]. A composição da saliva artificial encontra-se detalhada na Tabela 3.

**Tabela 3.** Composição da saliva artificial.

Composição da saliva	g/L
KCl (cloreto de potássio)	0,4
NaCl (cloreto de sódio)	0,4
CaCl <sub>2</sub> . 2 H <sub>2</sub> O (cloreto de cálcio)	0,906
NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> · 2H <sub>2</sub> O (fosfato monossódico di-hidratado)	0,690
Uréia	1

Os componentes químicos utilizados são apresentados na Figura 5A. Após a pesagem, os reagentes foram dissolvidos em água destilada e o volume final foi completado em balão volumétrico, resultando na saliva artificial, cuja solução final obtida é apresentada na Figura 5B.



**Figura 5.** Preparação da saliva artificial baseada na Fórmula de Fusayama Meyer. A: Componentes químicos utilizados. B: Solução pronta.

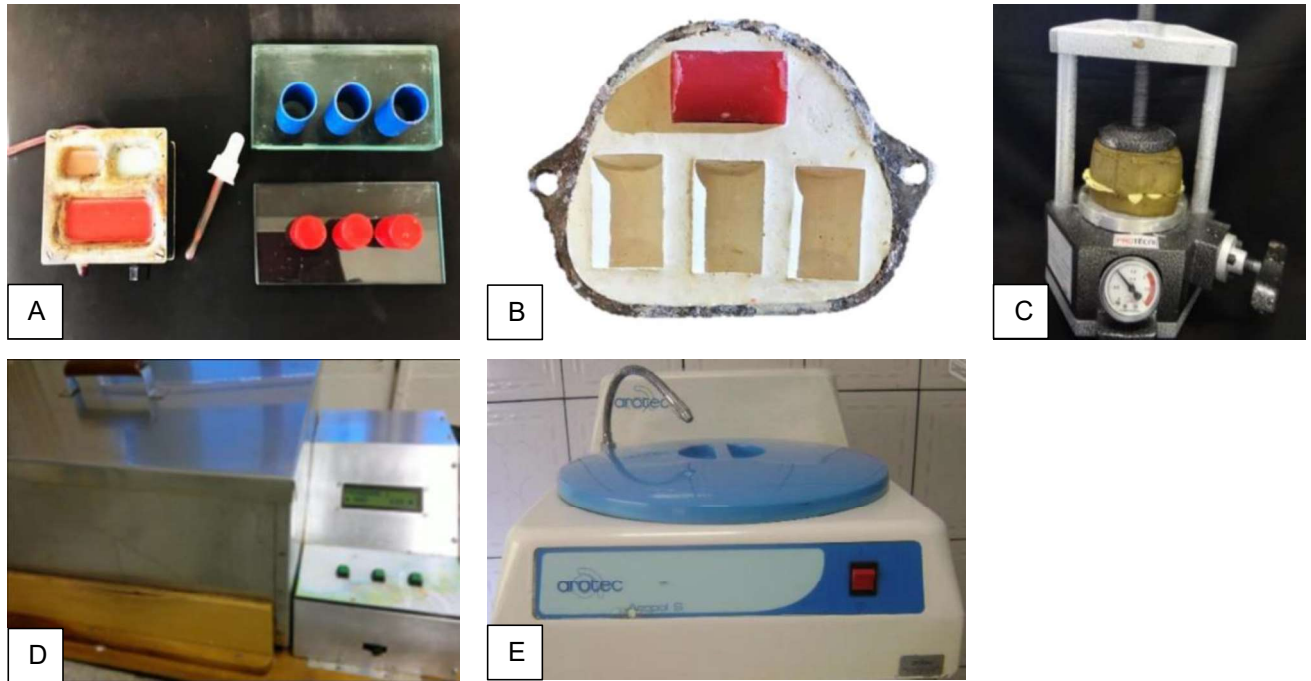
A calibração do pH foi realizada utilizando soluções tampão padrão de pH 4,0, 7,0 e 9,0. Cada solução tampão foi utilizada em triplicata, sendo considerada a média dos valores obtidos. As medições de pH foram realizadas com um medidor de pH de bancada digital (Ávila Científica, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brasil), equipado com eletrodo combinado e sensor de temperatura.

