

Effect of Optim Blue on Tensile Properties of Dental Chair Fabrics

Purpose:

1. To evaluate long-term interaction between common dental chair fabrics and **Optim Blue** (*SciCan*) surface disinfectant used to clean environmental surfaces;
1. To investigate the effect of **Optim Blue** (*SciCan*) surface disinfectant on both visual appearance and tensile properties of dental chair fabric.

Experimental Design:

Ultraleather (*Ultrafabrics*), a dental chair fabric, was cut into 4.25 x 5.75” specimens. Test swatches were fastened with a specimen holder to the platform of an automated wiper - *SDL Atlas electronic crockmeter** (Figure 1). An experimental surface disinfectant wipe, **Optim Blue** (*SciCan*) was clipped onto the rubbing finger located at the base of the arm. Swatches were wiped (1 wipe = back and forth) 10,400 times representing 5 years of use (8 wipes a day, 5 days a week, for 52 weeks = 2,080 wipes/year). Surface disinfectant wipes were changed every 200 wipes to ensure that wipes did not dry out during testing. Following the wiping regiment, swatches were set out to dry at room temperature for at least 24 hours prior to analysis. Swatches were then photographed and analyzed for visual disparities in color and texture. Subsequently, tensile strength samples were punched out using a certified hourglass specimen die (ASTM D412 die, Pioneer-Dietecs). Test fabrics consisted of two material layers, a synthetic leather or vinyl top layer and a tightly woven threaded backside. Newly cut hourglass samples left the ends with unfastened threads that when stretched for tensile strength testing caused individual threads to be pulled through the woven structure causing the sample to perform in an unnatural way. To correct this, two layers of rubber cement were added to the ends of the hourglass specimens and then allowed to dry prior to testing. Completed upholstery test specimens underwent tensile strength testing, using an *Instron 5866* to measure the ultimate tensile strength (load) and extension of the testing material (Figure 2). (n = 8)**

**SDL Atlas electronic crockmeter* is a piece of instrumentation certified for use in standardized testing methods for colorfastness of textiles. It was designed to simulate the action of a human finger and forearm using a standardized pressure and motion to provide reliable and reproducible test results.



Figure 1: SDL Atlas Electronic Crockmeter



Figure 2. Tensile strength testing with Instron 5866

Results:

Visual Analysis

Following extended exposure to *Optim Blue* surface disinfectant wipes, *Ultraleather* test upholstery demonstrated no visual change in appearance, even at a microscopic level (Figure 3a,b). The observed visual changes were not a predictor of how long-term exposure affected the tensile properties of the test fabrics.

Tensile Strength

Overall *Ultraleather* test upholstery treated with *Optim Blue* retained tensile properties seen with untreated samples (control) showing no statistically significant differences in tensile load or extension (Table 1). Means and standard deviations of load (N) and extension (mm) are listed in Table 1.

Figure 3a and b: Microscopic view of a) treated *Ultraleather*, and b) untreated.

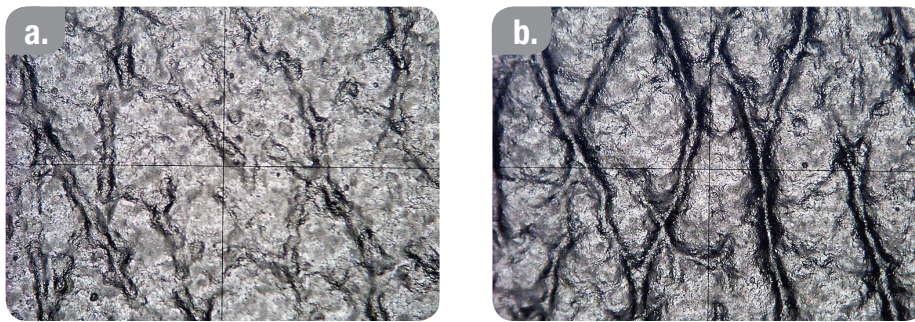


Table 1: Tensile strength results*** for fabric exposed to *Optim Blue*.

Fabric	Disinfectant	Load (N)	Extension (mm)
<i>Ultraleather</i>	Control	59.8(6.5) ^a	168.1(20.3) ^b
	<i>Optim Blue</i>	66.3(11.2) ^a	171.1(11.5) ^b

***Means with standard deviations in parenthesis. Means with the same superscript letters are statistically the same at the 0.05 level of significance.

Conclusion:

This study examined the effects caused by the extended (an accelerated 5-year aging) interaction between *Ultraleather* dental chair upholstery and *Scican* surface disinfectant *Optim Blue*. No visible changes in appearance or tensile properties were observed with treated *Ultraleather*. This suggests no significant effect on the integrity of test fabric.

**The test method used was not able to incorporate the manufacturer's instructions to let upholstery air-dry after each application, and to rinse and dry the surface at least weekly.