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## Influence of peroxide treatment on bovine enamel surface —Cross-sectional analysis—

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## Abstract:

Carbamide peroxide and hydrogen peroxide are used as the main agents in vital tooth bleaching. In this study, the influence of peroxide treatment on cross-sectional morphology and mechanical property was investigated. A  $3\times5$ -mm window of enamel on the labial surface of a bovine tooth was exposed to immersion in 10% or 30% carbamide peroxide or hydrogen peroxide for 30 or 180 min. After immersion, the cross-sectional structure of each specimen was examined by nanoindentation and SEM. Nanohardness in the enamel showed a decrease at 2  $\mu$ m below the surface, but none at 50  $\mu$ m. High concentrations of peroxide caused erosion to a depth of 5  $\mu$ m below the surface. In conclusion, decrease in nanohardness and change in morphology were limited to an area less than 50  $\mu$ m below the surface, regardless of either concentration of peroxide or period of immersion.

## Key words:

Nanohardness, Peroxides, Cross-sectional structure

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