Os ajustes de pH foram efetuados por meio da adição controlada de soluções de ácido clorídrico (HCl) 6 mol/L e hidróxido de sódio (NaOH) 3 mol/L, preparadas a partir de HCl concentrado (37%) e hidróxido de sódio sólido, respectivamente. O pH final da saliva artificial foi ajustado para os valores de 2, 7 e 10, de modo a simular condições ácida, neutra e alcalina.

### **Preparo dos espécimes em resina acrílica**

Os espécimes foram confeccionados a partir da inclusão de matrizes de mesmo formato e dimensão, para cada respectivo ensaio, em mufla metálica convencional (OGP, Produtos Odontológicos Ltda., São Paulo, SP, Brasil). Durante a fase plástica, a resina foi acomodada nos moldes preparados nas muflas metálicas e estas foram então posicionadas em prensas hidráulicas (Prensa hidráulica Protecni, Protecni Equip. Med., Araraquara, SP, Brasil) com carga de 1000 Kgf durante 60 minutos, conforme ilustrado na Figura 6C. As amostras foram polimerizadas por aquecimento convencional, de acordo com as instruções do fabricante (imersão em água a 73°C por 90 minutos e fervura por 30 minutos), em um termociclador elétrico (Thermocycler T100,

Ribeirão Preto, Brasil). Após a desinclusão, foi realizado o acabamento dos espécimes que posteriormente foram armazenados em água destilada por 24 horas à 37°C. A seguir foi realizado o acabamento. A rugosidade superficial dos espécimes foi padronizada ( $3,0 \mu\text{m} \pm 0,3$ ), com lixa d'água grão 150 (Norton, Guarulhos, Brasil) a fim de simular a região interna de uma prótese total (ZISSIS *et al.*, 2000).



**Figura 6.** Confeção dos espécimes em Resina Acrílica. A: Preparação dos moldes em cera, B: Moldes dos espécimes, C: Prensagem em prensa hidráulica, D: Termocicladora elétrica, E: Acabamento e polimento dos espécimes.

### **Espectroscopia de infravermelho com transformada de Fourier (FTIR)**

Os espectros de infravermelho do adesivo para prótese dentária foram obtidos por meio da técnica de refletância total atenuada (ATR, *Attenuated Total Reflectance*), acoplada à espectroscopia de infravermelho com transformada de Fourier (FTIR), utilizando um espectrômetro IRPrestige-21 (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japão) (Figura 7). A técnica ATR permite a análise direta da superfície das amostras, possibilitando a identificação dos principais grupos químicos presentes no material, sem a necessidade de preparo prévio.

As análises foram realizadas no intervalo espectral de  $4000$  a  $600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , com resolução de  $2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  e aquisição de 25 varreduras por amostra.

