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**Clinical Evaluation of Polyethylene Fiber (RIBBOND) Used in Adhesive Bridges. F.F. DEMARCO, E.M. PIOVESAN, M.S. CENCI\*, and C.L. PEREIRA, Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil**

**Objective:** Adhesive bridges have been considered alternative treatments to conventional prosthesis, with low cost and more preservation of sound dental structure. However, the presence of metallic framework impairs the adhesion and the aesthetic result. Polyethylene fibers (RIBBOND) have been indicated as reinforcement materials for several clinical applications, such as adhesive bridges. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the success (retention rate) of direct adhesive bridges made with RIBBOND reinforcement.

**Materials and methods:** In a private clinic of one specialist in Aesthetic Dentistry, thirteen patients were selected, which had 20 direct adhesive bridges reinforced with RIBBOND, and recalled to make the clinical evaluation. Success of the treatment was considered when adhesive bridges were in function in the mouth at the moment of the examination. Failure of the treatment was set when the adhesive bridge was lost.

**Results:** Patients ages varied from 18 to 73 years (average 35.6). Four adhesive bridges evaluated were located in anterior teeth and 16 in posterior teeth, being 8 located in maxilla and 12 in mandible. The clinical longevity at the examination was 39.2 months ( $\pm 16.83$ ), having 5 bridges between 7-15 months, and the others 15 remaining between 36-57 months. Only one failure occurred and 19 bridges were in function (95% retention rate).

**Conclusions:** Within the limitations of the study and considering the population evaluated, there was a high retention rate for adhesive bridges performed with RIBBOND.