

**FEATURES  
SECTION**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

**“An ex-vivo assessment of resin modified glass ionomer cement in relation to bonding technique: C. J. Larmour and D. R. Stirrups”**

We would like to thank Dr Tyrell for his comments and details of his clinical audit using Fuji ortho LC as his routine bonding agent.

In his audit, the brackets were bonded with Fuji ortho LC using an acid etch procedure although to a wet enamel surface. In the ex-vivo study, the highest bond strength values were obtained for Fuji when bonded using a conventional acid etch procedure to a dry enamel surface. Both studies suggest the need for an etch procedure. This contrasts with the manufacturers instructions which suggest that adequate bond strengths can be achieved without an etch procedure relying

entirely on the adhesive properties of the glass ionomer cement.

The ex-vivo study found that even using an etch procedure, the bond strength of Fuji was still significantly lower than a transbond control group. It was suggested that this may limit the use of Fuji to low loading situations in the clinical environment. The findings of the present audit suggest this may not be the case. However, since there are no generally accepted minimum acceptable bond strengths, confirmation would require a randomised clinical trial to compare failure rates between Fuji and a conventional composite control.

C. J. LARMOUR  
D. R. STIRRUPS