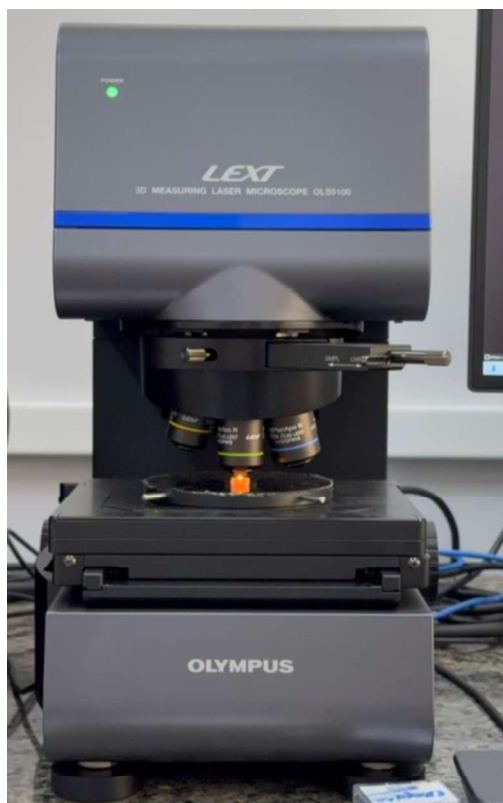


**Figura 7.** Espectroscopia de infravermelho realizada no equipamento IRPrestige-21 (Shimadzu).

### **Distribuição superficial do $\text{AgVO}_3$ no adesivo protético**

O adesivo para prótese dentária de uso comercial foi modificado pela incorporação de vanadato de prata ( $\text{AgVO}_3$ ) em diferentes proporções, originando quatro grupos experimentais: 0% (grupo controle), 2,5%, 5% e 10%. A incorporação do nanomaterial foi realizada manualmente sobre placa de vidro despolida, com auxílio de espátula simples nº 24, por meio da substituição proporcional do adesivo base por  $\text{AgVO}_3$ , de modo a atingir as concentrações estabelecidas.

A caracterização da topografia superficial foi conduzida em microscópio de medição a laser tridimensional (OLS5100, Olympus Corporation, Tóquio, Japão) (Figura 8). Em cada amostra, foram aplicados 0,025 g de adesivo, distribuídos de forma homogênea, e as imagens foram obtidas com lente de aumento de 10× em áreas representativas da superfície, permitindo a avaliação da morfologia e da dispersão do nanomaterial na matriz do adesivo.



**Figura 8.** microscópio de medição a laser tridimensional OLS5100® (Olympus Corporation, Tóquio, Japão).

### **Análise termogravimétrica (TGA)**

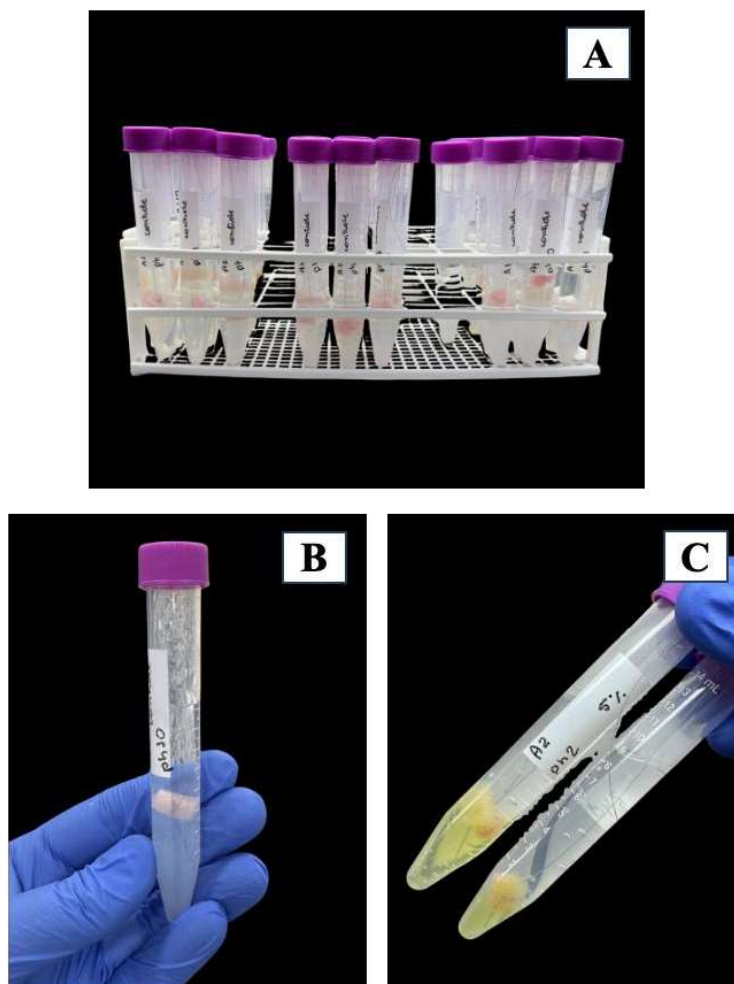
A análise termogravimétrica foi realizada para avaliar a variação de massa do adesivo protético comercial incorporado com diferentes concentrações de  $\text{AgVO}_3$  em função da temperatura. Inicialmente, foi empregada uma massa de 0,2 g de adesivo para o grupo controle. As análises foram conduzidas em um analisador térmico simultâneo (SDT Q600 V20.9 Build 20; TA Instruments, EUA) (Figura 9), no qual as amostras foram aquecidas da temperatura ambiente até 900 °C, a uma taxa de aquecimento de 10 °C/min, sob atmosfera inerte de nitrogênio. As curvas de perda de massa em função da temperatura foram utilizadas para a caracterização qualitativa do perfil de decomposição térmica dos materiais.



