

ESE WLADIMIR ADLIVANKINE RESEARCH PRIZE

RP1

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Efficacy of irrigant activation techniques in removing intracanal smear layer and debris from mature permanent teeth: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Aim To establish whether Irrigant Activation Techniques (IAT) result in greater intracanal smear layer and debris removal than Conventional Needle Irrigation (CNI).

Methodology Six electronic databases (PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Library, Science Direct, Web of Science and Google Scholar) and supplemental sources were searched by two reviewers from 01.2000 to 11.2016 to identify scanning electron microscopy studies evaluating smear layer and/or debris removal following use of Manual Dynamic Activation (MDA), Passive Ultrasonic Irrigation (PUI), Sonic Irrigation (SI) or Apical Negative Pressure (ANP) IATs in mature permanent teeth. Meta-analyses were performed for each canal segment (coronal, middle, apical and apical 1 mm) in addition to subgroup analyses for individual IATs with respect to CNI. Outcomes are presented as Standardised Mean Differences (SMD) alongside 95%-Confidence Intervals (CI), to allow direct comparisons between studies that used semi-quantitative scoring systems to evaluate intracanal cleanliness.

Results From 252 citations, 16 studies were included in the qualitative analysis and 12 in the meta-analysis. Nine studies investigated smear layer, 1 debris and 12 examined both with ANP ($n = 10$) and PUI ($n = 10$) being most commonly tested followed by SI ($n = 7$) and MDA ($n = 6$). The meta-analysis demonstrated significant improvements in the coronal (SMD: 1.15/CI: 0.72–1.57, SMD: 0.54/CI: 0.29–0.80), middle (SMD: 1.30/CI: 0.59–2.53, SMD: 0.8/CI: 0.58–1.13) and apical thirds (SMD: 1.22/CI: 0.83–1.62, SMD: 1.86/CI: 0.76–2.96) for smear layer and debris removal respectively. In the apical 1 mm, IATs improved cleanliness; however, the differences were insignificant (SMD: 1.15/CI: –0.47–2.77). The most effective IATs in the coronal third were SI (SMD: 1.29/CI: 0.76–3.41) for smear layer and ANP (SMD: 0.62/CI: 0.12–1.12) for debris, and for the middle third were SI again (SMD: 2.21/CI: 1.20–3.22) and PUI (SMD: 1.26/CI: 0.77–1.74). In the apical segment MDA removed the greatest quantity of both smear layer (SMD: 1.50/CI: 0.62–2.37) and debris (SMD: 2.22/CI: 1.19–3.26).

Conclusions Within limitations of this study, IATs were found to significantly improve intracanal cleanliness across a substantial portion of the canal. Therefore their use is encouraged during routine root canal treatment. No single technique produced the highest impact across all regions hence a combination of machine and hand assisted IATs is postulated to result in greater efficacy. Based on this review and surrounding literature SI in combination with MDA, the latter being equally effective as ANP at the apex, is likely to lead to the greatest smear layer and debris removal throughout the canal. Further *in vivo* experiments are required to understand the impact this would have on periapical healing.

ESE EDUCATION PRIZE

EP1

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Influence of method of teaching endodontology on the self-efficacy and self-perceived competence of undergraduate students

Aim To assess whether self-efficacy and the self-perceived competence of students were influenced by methods of teaching endodontology.

Methodology Methods of teaching Endodontology at our institution were revised. Changes included: an increased number of tutorials, the method of clinical training, the method of summative assessment, the number of endodontic treatments required, and the supervision while performing endodontic treatment. An intermediate cohort comprised students who were exposed to all or some of the former methods and students who were exposed to all or some of the revised methods of teaching. Twenty-four students participated; their self-efficacy and self-perceived competence were assessed close to graduation with a questionnaire. Additionally, their performance in carrying out endodontic treatments was assessed according to predetermined criteria. Data were analyzed using Cohen's Kappa, Cronbach's Alpha, Mann-Whitney and T-tests.

Results Neither the method of clinical training, nor the method of summative assessment influenced the self-efficacy or self-perceived competence of students. The larger number of tutorials increased students' self-perceived competence, but did not influence their self-efficacy. Not the entire number, but the number of endodontic treatments performed under supervision of endodontists was associated with an increase in students' self-efficacy and self-perceived competence. Students' self-efficacy and self-perceived competence were not influenced by their performance in carrying out endodontic treatments.

Conclusions Among the teaching methods assessed, only the number of tutorials and the number of endodontic treatments performed under supervision of endodontists influenced the self-efficacy and the self-perceived competence of students.

EP2

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Self-printed artificial teeth for endodontic education

Aim To assess the feasibility of creating artificial teeth for endodontic training. The workflow was aimed to be simple, time and cost effective as well as transferable to other educational institutions. The final goal was to create an alternative to extracted human teeth and commercial artificial ones.

Methodology Suitable extracted human teeth were selected according to their degree of development and destruction, the volume of the pulp chamber and root canals on radiographs as well as to the estimated difficulty for root canal treatment. A three-dimensional radiograph of the selected tooth was taken using a cone-beam CT with a small field-of-view (Kodak 950). The generated data were processed with several software applications (InVesalius, Brazil; Meshmixer, USA; PreForm, USA) to generate a printable STL file. This file was printed with a stereolithographic printer using a resin mixed with barium sulphate for radiopacity (Print 2, Formlabs, USA).

Results The self-production of artificial teeth for endodontic training was feasible. The workflow was kept as simple as possible thus reducing the number of processing steps to a minimum. The software applications were user-friendly, easy to learn and free for educational purposes. The quality achieved by the cone beam CT was sufficient, thus being transferable to other institutions possessing this equipment. The search and selection of suitable teeth was the most time-consuming step. The process of transferring these real teeth to printed artificial copies takes approximately 7 h for 40 molars. Material costs for one tooth amount to approximately 0.31 €.

Conclusions The use of extracted human teeth has serious drawbacks which have come to the fore in recent years. Commercial artificial teeth have been promoted as a possible alternative, yet they are too expensive to be purchased in large quantities for sufficient training in the preclinical settings. The workflow presented shows a time and cost effective way to produce artificial teeth, which are suitable for endodontic training and exceed commercial ones in various criteria. They are less expensive, can have unlimited variations in anatomy, present radiopacity and are available at the right time in sufficient numbers.

ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1: THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

ANATOMY AND ACCESS

R001

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Morphology of maxillary first and second molars analyzed by cone-beam computed tomography in a Polish population

Aim To evaluate the root and canal morphology of permanent maxillary first and second molars in a Polish population using cone-beam computed tomography.

Methodology The sample included 112 cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) images representing 185 maxillary first and 207 maxillary second molars. The number of roots and root canals, and the frequency of additional canals (MB2) in the mesiobuccal roots were determined. The results were subjected to statistical analysis using chi-square tests with Yates' correction.

Results All maxillary first molars had three roots (100%). The majority of maxillary second molars had three roots (91.8%), 5.8% had two roots and 2.4% had one root. A significant difference was observed between maxillary first and second molars for number of roots ($P < 0.01$). A significant difference was also found in the distribution of the number of canals in the maxillary first and second molars ($P < 0.001$). The majority of maxillary first molars had four root canals (59.5%), while only 40.5% had three root canals. Most maxillary second molars had three root canals (70%). In other maxillary second molars, four canals (23.2%), two canals (3.9%), and one canal (1%) or C-shaped canals (1.9%) were observed. Additional canals (MB2) in the mesiobuccal roots were detected significantly more frequently in the maxillary first molars than the second molars ($P = 0.000$). In turn, the presence of three root canals was significantly more common in the second than the first maxillary molars ($P = 0.000$).

Conclusions There are differences in the number and configuration of roots and root canals between maxillary first and second molars in this Polish population. This data may facilitate successful root canal treatment. More attention should be given to the detection of additional canals (e.g. MB2) during root canal treatment of maxillary first molars. CBCT scanning is an effective method for studying dental morphology

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R002

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A study of anatomic patterns of root canals in mandibular anterior teeth using cone-beam computed tomographic imaging

Aim To investigate various anatomic configurations of root canals in mandibular anterior teeth using cone-beam computed tomographic (CBCT) imaging.

Methodology A total of 376 CBCT images of mandibular anterior teeth were collected from 69 patients who accepted CBCT examinations as part of their dental diagnosis. Axial, sagittal, and cross-sectional slices with a thickness of 0.2 mm were used. The following parameters were recorded and evaluated: tooth position, root number, canal number, and root canal configuration. The number of root canals and internal patterns were classified according to Vertucci's criteria. Data were analysed using the Mann-Whitney U test. Differences were considered significant at $P < 0.05$.

Results All of the incisors in this study had 1 root, and 7.69% of the canines had 2 roots. Two canals were more frequent in the central and lateral incisors (37.6% and 38.89%, respectively). The largest proportion of central (60.80%) and lateral (58.73%) incisors, and canines (83.46%) had type I root canal configurations. Type III was found in 23.20%, 23.02% and 4.72% of the central incisors, lateral incisors, and canines, respectively. The prevalence of the other configuration types was type V and II. Types IV, VI, VII, and 2-1-2-1 were also found with relatively less frequency. There were fewer variations in mandibular canines than in incisors.

