Aim
To evaluate the effects of salivary contamination and decontamination on bond strength of two one-step adhesives to primary and permanent dentin.

Methods
Dentin specimens were prepared from extracted primary and permanent molars (210 of each) and were distributed to seven groups (n=15/group/molar type) for each adhesive (Xeno V+ and Scotchbond Universal): no saliva contamination (control); saliva contamination before or after light-curing of the adhesives followed either by air-drying, by rinsing with water and air-drying, or by rinsing with water, air-drying and reapplication of the adhesives. Resin composite was applied and the specimens were stored for 24h (37°C, 100% humidity). Then, shear bond strength (SBS) was measured and data analyzed with nonparametric ANOVA and Wilcoxon rank sum tests.

Results
Saliva contamination reduced SBS of Xeno V+, the reduction being more pronounced when contamination occurred before light-curing than after. In both situations, decontamination involving reapplication of the adhesive restored SBS. Saliva contamination had no significant effect on Scotchbond Universal. There were no differences in SBS between primary and permanent teeth.

Conclusion
Saliva contamination reduced SBS of Xeno V+, but not of Scotchbond Universal. SBS was restored when contaminated dentin was rinsed with water and air-dried followed by reapplication of the adhesive.

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Flowchart of the adhesive treatments resulting in seven groups for each adhesive.

Shear Bond Strength (MPa) of Primary Molars (n = 15) for Groups 1X/1S to 7X/7S (X = Xeno V+, S = Scotchbond Universal).

Shear Bond Strength (MPa) of Permanent Molars (n = 15) for Groups 1X/1S to 7X/7S (X = Xeno V+, S = Scotchbond Universal).