**Figura 9.** Análise termogravimétrica (TGA) realizada no equipamento SDT Q600, TA Instruments.

### **Análise da liberação de íons de prata ( $\text{Ag}^+$ ) e vanádio ( $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) por espectrometria de massas com plasma indutivamente acoplado (ICP-MS)**

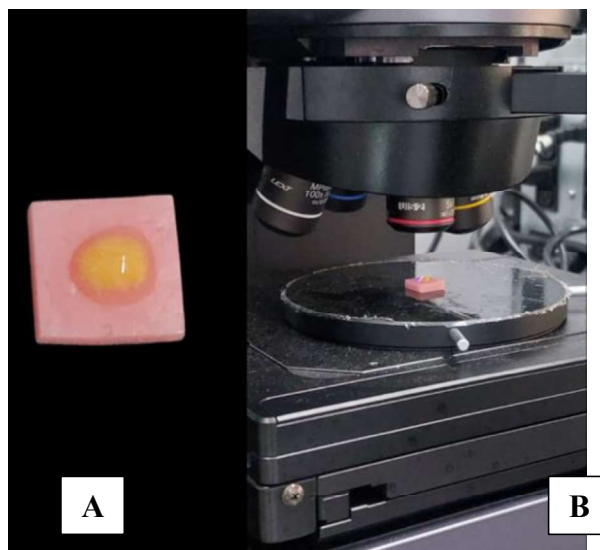
A liberação de íons prata ( $\text{Ag}^+$ ) e vanádio ( $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{5+}$ ) foi avaliada por espectrometria de massas com plasma indutivamente acoplado (ICP-MS). Os espécimes recobertos com o adesivo ( $n = 3$ ) foram suspensos por fio de náilon em tubos de polipropileno (BD Falcon) contendo 9 mL de saliva artificial ajustada a diferentes valores de pH, permanecendo imersos por 24 h (Figura 10). Após a imersão, os corpos de prova foram removidos e as soluções obtidas foram analisadas quantitativamente no equipamento NexIon 300X, utilizando curvas de calibração previamente estabelecidas, conforme descrito na literatura (DE CASTRO *et al.*, 2017; TEIXEIRA *et al.*, 2020; TEIXEIRA *et al.*, 2021).



**Figura 10.** A: Espécimes recobertos com o adesivo suspensos por um fio de náilon em tubos de polipropileno (BD Falcon) com 9 mL da saliva com os diferentes pH. B: grupo controle, C: Grupo 5% após imersão em saliva ácida e incubação por 24 horas.

### Avaliação do volume

Os espécimes de resina acrílica receberam aplicação do adesivo protético (0,015 g), conforme exemplificado na Figura 11A. Para cada grupo e condição experimental, foram utilizados três corpos de prova ( $n = 3$ ). Após a aplicação, os espécimes foram acondicionados em incubadora a 37 °C, sob umidade saturada. Posteriormente, foram imersos em 200 mL de saliva artificial, submetidos a diferentes valores de pH, variações de temperatura e períodos de exposição, de acordo com o protocolo experimental descrito por Fallahi *et al.*, 2018 cujos parâmetros estão apresentados na Tabela 4. A avaliação dos espécimes foi realizada em microscópio de medição a laser tridimensional (Figura 11B).



**Figura 11.** A: espécime de resina acrílica com o adesivo protético modificado. B: espécime no microscópio de medição a laser tridimensional OLS5100® (Olympus Corporation, Tóquio, Japão).

**Tabela 4.** Desenho experimental para a avaliação da força adesiva e volume do adesivo modificado sob diferentes condições: hipossalivação (modo de baixa salivacão: <0,1 mL/min), modo de salivacão normal (0,2 mL/min), hipersalivação (modo de salivacão alta: >0,35 mL/min), ácido (pH 2), básico (pH 10), baixa temperatura (0°C) e alta temperatura (100°C).