Conclusions This study provides detailed information about the root canal morphology of mandibular anterior teeth. There was a high prevalence of 2 root canals in the mandibular incisors. In endodontic practice, clinicians should be aware of possible root canal anatomic differences.

R003

WITHDRAWN.

R004

C. Keskin* & A. Keleş

*Department of Endodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey***Quantitative evaluation of apical delta morphology in the mesial roots of mandibular first molar teeth: a micro-CT study****Aim** To analyze apical delta morphology quantitatively using micro-computed tomography (micro-CT) in the mesial roots of mandibular first molars.**Methodology** Two hundred and sixty-nine mesial roots of mandibular first molar teeth were scanned by micro-CT. Twenty-two specimens with apical delta ramifications were selected from reconstructed micro-CT images. The number and vertical extension of apical ramifications were recorded. Major diameter, minor diameter and roundness values in the most apical slices of apical delta ramifications and at the slice where ramifications merged to form the main canal were calculated. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.**Results** The incidence of apical deltas was 13.01%. The mean number of apical delta ramifications was 4.45 and the mean vertical extension was 0.95 mm. The majority of the apical delta ramifications had noncircular cross sectional shape.**Conclusions** Complex morphological properties of apical deltas might complicate the three-dimensional shaping and filling of root canal systems.**Acknowledgements** This study was supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey-TUBİTAK (grant no. 114S002). Authors deny any conflict of interest.**IMAGING****R005**C. Kruse¹, R. Spin-Neto¹, M. Væth² & L.-L. Kirkevang^{1,*}¹*Section of Oral Radiology, Department of Dentistry, Department of Dentistry & ²Section for Biostatistics, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark***Impact of cone beam computed tomography on diagnosis and treatment decision six to ten years after surgical endodontic retreatment****Aim** To evaluate how additional information from Cone Beam CT (CBCT) impacts the initial diagnosis and treatment plan based on clinical examination and periapical radiographs (PR) in cases followed-up six to ten years after surgical endodontic retreatment (SER).**Methodology** Patients receiving SER at the Department of Dentistry, Aarhus University, during 2004–2010 were re-called six to ten years after surgery. The follow-up examination included clinical and radiographic examination, including both PR and CBCT. In total 108 patients (119 teeth) were recalled, 74 patients (83 teeth) participated. Three observers (two endodontists, one radiologist) initially assessed PR according to Rud & Molven as: 1) completely, 2) incompletely, 3) uncertainly, or 4) unsatisfactory healed; 'Diagnosis A'. By including clinical information a treatment plan was made: 1) no treatment, 2) further observation, 3) new SER, or 4) extraction; 'Treatment plan A'. Hereafter the CBCT volume was evaluated dynamically and the information added for 'Diagnosis B' followed by 'Treatment plan B'. Agreement between diagnoses and between treatment plans were described and assessed statistically by test for marginal homogeneity (Stuart-Maxwell).**Results** Nine teeth, which had been extracted before the follow-up examination, were excluded; hence, 74 teeth (66 patients) were included in the final analysis. The diagnosis was changed in 38 cases (51.4%), of which 35 (47.3%) were to a higher Rud & Molven score, with a test for marginal homogeneity of $P < 0.001$. Treatment plan was changed in 17 cases (22.9%). In 14 cases (18.9%) the change was from no treatment necessary or further observation to recommendation of a more invasive treatment in form of either re-operation or extraction, with a test for marginal homogeneity of $P = 0.005$.**Conclusions** The use of CBCT in long-term follow-up examinations after SER leads to more cases diagnosed with persisting or recurrent apical periodontitis and hence to the recommendation of a more invasive treatment modality.**R006**

WITHDRAWN.

R007F.J. Mota de Almeida^{1,*}, L. Flygare², K. Knutsson³ & E. Wolf⁴¹*Tandvårdens Kompetenscentrum, Norrbotten County Council, Luleå,*²*Department of Radiation Sciences, Umeå University, Umeå,*³*Department of Oral-and-Maxillofacial Radiology, Malmö University,*⁴*Department of Endodontics, Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden***Circumstances behind the use of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) for endodontic reasons in Sweden from the perspective of the referring dentist****Aim** To study the circumstances preceding the CBCT examination referral for endodontic reasons in Sweden.**Methodology** Fourteen dentists (8 female) 33–58 years of age (mean =44), practicing in Sweden were strategically selected. Ten of the dentists were specialists in endodontics. The absolute inclusion criterion was experience of referring patients for CBCT for endodontic reasons. The included dentists provided a variation concerning gender, age, work experience, education background, location of practice, service affiliation and accessibility to CBCT. Data was obtained through thematic, semi-structured interviews exposing the context of their last self-reported three referrals. Dentists were encouraged to describe their experiences of the circumstances in their own words, aided by the interviewer's open-ended questions. The interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Qualitative content analysis was used to analyze the text.**Results** The preliminary results may indicate that high clinical diagnostic standards, clinical common sense and a willingness of helping the patient with minimal harm may restrict the use of CBCT to address complex diagnostic judgements or therapeutic decisions, which comply with existing European guidelines on the use of CBCT in endodontics. Knowledge of guidelines was however limited among the interviewed dentists.**Conclusions** Common sense and high professional standards seem to lead dentists in Sweden to comply with current European guidelines for the use of CBCT in endodontics even when the dentists lack knowledge of the guidelines.**Acknowledgements** This work is funded by the Norrbotten County Council.

R008

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Are clinically difficult-to-diagnose vertical root fractures detectable in CBCTs?

Aim To analyze extracted teeth with Vertical Root Fractures (VRF) that had been difficult to detect clinically.

Methodology Twenty five CBCT scans (4X4 cm FOV, voxel size: 125 µm) included intact and endodontically treated teeth with and without VRFs. All teeth with VRF required operative procedures and magnification to visualize the fracture before extraction. For exact quantification and localization of VRFs, microCTs (voxel-size: 27 µm) were performed. Three calibrated operators analyzed the CBCT scans and decided on the presence of VRFs. The diagnosed VRFs on CBCT images were compared with the corresponding planes in micro-CT images. The accuracy, sensitivity and specificity of CBCT were calculated in combination with the 95% confidence intervals (CI). In addition interoperator agreement was evaluated using the Pearson test.

Results Overall, 53% (CI 46–59%) of VRFs were not diagnosed. The sensitivity was 38% (CI 32–45%) and the specificity 68% (CI 55–78%). There were no significant differences between the operators ($P = 0.26$).

Conclusions CBCT scans (voxel size: 125 µm) were insufficient to accurately diagnose VRFs that were clinically diagnosed using operative procedures.

Acknowledgements The authors deny any conflicts of interest.

R009

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Pulp canal obliteration of anterior teeth: canal detection using various radiographic methods

Aim To determine the ability of CBCT to detect canals in teeth with pulpal obliteration compared to conventional periapical radiographs. A second aim was to determine root canal morphology and dimensions using µCT in anterior teeth.

Methodology Teeth were screened from a human tissue bank and 48 teeth with pulpal obliteration perceived on standard PA radiography were selected. Teeth were then scanned with µCT at 20 µm resolution. The data was reconstructed and dimensional analysis was performed in Materialise software. The use of a soft tissue phantom was developed to mimic beam attenuation and improve contrast using a material of similar radiographic density developed as a substitute for soft tissue. The teeth were scanned in a radiographic phantom using a Morita Accuitomo 170 as well as straight on and angled periapical views.

Results Canals were present in all teeth, however, selected samples with canals measuring >100 µm with µCT were not perceptible on conventional radiographs. Some samples showed no detectable canal at 20 µm in the coronal third of the root. CBCT results revealed varying effects of kV, mA, scan time and rotation on canal detection, as well as soft tissue factors, canal morphology and reconstruction algorithms.

Conclusions Contrary to previous research that a canal lumen is always present and is never less than 100 µm, some teeth had regions of the root with no canal detectable at 20 µm resolution.

Optimisation of CBCT to detect root canals is a complex interplay between spatial resolution, contrast and noise.

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MICROBIOLOGY**R010**

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Living oral bacteria detected on pathologically changed heart valves using molecular-microbiological techniques

Aim To detect living bacteria of oral origin on pathologically changed heart valves and thus show the importance of oral health status.

Methodology Patients with pathologically changed heart valves with the diagnosis of aortic stenosis were included. Patients with the diagnosis of infective endocarditis were excluded. Heart valves removed during cardiovascular surgery with heart valve replacement were transported in a container for microbiological examination. The tissue was cut into two parts and homogenized. One aliquot was cultivated aerobically and anaerobically. DNA from living bacteria was extracted using Ultra-Deep Microbiome Prep (Molzym GmbH, Bremen, Germany). 16SrRNA gene specific for bacteria was amplified by PCR using Mastermix 16S Complete kit (Molzym GmbH) and sequenced in positive samples. DNA sequences were interpreted by an experienced microbiologist by using BLAST software (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih/BLAST>).

