

Table 1. Initial force and force loss over time for latex and non-latex elastics (Forestadent®)

¼" 6 oz elastic	n	0 hours	6 hours	12 hours	18 hours	24 hours
		Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD
Manufacturer data	-	1.67 (170.10 G)				
Latex	20	2.11 ± 0.11 (215.45 ± 11.33 g)	2.00 ± 0.11 (204.11 ± 11.33 g)	1.94 ± 0.13 (198.44 ± 14.17 G)	1.92 ± 0.12 (191.89 ± 12.75 g)	1.91 ± 0.13 (195.61 ± 13.60 g)
Non-Latex	20	1.83 ± 0.11 (187.10 ± 11.33 g)	1.72 ± 0.11 (175.76 ± 11.33 g)	1.69 ± 0.11 (172.93 ± 14.17 g)	1.67 ± 0.09 (170.66 ± 9.92 g)	1.66 ± 0.10 (169.81 ± 10.20 g)
χ²	20	28.597	28.349	28.220	28.509	26.781
p value		0.000 *	0.000 *	0.000 *	0.000 *	0.000 *

* Kruskal-Wallis test ($p < 0.001$)

Table 2. Comparison of the percentage of force degradation in latex and non-latex elastics, depending on period of use

Period of use	Latex		Non-latex	
	n	Mean (%)	Mean (%)	p value
0-6h	20	5.3	6.0	0.000 *
6-12h	20	2.8	1.6	0.939
12-18h	20	0.1	1.2	0.097
18-24h	20	0.5	0.5	0.517

* Kruskal-Wallis test ($p < 0.001$)