Execução	Condições ambientais	Salivação	pH	Temperatura	Tempo de incubação (min)	Tempo de imersão na saliva (min)
1	Hipossalivação	Baixo	7	37°C	15	5
2	Normal	Normal	7	37°C	30	10
3	Hipersalivação	Alto	7	37°C	45	15
4	Ácido (pH 2)	Normal	2	37 °C	30	10
5	Básico (pH 10)	Normal	10	37 °C	30	10
6	Baixa temperatura (0 °C)	Normal	7	0 °C	30	10
7	Alta temperatura (60 °C)	Normal	7	60 °C	30	10

### **Análise da força adesiva**

A medição da força adesiva foi realizada de acordo com o método descrito por COSTA *et al*, 2022 adaptado, utilizando dois cilindros de resina acrílica termopolimerizável.

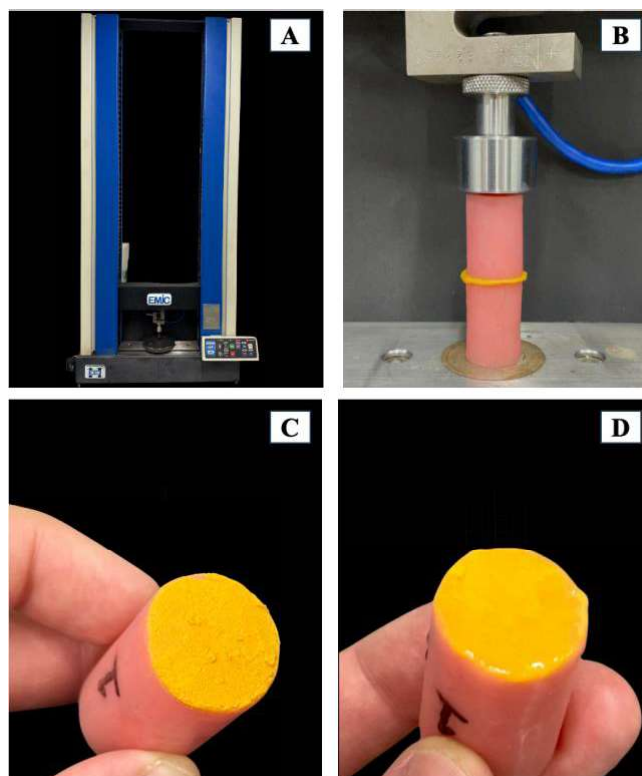
Foram utilizados dez pares cilíndricos de resina acrílica termopolimerizável com dimensões de 25 mm (diâmetro) × 35 mm (altura) (Figura 12).



**Figura 12.** Espécime em resina acrílica em formato cilíndrico.

Para os grupos de teste, os cilindros de resina de base de prótese foram revestidos com 0,20 g de adesivo (Ultra Corega Creme, valor necessário para manter uma prótese maxilar em posição, de acordo com o estudo de Chew, 1990). Em seguida, as amostras foram colocadas em incubadora com 100% de umidade relativa a 37 °C por 30 minutos. Após esse período, os espécimes foram submersos em 200 mL de saliva artificial, sob diferentes condições de pH, temperatura e duração, de acordo com o protocolo experimental (Tabela 4).

Posteriormente, os cilindros foram alinhados na Máquina de Ensaio Universal Emic 1000, sendo aplicada inicialmente uma força de compressão de 12 N por 30 segundos para simular uma leve força de oclusão. Finalmente, o teste de tração foi realizado com velocidade de 1mm/min usando a máquina de ensaios, e a força máxima antes da falha foi calculada (N). Cada ensaio foi realizado em dez repetições (Figura 13).



**Figura 13.** A: Máquina de ensaios universal Emic 1000, B: Espécime posicionado na máquina, C: Espécime com  $\text{AgVO}_3$  seco, D: Espécime após o período de incubação e imersão em saliva artificial.

## ANEXO A - COMPROVANTE DE SUBMISSÃO DO ARTIGO EM REVISTA CIENTÍFICA



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**Journal:** *International Journal of Adhesion and Adhesives*

**Article type:** Full Length Article

**Title:** Effect of pH, temperature, and salivation level on the properties of a denture adhesive modified with antimicrobial nanomaterial

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