Results Currently, twenty samples have been processed. Bacterial DNA was detected in 15 samples. The following bacteria were identified: *Propionibacterium acnes* ($n = 14$), *Staphylococcus* species ($n = 5$), *Streptococcus sanguinis* ($n = 3$), *Streptococcus oralis* ($n = 1$), *Streptococcus* species (species not identified based on poor sequence quality) ($n = 1$) and *Carnobacterium divergens* ($n = 1$). In 11 samples, more than one bacterium was found.

Conclusions Preliminary results reveal a significant appearance of living oral bacteria in pathologically changed heart valves. More samples will be analyzed to determine an influence of oral health on the health of heart valves in future.

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R011

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R012

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Morphological changes induced by *Streptococcus dentisani* in bacteria involved in endodontic infections

Aim To analyze the morphological changes produced by the action of *S. dentisani* supernatant on a selection of bacteria involved in root canal infections

Methodology A scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used to directly observe the effect of the *S. dentisani* supernatant on the cell surfaces of the following bacteria: *F. nucleatum*, *P. intermedia*, *E. corrodens*, *E. faecalis*, and *P. micra*. Briefly, 160 µL of the bacterial cultures in exponential phase (O.D.610 = 0.8–1) were mixed with 40 µL of the supernatants (assay concentration of 2X), and incubated for 60 min at 37°C. The suspension was centrifuged at 4000 rpm 10 min and the supernatant discarded. The pellets were fixed in Karnovsky solution, washed twice with PBS buffer and exposed to 1% osmium tetroxide in PBS buffer for 1 h. The samples were rinsed with PBS buffer and moved through a gradual process of dehydration, starting with 30% ethanol and ending with absolute ethanol. Finally, the samples were mounted on scanning electron micrograph stubs, sputter coated with gold, and viewed on a Hitachi S-4800 scanning electron microscope.

Results SEM images showed that exposure of the bacteria to the supernatant of *S. dentisani* induced structural changes in the membrane. *F. nucleatum* suffered a dramatic lysis and even the release of cellular contents was observed. *P. intermedia* showed small vesicles in the surface and disruption of the cellular wall. *E. corrodens* showed agglutination of their cells. The cell membrane of *E. faecalis* was unstructured, acquiring a sticky appearance. Finally, as expected from previous inhibition assays, no structural change was observed in *P. micra*.

Conclusions *S. dentisani* supernatant induced morphological changes in the cellular wall of the majority of evaluated bacteria, consistent with the action mode of antimicrobial peptides.

R013

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Prevalence, antibiotic susceptibility and antibiotic resistance genes of *Enterococcus faecalis* isolated from secondary endodontic infections

Aim To isolate *Enterococcus faecalis* from secondary endodontic infections and determine the antibiotic susceptibility of the bacteria in addition to the presence of antibiotic resistance genes.

Methodology Under sterile conditions, clinical samples were obtained from 51 patients undergoing nonsurgical root canal retreatment of teeth with persistent periapical lesions. Isolates that were identified as *E. faecalis* by cultivation-based 16SrRNA sequencing were further analyzed for antibiotic susceptibility to the commonly used antibiotics in dental practice using E-test method. The antibiotics were penicillin G, amoxicillin, co-amoxiclav, tetracycline, and erythromycin. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used to distinguish the presence of some genes encoding resistance to antibiotics (blaTem, TetM, tetW, cfxA, and ermC).

Results Of the 51 teeth included, one case was excluded because of contamination of the tooth crown as revealed by sterility controls. Out of 50 root canal specimens, 5 isolates were identified as *E. faecalis* (10%). All isolates were sensitive to penicillin G, amoxicillin and co-amoxiclav. Only one isolate was resistant to tetracycline and erythromycin. Four isolates showed intermediate resistance to erythromycin. All samples of *E. faecalis* harbored tetracycline resistance genes (tetM and tetW). The genes encoding beta-lactamase, blaTem and cfxA, were detected in 100% and 40% of isolates, respectively. The ermC gene, responsible for resistance to erythromycin, was not detected in any isolate.

Conclusions The prevalence of *E. faecalis* was low in secondary endodontic infections. The results of this study indicated that despite antimicrobial susceptibility of *E. faecalis* strains to most tested antimicrobial agents, antibiotic resistance genes are frequent in this bacterium which may increase the potential threat of its antibiotic resistance in the future.

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R014

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Biofilm model systems for root canal disinfection: a literature review

Aim To present an overview of *in vitro* root canal biofilm model systems described in the literature, and to discuss their advantages and drawbacks.

Methodology The electronic databases MEDLINE, Web of Science and EMBASE were searched up to and including August 2016, using the following MeSH terms in various combinations: biofilm, root canal, *in vitro*, root canal infection model, sessile bacteria, attached bacteria. Growth of the biofilm within a root canal configuration and sampling of the biofilm inside the canal were important inclusion criteria. The following data were extracted from the identified studies: bacterial composition, substrate, growth conditions, validation and quantification of the biofilm.

Results A total of eighty studies were included. A biofilm was grown on human dentine as substratum in 89% of the studies. Only six studies utilized bovine teeth and in three reports the model consisted of non-biological, synthetic material. In the majority (86%) of the publications, a mono-species biofilm was cultured. In two studies a dual-species was grown; others cultivated a multispecies biofilm, containing at least three species. *Enterococcus faecalis* was the most frequent test species (in 86% of all studies, 91% of the mono-species studies). Four studies used an inoculum derived directly from the oral cavity. Incubation times differed considerably, ranging from one to seventy days. Root canal samples were taken using paper points (62%), by collecting dentine shavings (38%) or rinsing fluid (11%). The most common quantification method (in 82% of the studies) was bacterial culturing. Microscopy techniques, such as SEM and CLSM, were rather used to confirm the presence of a biofilm.

Conclusions The variation in *in vitro* root canal biofilm model systems is notable. Because of substantial variation in experimental parameters including species, incubation time, quantification method, it is difficult to compare results between studies. More so, a consensus on a standardized endodontic biofilm model is advisable.

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R015

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R016

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R017A. Logani^{1,*}, S. Ranjit¹ & T.S. Roy²¹Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, CDER, All India Institute Of Medical Sciences & ²Department of Anatomy, All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India**Association between the radiographic size of a periapical lesion and bacterial invasion of apical dentine in teeth with asymptomatic apical periodontitis****Aim** To investigate the association of the radiographic size of a periapical lesion with the penetration depth and the degree of invasion of bacteria into apical dentinal tubules of teeth with asymptomatic apical periodontitis**Methodology** Ethical clearance was obtained. Eighty six non vital, non restorable mandibular/ maxillary anterior teeth of subjects between the age group of 18–35 years with radiographic evidence of periapical pathosis were extracted and decalcified. Based on the radiographic size of the periapical lesion (less than 5 mm and between 5–10 mm) the experimental teeth were divided into Group A ($n = 43$) and Group B ($n = 43$) respectively. A control, Group C ($n = 10$) comprised of disease free mandibular premolars that were intended for extraction as a part of an orthodontic treatment plan. Standard histo-technical procedures were performed. Four transverse sections (5–7 μm) were obtained 1 and 3 mm from the root apex. Each section was stained with Brown and Brenn stain and observed under light microscope at 400x magnification. A high resolution photograph was taken. The depth of bacterial penetration was measured using Image J basics (version 1.38). Extent of invasion was expressed as tubule invasion index (TI). Data was subjected to parametric Independent 'T' test. Level of significance was fixed at 5% and P -value was predetermined at 0.05.**Results** The mean depth of bacterial penetration in group A and B was 171.9 and 145.3 μm respectively. No significant difference ($P = 0.107$) was observed. Both the groups predominantly exhibited a TI score in the range of 0.5–1, indicating mild invasion ($P = 0.471$).**Conclusions** No direct association could be established between the radiographic size of a periapical lesion and bacterial invasion of apical dentine in teeth with asymptomatic apical periodontitis. Hence it can be postulated that apical preparation, three times larger than the initial binding file would be sufficient for periapical healing of lesions of endodontic origin irrespective of their size.**R018**F. Khaled^{1,*}, R.S. Abiad¹, K. Abed Galil² & E. Osman³¹Division of Endodontics, Department of Restorative Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, ²Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmacy & ³Department of Restorative Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, Beirut Arab University, Beirut, Lebanon**Incidence of *Enterococcus faecalis* isolates in endodontic retreatments of teeth with apical periodontitis: *in vivo* study****Aim** To detect the incidence of the microbial strains of *Enterococcus faecalis* isolates in selected clinical cases of failed root canal treatment with apical periodontitis.**Methodology** Completely formed single rooted human mandibular first or second premolars ($n = 42$) requiring root canal retreatments were chosen. Following isolation of the experimental tooth with a rubber dam, the field was disinfected with 30% H₂O₂ and then 5% tincture of Iodine, followed by 2.625% NaOCl. Caries and or existing restorations if present was removed, and then the disinfection sequence was repeated, making sure that the fluids did not seep into the chamber. The pulp chamber was then accessed with a new sterile bur. Removal of previous root fillings was achieved using sterile Protaper Universal instruments for retreatment (Protaper D, Dentsply Sirona, Ballaigues, Switzerland). After working length determination, a sterile K-file size 20 (Dentsply Sirona) was placed 1 mm shorter than working length and pumped 5 times with minimal reaming action to accumulate dentine shavings and intra canal debris. Then three successive paper points (size 20) were placed in the canal to the full working length for 2 min. The file and the three successive sterile paper points were immediately transferred to a vial containing 1 mL of Liquid Dental Transport (LDT). All samples were transported and processed in the microbiology lab within 2 h of sample collection. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis was performed to identify the existence of *Enterococcus faecalis*. Two genes were used in this PCR analysis (Universal 16 S rDNA, and *Enterococcus faecalis*).**Results** Seventeen cases out of 42 sampled (40.47%) revealed the presence of the microbial strain of *Enterococcus faecalis* isolates.**Conclusions** *E. faecalis* was involved in a very high percentage of failed root canal treatments. Efforts for eradication of this species from the root canal should be made in attempt to improve treatment results in endodontics.**R019**

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Analysis of bacterial content of asymptomatic and symptomatic endodontic infections and susceptibility of specific bacteria to antimicrobial agents**Aim** (a) To study the microbiota of 3 specific sites: (1) root canals of necrotic teeth with symptomatology; (2) abscesses associated with such canals; and (3) root canals of necrotic but asymptomatic teeth; (b) to correlate the clinical findings with the microbial data; and (c) to determine the antimicrobial susceptibility of anaerobic black-pigmented bacteria (BPB) against the antimicrobials most frequently used in dental clinics**Methodology** Patients in need of endodontic intervention due to the presence of necrotic pulps, with or without symptoms were

selected. Microbiological samples were collected from 20 root canals (10 symptomatic and 10 asymptomatic) and the associated periapical abscesses ($n = 10$). Part of the samples had the DNA extracted and subjected to the checkerboard technique using probes for 40 different bacterial species. Another part was diluted, plated and incubated for isolation BPB, whose colonies were further identified by genetic sequencing. The antimicrobial susceptibility of BPB was determined by the E-test method using the following antibiotics: benzylpenicillin, amoxicillin, amoxicillin + clavulanic acid, erythromycin, azithromycin, clindamycin and metronidazole. Data were tabulated and statistical analysis was performed using SPSS for Windows software. Pearson's Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test, when appropriate, was used to test the null hypothesis that there is no association between clinical signs and symptoms and the presence of a particular bacterium and between specific bacteria.

Results The microbiota present in the 3 sites investigated were predominantly composed of anaerobic Gram-negative rods in positive and negative associations. There was no significant difference in the association between bacterial species and clinical features in all groups ($P > 0.05$). Amoxicillin+ clavulanic acid, metronidazole, amoxicillin and clindamycin were the most effective antibiotics, while azithromycin was the least.

Conclusions The microbiota of the 3 sites investigated revealed a wide diversity of species, presenting positive and negative associations. Most of the BPB revealed some resistance to all antimicrobial agents tested.

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R020

WITHDRAWN.

R021

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Gene expression of adhesion factors and biofilm formation by *Fusobacterium nucleatum* strains isolated from root canals

Aim To investigate several adhesion factors of *F. nucleatum*, one of the main species found in root canals, and correlate it with its structural behaviour in biofilms, by means of real time PCR and confocal microscope (CLSM) volumetry.

Methodology Four clinical isolates of *F. nucleatum* were collected from patients, isolated and cultivated in anaerobic chambers, identified and stored. ATCC strain and isolates were cultivated in planktonic and biofilm forms and their RNA purification and transcription to cDNA done. Real-time PCRs of genes FomA (adhesion to other Gram-negative species) and RadD (adhesion to Gram-positive) were performed. Seven-day biofilms produced from the strains were also evaluated by CLSM, comparing their total volume by the software BioimageL v2-1. The percentage of life and dead bacteria was also measured, by means of emitted fluorescence from the Life & Dead dye at the biofilms. Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn were performed for statistical analysis.

Results The expressions of both adhesion genes were similar between each other. When in a planktonic form, the ATCC strain expressed these genes more than isolates. When in a biofilm form, the strain number 12 expressed the genes more than strains 13 and 20. The most voluminous biofilm was produced by the ATCC strain.

Conclusions The gene expressions varied when the strain was a clinical isolate, compared to the ATCC strain. When cultivated in a planktonic form, the ATCC produced more transcripts and when in a biofilm form, strain number 12 expressed more genes when compared to other strains. The ATCC strain produced the biggest one-species biofilm. The supposition is that *F. nucleatum* needs more interactions with other species *in vivo* and it is probably why the isolates required associations and produced smaller biofilms when in a pure culture.

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R022

WITHDRAWN.

R023

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TREATMENT PLANNING

R024

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Management of deep carious lesions and carious pulpal exposures in adults: a questionnaire study among dentists in Finland

Aim To find out which treatment methods are preferred by dentists in Finland when managing a deep carious lesion or a carious pulpal exposure in an adult patient.

Methodology An electronic questionnaire was sent to 1000 dentists (22% of dentists in Finland) who were randomly sampled from the register of the Finnish Dental Association, 323 (32%) responded. The participants were asked to indicate their preferred treatment method for two clinical cases: i) a deep carious lesion in a permanent molar and ii) a carious exposure in the same tooth. Both cases had three scenarios: asymptomatic, or symptoms referring to either reversible or irreversible pulpitis. Binary multivariable logistic regression analysis was used to study the background characteristics of the respondents related to the treatment preferences.

Results Less invasive excavation strategies (stepwise excavation or indirect pulp capping) were preferred by 64.1% for an asymptomatic deep carious lesion, while 34.4% opted for total caries excavation. In the presence of an asymptomatic carious exposure vital pulp therapy was chosen by 70.5% and root canal treatment by 26.4%. Mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) was chosen as a material for direct pulp capping (DPC) by 39.0% while calcium hydroxide-based materials were preferred by 40.3%. The preference of less invasive treatment strategies for a deep carious lesion

was significantly associated with working at the public versus private sector (odds ratio (OR) 2.7, confidence interval (CI) 1.6–4.7) and having clinical guidelines at the practice versus no guidelines (OR 3.5, CI 1.4–8.8). Graduation in year 1986 or after favoured the use of MTA for DPC over other materials (OR 4.5, CI 1.9–10.5), as did graduation from the University of Helsinki or Turku versus other universities (OR 2.9, CI 1.4–6.2).

Conclusions Less invasive treatment strategies have been adopted into the clinical practice by the majority of Finnish dentists.

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IRRIGANTS/DISINFECTION: MATERIALS

R025

WITHDRAWN.

R026

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Effect of contemporary irrigants on microhardness of various perforation repair materials

Aim To evaluate the effect of contemporary endodontic irrigants on microhardness of various perforation repair materials.

Methodology Thirty discs of each material were made in Teflon moulds as follows; group 1: Biodentine (Septodont), group 2: Freedom Compomer (Freedom, SDI) group 3: Amalgam (Cavex Avalloy), group 4: IRM (Dentsply), group 5: SDR (Dentsply) and polished with #1000–2000 grit abrasive papers to create flat surfaces. Baseline microhardness values were obtained from the surfaces using Vickers microhardness tester (Matsuzawa) and specimens were then divided into 3 subgroups and either immersed in 2.5% NaOCl (Çağlayan Kimya, Konya), 2% CHX (Klorhex, Drogan) or saline solution for 15 min after the materials had set. All indentations were made with 50 g loading for 20 s contact time after 12 h. After 7 days, specimens were again immersed into solutions for 15 min and indented for surface microhardness again. Paired t-tests were used to evaluate the differences within the groups towards the baseline values ($\alpha=0.05$).

Results No significant reduction was detected in the microhardness of Biodentine, Freedom Compomer, IRM and SDR materials when various irrigants were applied to these materials ($P > 0.05$). Amalgam demonstrated a significant reduction in microhardness when exposed to sodium hypochlorite solution for 15 min after 12 h setting ($P = 0.025$). IRM cement was associated with a significant reduction in surface microhardness when exposed to serum solution after 12 h setting ($P = 0.042$).

Conclusions Biodentine, Compomer, IRM cement and SDR might be better perforation repair materials when compared with amalgam as they were less vulnerable to endodontic irrigants that might affect their microhardness.

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R027

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A new method for mineral content analysis of root canal dentine

Aim To introduce a new method for assessing mineral content of root canal dentine *ex vivo* and to compare the effects of irrigation solutions on the mineral content change of root canal dentine with a well-established standard method.

Methodology Forty single-rooted extracted human teeth with a single root canal were decoronated and sectioned longitudinally to expose the root canals. The root halves were placed in an ultrasonic bath containing distilled water for 10 min and divided into four groups by allocating each root half belonging to the same root to the same group ($n = 20$). Twenty root halves served as the control group and did not receive any further treatment. The remaining root halves were then immersed in solutions as follows; Group 1: 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) for 1 h, Group 2: 17% ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) for 2 min, Group 3: 5.25% NaOCl for 1 h and 17% EDTA for 2 min. Final irrigation was performed with 5 mL of distilled water. Each root half belonging to the same root was evaluated for mineral content (Ca, P, Mg, Na) with either laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) or scanning electron microscopy/energy dispersive spectroscopy (SEM/EDS) method. The mineral content change between the groups for each method was analysed with one-way analysis of variance and the correlation between the methods was statistically analysed using Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Results In groups 1 and 3, the Ca level decreased while the Na level increased compared with the other groups ($P < 0.05$). The P level was significantly higher in group 1 than group 2 ($P < 0.05$). The Mg level changes were not significantly different among the groups ($P > 0.05$). A significant positive correlation was found between the results of LIBS and SEM/EDS analyses ($r = 0.84$, $P < 0.001$).

Conclusions The irrigants altered the mineral level of root canal dentine. The LIBS method proved to be reliable while providing data for the elemental composition of root canal dentine.

R028

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The effect of sodium hypochlorite and EDTA on the push-out bond strength of Mineral Trioxide Aggregate

Aim To evaluate the effect of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) and EDTA on the push-out bond strength of Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA).

Methodology One millimetre thick dentine slices of maxillary anterior teeth were prepared using a size 5 Gates-Glidden bur to obtain standardised cavities 1.3-mm in diameter. ProRoot MTA was placed inside the root slices ($n = 30$) and allowed to set for 10 min at 37°C with 100% humidity. Then the specimens were randomly allocated into 2 groups ($n = 10$) according to the irrigation solution applied. The specimens were immersed either in NaOCl (5.25%) or EDTA (17%) for 30 min. All samples were then rinsed with distilled water. No immersion was applied for the control group. A wet cotton pellet was placed on each specimen and the specimens were incubated for 48 h. The push-out bond strength

was evaluated using a universal testing machine. Data were analysed by Kruskal-Wallis test at a significance level of $P < 0.05$.

Results No significant difference was recorded between groups ($P > 0.05$). The lowest push out bond strength value was recorded in the EDTA group (10.34 MPa). The mean push-out bond strength of NaOCl and control groups was 11.37 MPa and 16.95 MPa, respectively.

Conclusions The solutions did not affect the push-out bond strength of ProRoot MTA. The results suggest that the clinicians may irrigate canals with NaOCl and EDTA following a repair using MTA without causing a significant effect on the material's push-out bond strength.

R029

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Structural effects of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite and 13.8% chlorine dioxide solutions on gutta-percha cones: an atomic force microscopy study

Aim To investigate with atomic force microscopy the effects of 5.25% NaOCl and 13.8% ClO₂ on the surface properties of gutta-percha cones.

Methodology Standardized gutta-percha cones (size 60) were cut 3 mm from their tip and immersed in the solutions (5.25% NaOCl and 13.8% ClO₂) at 1, 5, 10, 20, 30 min time intervals. Then, each cone was attached to a glass base with a double-sided tape. Analysis of the surface topography was performed on three different points located between 1 and 2 mm from the tip using an atomic force microscope. One cone without any treatment was used as a control. AFM images of gutta-percha samples were recorded in the semicontact mode operation on a NT-MDT Ntegra Solaris Atomic Force Microscope under ambient condition. The root mean square (RMS) parameters for semicontact mode imaging were measured. The differences between root mean square values were tested by two-way ANOVA and Tukey HSD.

Results According to the RMS values obtained from AFM evaluation, there was no significant difference between the mean RMS values of gutta-percha cones treated with both 5.25% NaOCl and 13.8% ClO₂ from the control at time intervals of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 30 min ($P > 0.05$). In addition, no significant change was observed in the both 5.25% NaOCl and 13.8% ClO₂ when compared to the control ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusions Both 5.25% NaOCl and 13.8% ClO₂ solutions did not produce changes to the gutta-percha structure following up to 30 min exposure. Both solutions might be safely used for disinfection of gutta-percha cones.

IRRIGANTS/DISINFECTION: ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY

R030

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Antimicrobial efficacy of silver nanoparticles with and without different antimicrobial agents against *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans*: *ex vivo* study

Aim To assess the *ex vivo* antimicrobial efficacy of silver nanoparticles with and without different antimicrobials against *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans*.

Methodology A total of 252 recently extracted single-rooted human teeth were contaminated with *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans*. The teeth were randomly divided into 5 experimental ($n = 21$) and 1 control group ($n = 21$). Each subgroup was then exposed to different antimicrobials namely Calcium hydroxide (group 1), 2% Chlorhexidine (CHX) (group 2), Silver nanoparticles (SNP) (group 3), SNP with Ca(OH)₂ (group 4), SNP with 2% CHX (group 5) and saline as a control group (group 6). Cultures were made from each group after 24 h, 7 days and 14 days and colony forming units were counted. The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare the study parameters among the groups at 24 h, 7 days and 14 days.

Results A significant difference was found in the antimicrobial efficacy of different intracanal medicaments against *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans* after 24 h, 7 days and 14 days. 2% CHX was found to be most effective medicament at 24 h, 7 days and 14 days against *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans*. Combination of SNP with 2% CHX and Ca(OH)₂ and SNP alone ranked second in their antimicrobial efficacy against *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans* at 24 h, 7 days and 14 days respectively.

Conclusions 2% CHX was more effective as an intracanal medicament against *E. faecalis* and *Candida albicans* biofilm in both short and long term duration, i.e. at 24 h, 7 days and 14 days.

R031

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Effectiveness of HICA and alpha-mangostin against endodontopathogenic microorganisms in a multi-species bacterial-fungal biofilm model

Aim To determine the activity of HICA and alpha-mangostin on preformed bacterial-fungal multi-species biofilms *in vitro*, and to ascertain their impact on biofilm structure.

Methodology Minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs) for HICA and alpha-mangostin against planktonic *Candida albicans*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, and *Streptococcus gordonii* were determined using a standard microdilution method. Single and multi-species (all species 1:1:1:1) biofilms were grown on polystyrene coverslips in RPMI for 48 h. The biofilms were then exposed to 5% HICA or 0.2% alpha-mangostin for 24 h. These concentrations were selected based on pilot experiments

and solubility of these compounds. 2% CHX and 2.5% NaOCl were used as positive controls and RPMI as the negative control. The metabolic activity of the biofilms after exposure was measured using XTT assay, and the biofilms were visualised using fluorescent BacLight[®] LIVE/DEAD staining.

Results 50 mg/mL of HICA was cidal against planktonic bacteria and *Candida*. 0.008 mg/mL of alpha-mangostin was cidal against planktonic bacteria and 1 mg/mL for *Candida*. Both HICA and alpha-mangostin were most active against *L. rhamnosus* biofilms (98% and 99% inhibition of metabolism, respectively) and least active against *Candida* biofilms (42% and 78% inhibition, respectively). Alpha-mangostin demonstrated better activity against multi-species biofilms than HICA (93% inhibition versus 46% inhibition). NaOCl inhibited the metabolic activity of single and multi-species biofilms by at least 98%. HICA and alpha-mangostin exposure reduced the number of cells in the *C. albicans* biofilms and no hyphae were observed. Exposure to HICA or alpha-mangostin reduced the number of viable cells in the biofilms as assessed by the BacLight[®] LIVE/DEAD staining.

Conclusions Both HICA and alpha-mangostin effectively inhibited the metabolic activity of bacterial-fungal biofilms. The anti-biofilm activity of alpha-mangostin was comparable to that of highly active but toxic NaOCl and thus has potential as a novel agent for endodontic therapy. HICA was less active against the biofilms than alpha-mangostin but due to its high biocompatibility it has potential in the treatment of fractured roots or perforated root canals.

R032

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Effect of chemomechanical preparation on bacterial, LPS and LTA levels in combined endo-periodontal sites

Aim To investigate the levels of cultivable bacteria, endotoxins (LPS) and lipoteichoic acid (LTA) from teeth with combined endodontic- periodontal lesions (EPL), comparing both sites: root canal (RC) and their associated periodontal pockets (PP), before (s1) and after (s2) chemomechanical preparation (CMP) using 2% chlorhexidine (CHX).

Methodology Clinical samples were taken from 10 root canals with pulpal necrosis and apical periodontitis and their associated periodontal pockets (PP): before (S1) and after CMP (S2) ($n = 10$, RC/PP). Measurements were performed for bacterial count [colony-forming units (CFU)/mL], and for quantification of LPS (Turbidimetric Limulus Amebocyte Lysate assay) and LTA (Human Lipoteichoic Acid ELISA kit) levels. Paired t-test and repeated measures (ANOVA) were performed for statistical analysis ($P < 0.05$).

Results At s1, bacteria were isolated in 10/10 of the sites investigated (RC: 3.75x10³; PP: 3.99x10⁷ CFU/mL). *Prevotella*, *Gemella*, *Streptococcus*, and *Fusobacterium* were frequently detected in RC, while *Gemella*, *Parvimonas*, *Fusobacterium*, *Porphyromonas* and *Streptococcus* in PP. LPS were 5.5 times higher in PP (148.85 EU/mL) compared to the RC (27.08 EU/mL). LTA was detected in 10/10 samples (RC: 333.38; PP: 386.26 pg/mL). At s2, a significant decrease was found in the RC for: cultivable bacteria (99.4%) and LPS (96.57%), except for LTA (45.14%). In PP: lower percentage reduction was found for cultivable bacteria (31.07%); LPS (45.62%), and LTA (8.16%).

Conclusions A similarity was found between the microbial communities in combined EPL. CMP with 2% CHX was effective in

reducing the microbial load and the LPS levels, however, only a small reduction on the LTA levels was found in the RC and PP.

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IRRIGANTS/DISINFECTION: CANAL CLEANING

R033

WITHDRAWN.

R034

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Removal of calcium hydroxide paste from root canals using four different irrigation techniques

Aim To compare the removal of calcium hydroxide from straight root canals using four different root canal irrigation techniques (EDDY, passive ultrasonic irrigation (PUI), Endo Activator and syringe irrigation).

Methodology The root canals of seventy human single-rooted teeth were enlarged to size 40, .04 taper using Mtwo rotary NiTi instruments. Each tooth was split longitudinally and two standardized grooves were prepared in the apical and in the coronal part of each specimen. Grooves were filled with Ca(OH)₂, photographed and the root halves were reassembled. The root canals were also filled with Ca(OH)₂ and radiographs were taken to confirm the quality of the filling. All teeth were randomly divided into 4 groups ($n = 15$): I. EndoActivator, II. PUI, III. EDDY, IV. syringe irrigation. Group V ($n = 10$) served as positive control (no irrigation). Irrigation was performed for 3x20 s with 2 mL irrigant applied 2 mm short of working length. Final irrigation was performed with 2 mL de-ionised water. Cleanliness of root canal halves was evaluated using reflecting microscopy with a 4-grade scoring system. Kappa values were calculated for intra- and inter-observer agreement. Statistical analysis was performed with the Kruskal-Wallis test and the Mann-Whitney-U test ($P < 0.05$).

Results None of the tested methods could clean the grooves completely. There were no significant differences between coronal and apical grooves ($P = 0.190$). Syringe irrigation and Endo Activator performed equal ($P = 0.186$) with no significant difference to the control group ($P = 0.643$), ($P = 0.171$). PUI and EDDY removed significantly more Ca(OH)₂ than syringe irrigation and Endo Activator ($P < 0.001$), with no difference between them ($P = 0.464$).

Conclusions EDDY and PUI were more effective in removing Ca (OH)₂ from coronal and apical grooves within root canals than syringe irrigation and Endo Activator.

R035

F. Haupt*, M. Meinel & M. Hülsmann

*Department of Preventive Dentistry, Periodontology and Cardiology, University Medical Center Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany***Efficacy of sonic and ultrasonic activated irrigation on debris and smear layer removal in curved root canals****Aim** To evaluate the efficacy of four different irrigation techniques on removal of debris and smear layer.**Methodology** Ninety extracted human mandibular molars with an angle of curvature between 20° and 40° were shortened to a length of 19 mm, resulting in a working length of the mesiobuccal root canal of 18 mm. The teeth were embedded in clear casting resin using a muffle system and were randomly divided into 5 groups: Syringe irrigation (SI, $n = 20$), EndoActivator (EA, $n = 20$), passive ultrasonic irrigation (PUI, $n = 20$), EDDY ($n = 20$), negative control (CO, $n = 10$). Root canals were accessed and prepared with BioRaCe instruments to size 40, .04 taper (FKG Dentaire, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland). After each file, irrigation was performed according to the respective irrigation technique with a total volume of 8 mL NaOCl (3%). Subsequently, final irrigation was carried out with 6 mL NaOCl with 3 x 20 s activation time with the corresponding technique. Teeth were split longitudinally and canal walls were subjected to scanning electron microscopy. The presence of debris and smear layer at coronal and apical levels was evaluated using a 5-point scoring system.**Results** Irrespective of the region, cleanliness of the root canal was significantly superior for activation with EA, PUI and EDDY compared to the control ($P < 0.05$). Regarding the coronal region, there were no significant differences between the groups for both smear layer and debris removal. In the apical half, significant differences were detected. Compared to the control, EA removed significantly more debris and PUI significantly more smear layer.**Conclusions** None of the activation methods resulted in complete removal of debris and smear layer. Nevertheless, EA, PUI and EDDY were associated with significantly better results than the control.**Acknowledgements** Acknowledgments: The study was supported by a grant from VDW.**R036**C. Mayordomo Sánchez*, J. Martín Peral, J.J. Pérez-Higueras Sánchez-Escalonilla, E. Reboloso de Barrio & E. García Barbero
*Conservative Dentistry, Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain***Analysis of irrigant penetration in lateral canals in a semi-closed environment****Aim** To determine the penetration capacity of irrigant solutions in lateral canals when using different activation systems.**Methodology** Sixty transparent artificial maxillary molars were used whose design includes a lateral canal in the apical third of the palatal root. In all samples the palatal canal was instrumented to a working length of 21 mm using ProTaper Next system up to the X4 file and subsequently the lateral canal were permeabilized with a size 10 K-file. Teeth were immersed in a clear vessel filled with 0.2% agarose gel to create a semi-closed environment. Later, teeth were randomly divided into 4 groups ($n = 15$) according to the irrigation method: LVN group (closed-ended, lateral vent needle 2 mm from working length), EA group (sonic activation with EndoActivator), EV group (negative apical pressure with EndoVac) and PUI group (passive ultrasonic

irrigation with Irrisafe 25.00). After the application of different irrigation protocols (using 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with Indian ink as irrigant), standardized photographs were taken and the percentage of the lateral canal filled by the irrigant solution was measured using ImageJ software. The results were analyzed statistically using the Kruskal Wallis test.

Results Percentages of irrigant penetration in lateral canals were: 63.5% for the LVN group, 66.3% for the EA, 36.1% for the EV and 92.3% for the PUI. Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were observed between the EV and PUI groups.**Conclusions** PUI had greater penetration in lateral canals than EV.**R037**

A. Ismail

*Department of Operative Dentistry and Periodontology, University of Mainz, Mainz, Germany***Effectiveness of different activation systems to remove dentine debris from simulated grooves and depressions within root canal walls****Aim** To evaluate *ex vivo* the effectiveness of several activation systems to remove debris and smear layer from simulated irregularities in prepared root canal walls.**Methodology** Straight root canals of 48 fresh extracted central and lateral maxillary incisors were prepared to size 40, .06 taper and split longitudinally into 2 halves. Thereafter, simulated irregularities (grooves and depressions) were prepared and filled with dentine debris mix as described by Lee *et al.* 2004 and photographs were taken. After reassembling the 2 halves, samples were divided into 4 groups ($n = 12$). Group A: manual irrigation with 3% NaOCl, group B: passive ultrasonic activation (PUI) and irrigation with 3% NaOCl, group C: EndoActivator (Dentsply Sirona, Ballaigues, Switzerland) and irrigation with 3% NaOCl, group D: sonic activation system EDDY (VDW, Munich, Germany) and irrigation with 3% NaOCl. Thereafter, postoperative images from the root canal walls were taken under the microscope. Grooves and depressions were evaluated using a scoring system between 0–3. Data analysis was performed using Mann-Whitney U-test.**Results** All additional activation systems reduced significantly the debris score in comparison to manual irrigation. However, EDDY and PUI had the greatest effect and both were significantly more effective than EndoActivator ($P = 0.01$).**Conclusions** Activation with EDDY and PUI had the greatest effect in removal of dentine debris in comparison to manual irrigation and EndoActivator.**R038**B. Mattos, A.T.G. Cruz, L. Piasecki, E. Carneiro,
V.P.D. Westphalen, L.F. Fariniuk & U.X. Silva Neto*
*Department of Endodontics, Pontifical Catholic University of Parana, Curitiba, Brazil***Effect of different final irrigation protocols on hard tissue debris removal****Aim** To compare *ex vivo* the hard-tissue debris removal of four final irrigation systems using micro-computed tomography.**Methodology** Forty mesial roots of mandibular molar with isthmus connecting the mesiobuccal and mesiolingual canals were used. The specimens were scanned in a micro-CT scanner (SkyScan 1172; Bruker micro-CT, Kontich, Belgian) before and after root canal instrumentation and after final irrigation at a resolution of 12.89 μm . The root canals were prepared with Wave One Gold primary instruments (Dentsply Sirona) and divided into four

groups ($n = 10$) according to the final irrigation system used: passive ultrasonic irrigation, EndoActivator (Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties, Tulsa, OK, USA), EasyClean (Easy Equipamentos Odontológicos, Belo Horizonte, Brazil) and XP Endo Finisher (FKG Dentaire, La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland). The final irrigation procedures were performed as followed: 2 mL of 5% NaOCl in continuous flow were activated by each device for 1 min per canal. The same procedure was repeated with 17% EDTA. The mean percentage reduction of accumulated hard-tissue debris was compared statistically, using one-way ANOVA and post hoc Tukey tests with a significance level set at 5%.

Results XP Endo finisher had higher mean scores (72.74%) for debris removal although, there were no differences among groups, except when XP Endo Finisher and EasyClean were compared ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions All systems produced some hard-tissue debris reduction. XP Endo Finisher was better than EasyClean for this purpose.

R039

WITHDRAWN.

R040

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Effect of several laser systems on removal of smear layer with a variety of irrigant solutions

Aim To evaluate which laser system is more effective on smear layer removal when distilled water or combination of NaOCl and EDTA are used as irrigants.

Methodology Ninety six human mandibular premolar teeth were used. Standard access cavities were prepared and the root canals enlarged using the ProTaper system (Dentsply Sirona, Ballaigues, Switzerland) to size F4 and divided into two equal groups ($n = 48$) according to final irrigation solution. In group 1, distilled water was used, whilst 2.5% NaOCl and 17% EDTA solutions were used in group 2. Each group was divided into four equal subgroups according to the activation procedure. In subgroups 1A (Control) and 2A, no activation protocol was applied. In other subgroups, Er:YAG laser using photon-induced photoacoustic streaming (PIPS) (subgroups 1B and 2B), Nd:YAG laser (subgroups 1C and 2C) and Er,Cr:YSGG laser (subgroups 1D and 2D) were applied for the activation of the irrigant. Teeth were split longitudinally and subjected to scanning electron microscope evaluation. The amount of remaining smear layer was scored from images at 1000x magnification in the coronal, middle, and apical thirds. The data were analysed statistically using Kruskal–Wallis and Mann–Whitney U-test post hoc comparisons.

Results The samples irrigated with distilled water had greater smear layer scores when compared with the combination of NaOCl and EDTA ($P < 0.01$). The efficacy of smear layer removal increased when using laser systems ($P < 0.001$). Smear layer was removed more effectively in the coronal and middle levels compared to the apical level ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusions Regardless of the type of irrigant, the use of laser systems enhance smear layer removal. In addition, irrigating root canals with a combination of NaOCl and EDTA was a more efficient when either Er:YAG with PIPSTM, Nd:YAG and Er,Cr:YSGG lasers were applied to activate the irrigant.

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R041

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Effect of two sonic agitation techniques on tissue dissolution efficacy of sodium hypochlorite solution at different temperatures and concentrations: EndoActivator versus Eddy

Aim To evaluate and compare *ex vivo* the tissue-dissolution efficacy of two different sonic agitation techniques under distinct conditions of temperature and concentration of sodium hypochlorite.

Methodology Two sonic agitation techniques, EndoActivator (Dentsply Sirona, Ballaigues, Switzerland) and Eddy (EDDY; VDW, Munich, Germany) were tested at room temperature and 40°C with three different concentration of sodium hypochlorite. The concentrations were 1%, 2.5% and 5.25%. Distilled water was used as the control. Standardized pieces of bovine muscle tissue (50 ± 2 mg) were submersed in 10 mL of each concentration and temperature of sodium hypochlorite for five min. In selected samples, two sonic agitation techniques were performed for 15 s during each minute. The tissue specimens were weighed before and after the exposure. The sample size was 120, with five replicas per agitation/testing condition. Independent Samples t-Test, One Way ANOVA and Two Way ANOVA Test were used for statistical analysis ($P < 0.05$).

Results Weight loss was proportionally correlated with the two sonic agitation techniques ($P < 0.05$). The Eddy sonic agitation technique was more effective at organic tissue dissolution than EndoActivator and the no agitation technique. The sodium hypochlorite concentration was related to weight loss. Considering all the experimental conditions 5.25% sodium hypochlorite had the best dissolution results. Also the high temperature of sodium hypochlorite had the best dissolution efficacy ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusions Within the limitations of this study, to maximize the organic tissue dissolution effect of sodium hypochlorite, the following is advised; sonic agitation, higher temperature, greater concentrations.

IRRIGANTS/DISINFECTION: IRRIGANT AGENTS

R042

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Nanoparticles as an adjuvant in root canal irrigation

Aim To compare the effectiveness of sonic and ultrasonic irrigation systems using sodium hypochlorite or nanoparticles as irrigants in removal of debris from artificial grooves inside root canals.

Methodology Seventy-four extracted, single-rooted teeth were shortened to a length of 19 mm and prepared to size 40, .04 taper using rotary NiTi-instruments. The teeth were split longitudinally and one groove (4 mm long, 0.5 mm deep and 0.2 mm wide) was prepared in one half and three holes (3.0 mm diameter, 0.5 mm depth) in the opposite half as suggested by Lee *et al.* (2004). All grooves and holes were filled with dentinal debris, photographed, and the root halves were reassembled. The teeth were randomly distributed among 6 groups: I) Sonic irrigation with NaOCl using a non-cutting wire (SF65, Komet, Lemgo, Germany) ($n = 15$); II) Sonic irrigation with nanoparticles (Vector polish, Dürr, Bietighheim, Germany) ($n = 15$); III) Passive ultrasonic irrigation (Irrisafe, VDW, Munich, Germany) with NaOCl ($n = 15$); IV) Passive ultrasonic irrigation with nanoparticles ($n = 15$); V) Syringe irrigation with NaOCl ($n = 7$); VI) Syringe irrigation with nanoparticles ($n = 7$). Irrigation time (3x20 sec) and volume of irrigant (10 mL) were standardized. The root halves were disassembled and cleanliness evaluated by two calibrated observers using the four-grade scoring system proposed by Lee *et al.* (2004). Statistical analysis was performed using regression analysis.

Results Most of the holes and grooves were rated clean (score =0). The best results were achieved in the sonic and ultrasonic group using sodium hypochlorite as irrigant, followed by sonics and ultrasonics with nanoparticles. Syringe irrigation with NaOCl and nanoparticles resulted in the worst results.

Conclusions The use of nanoparticles did not improve root canal cleanliness when compared to NaOCl as the irrigant.

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R043

WITHDRAWN.

R044

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Apical vapour lock removal using different agitation techniques. An *ex vivo* radiographic study

Aim To evaluate apical vapour lock removal *ex vivo* using different agitation techniques in single-canaled mandibular premolars.

Methodology The canals of twelve mandibular premolars with slightly curved canals were enlarged to an apical size 40, .04 taper. The canals were filled with a radiopaque dye leaving a 2 mm apical bubble using a 27G side vented needle. Agitation was performed with either a Canal Brush (600 rpm rotation), Easy Clean (reciprocation), Eddy (5000 - 6000 kHz sonic) or EndoActivator (sonic, power set to high), all placed 0.5 mm short of the working length. Each tooth was evaluated 4 times, once for each agitation technique. A standardized digital radiograph was taken with a proximal incidence before introducing the radiopaque dye (empty canal), before agitation (negative control) and after agitation (experimental images). Additionally, a digital radiograph of the canal completely full was taken (positive control). Two independent evaluators observed the apical portion of the canal and categorized the apical vapour lock removal according to a 4-step score; 1: no difference, 2: less than 50% removed, 3: 50% or more removed, and 4: complete vapour lock removal. The independent variable was agitation technique (nominal), whereas the dependent variable was apical vapour lock removal

(ordinal). Therefore, the data was analyzed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's test for multiple comparison.

Results All negative and positive controls scored 1 and 4, respectively. The median (minimum-maximum) scores for Canal Brush, Easy Clean, EndoActivator and Eddy were 3 (1–4), 4 (2–4), 3 (1–4) and 4 (4–4), respectively. The Kruskal-Wallis test revealed a significant difference ($P = 0.005$) between agitation techniques and multiple comparisons further revealed that Eddy was significantly different to Canal Brush ($P = 0.0018$) and EndoActivator ($P = 0.0027$).

Conclusions All agitation techniques reduced the vapour lock by more than 50% in most cases. The Eddy tips completely removed the apical vapour lock in all cases.

R045

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Effect of final irrigation procedures with various chelates on dentine microhardness and roughness

Aim To investigate the effect of various chelates (EDTA, SmearClear, citric acid (10%), maleic acid (7%) and QMix2in1) on dentine microhardness and roughness when they were used as part of final irrigation procedure before sodium hypochlorite, saline, and chlorhexidine gluconate irrigation.

Methodology Thirty six extracted human mandibular incisors were sectioned longitudinally into a total of 72 specimens. The specimens were polished with 1000–2000 grit abrasive papers and randomly divided into six groups of 12 specimens each. All groups first irrigated with various chelates as follows; group 1: 5 mL of 17% EDTA for 150 s, group 2: 5 mL of SmearClear (SybronEndo, Orange, CA, USA) for 150 s, group 3: 5 mL of 10% citric acid for 150 s; group 4: 5 mL of 7% maleic acid for 150 s, and group 5: QMix2in1 (Dentsply, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA) for 150 s. All experimental groups were irrigated consequently with sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl, 2.5%), saline and chlorhexidine gluconate (CHX, 2%) solutions. In the control group no chelate was used (group 6), 5 mL saline solution applied for 150 s followed by 2.5% NaOCl, saline and CHX. Surface hardness and surface roughness was tested using Shore A durometer (SHORE, Lever-loader Instrument, MFG Co, New York, USA) and profilometer (Mitutoyo SurfTest Analyser, Matsuzawa SEIKI Co. Ltd, Japan). Measurements were taken at 0.5 mm level to root canal wall in apical, middle and cervical regions of the root samples. Microhardness and roughness values were analysed with one way ANOVA and Tukey HSD tests ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Results The QMix2in1 solution did not reduce surface microhardness and demonstrated values comparable to the serum control group ($P < 0.05$). No significant difference was observed between groups 1 to 4, while group 5 was significantly different compared with all other groups except the serum control ($P < 0.05$). Maleic acid, EDTA and citric acid groups increased surface roughness insignificantly, while Qmix2in1 demonstrated values comparable to the serum control.

Conclusions EDTA, SmearClear, citric acid, and maleic acid solutions were more destructive chelates than QMix2in1 solution to dentine when they were used as part of the final irrigation procedure.

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R046K. Kot^{1,*}, A. Nowicka², K. Reszka³ & M. Lipski¹¹Department of Preclinical Conservative Dentistry and Preclinical Endodontics, ²Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin & ³Department of Technical Physics and Nanotechnology, Koszalin University of Technology, Koszalin, Poland**Effect of sodium hypochlorite with or without surfactant on root canal cleanliness: a comparative environmental electron microscope study****Aim** To examine the cleaning ability of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with or without surfactant.**Methodology** Sixteen extracted single-rooted human teeth were used. The crowns were removed at the cemento-enamel junction. The canals were randomly divided into two groups, according to their irrigation regimen: group I ($n = 8$ teeth) was irrigated with 5.25% NaOCl without surfactant, group II ($n = 8$ teeth) was irrigated with 5.25% NaOCl with surfactant. The canals were instrumented using eS5 Endostar nickel-titanium rotary files powered by the endodontic micromotor to a size 30, .04 taper. The roots were split longitudinally into two and examined under environmental scanning electron microscopy and the amount of debris and smear layer in the coronal, middle, and apical regions of canals were scored according to Hülsmann *et al.*; data were analyzed statistically by Shapiro-Wilk, Kruskal-Wallis and median tests ($P \leq 0.05$).**Results** There were no significant differences among groups when comparing either debris or smear layer removal. For debris, scores 1 and 2 were recorded in 91.6% in group I and 87.5% in group II. For smear layer, scores 4 and 5 were recorded in 95.8% in group I and 91.6% in group II.**Conclusions** Surfactant addition to 5.25% NaOCl did not improve its cleaning effectiveness. There were no significant differences between the two groups with regards to debris and smear layer removal in all three parts of the root canal system.**EDUCATION****R047**M. Guivarc'h¹, A. Gaudin^{2,*}, D. Seux³ & F. Bukiet⁴¹Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, UFR Odontologie, Aix-Marseille Université. Assistance Publique des Hôpitaux de Marseille / UMR 7268-ADÉS Aix-Marseille Université-EFS-CNRS, Faculté de Médecine de Marseille, Marseille, ²Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, University of Nantes - Faculty of Odontology Nantes, Nantes, ³Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Faculty of Odontology - Lyon civil hospices. Lyon University, Lyon & ⁴Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, UFR Odontologie, Aix-Marseille Université. Assistance Publique des Hôpitaux de Marseille. UMR 7287 CNRS, ISM (GIBOC), Marseille, France**Irrigation trends among dental schools in France: a web-based survey****Aim** To investigate trends in irrigation especially materials and methods among dental schools (DS) and teaching given by endodontic staff (ES) in France.**Methodology** An invitation to participate in a web-based survey was e-mailed to the 255 members of the CNEOC (College National des Enseignants en Odontologie Conservatrice) from every dental school in France ($n = 16$). A filter was applied in order to

discriminate answers from DS and ES. Questions related to DS (irrigant concentration, storage method, activation/agitation techniques usage) were only asked to the Head of the Endodontic Department. Questions concerning irrigation instructions (smear layer removal, chlorhexidine (CHX) use) were asked to ES. Additional question regarding dentine removal when treating infected teeth was also investigated.

Results A total of 206 survey invitations were successfully delivered. Positive response rate was 93.7% for DS ($n = 15$) and 47% for ES ($n = 97$). Among DS, 86.7% used sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) between 0.5% and 2.5%, either 'ready to use' bottles (66.7%) or prepared extemporaneously (33.3%). Lateral opening needles were the most commonly available (60%). An activation technique was recommended in 66.7% of the schools, manual master cone agitation being the most prevalent (53.3%). Chelator usage was strongly advised by ES in initial therapy (90.7%) and non-surgical retreatment (92.8%). Additional use of CHX was mentioned as necessary for 40% of respondents in case of secondary or persistent infections while 10.3% suggested CHX usage in case of vital teeth treatment. More dentine removal in case of infected teeth was advocated by 19.6% of respondents**Conclusions** In French dental schools, NaOCl is the most commonly used endodontic irrigant. The concept of smear-layer removal is well known. One third of dental schools did not use an activation technique. There is a trend to modify the irrigation and shaping protocols according to the endodontic pathosis and in non-surgical retreatment. This survey provides detailed information about teaching of irrigation protocol and may pave the way for practice harmonization in French endodontic education.**Acknowledgements** The authors would like to thank the CNEOC for their assistance in conducting this survey.**R048**R. Graziotin-Soares^{1,*}, D.M. Ardenghi² & D.A. Curtis¹¹Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco, USA &²College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada**Investigating confidence, over time, in endodontic procedures among international dental students attending a pre-clinical course****Aim** To: (i) assess the confidence level, over time, during different endodontic procedures, among pre-clinical students, and (ii) investigate if the topic 'confidence' has already been addressed in their academic life.**Methodology** A total of 28 international dental students attending the pre-clinical endodontic course at University of California San Francisco (UCSF), USA completed a Visual Analogue Scale reporting their confidence in procedures performed on human extracted teeth, in three different moments of the course: access/working length measurement in premolar teeth (beginning); molars instrumentation (2nd moment) and, root filling molars (end of the course). Additionally, students answered a closed-ended question regarding the frequency they have been asked about confidence. Mean confidence levels in each procedure and over time were reported descriptively for the whole class and individually.**Results** Mean confidence in access/working length in premolars, instrumentation of molars and root filling of molars were 73.28, 81.53 and 78.57, respectively. One student reported increasing confidence over time. For many students, confidence oscillated throughout the course, and, at the end of the course it was higher than at the beginning. Two students reported decreasing confidence over the course. Considering only the procedures performed in molars, 5 students (17.8%) had their confidence increased, 10 (35.7%) maintained the same confidence and 13

(46.4%) indicated lower confidence in root filling. The closed-ended questions had the following responses: few times, 59.20%; never, 22.22%; and many times, 18.50%.

Conclusions International dental students had a relatively high level of confidence in endodontic procedures. As expected, students were more confident at the end of the course. However, molar root filling did not induce an improvement in confidence compared to instrumentation. There is a need to address the topic 'confidence' in dental schools.

R049

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Misconceptions in endodontics and dental implant disciplines

Aim To understand how multiple-choice questions (MCQs) might be used to identify misconceptions scenario questions were compared to knowledge-based questions in endodontic and dental implant disciplines.

Methodology A total of 104 dental students from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)/USA completed two assessments that included 20 MCQs on endodontics and 20 MCQs on dental implants. At each examination, 10 questions were scenario type (questions requiring interpretation or analysis) and 10 questions were knowledge type (factual based questions, requiring simple recall of information). After students had chosen a response from among 4 alternatives, they indicated their level of confidence for each choice. Misconceptions were defined as the combination: incorrect answer + confident. Incorrect responses and confidence levels by student and subject were recorded to compare the average of misconceptions by question type (statistical T-tests, paired two samples for means).

Results In endodontics, students held a significant higher number of mean misconceptions on scenario questions when compared to knowledge questions ($P < 0.0001$). However, the difference was not significant for dental implants ($P > 0.05$). Misconceptions were approximately 75% of incorrect responses for all possible combinations of data, as follows: endodontic scenario (73%); endodontic knowledge (76%); dental implant scenario (72%); dental implant knowledge (74%); endodontic scenario/knowledge combined (74%); dental implant scenario/knowledge combined (73%); and endodontic/dental implant scenario/knowledge combined (73%).

Conclusions MCQs can be used to identify student misconceptions. Students had a consistent rate of overconfidence in their incorrect responses regardless of question type or dental subject. Questions (scenario or knowledge type) that prompted a higher percent of incorrect responses were more likely to detect misconceptions, since students were highly confident in their mistakes, for both assessments.

R050

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Students assessment of sufficiency of theoretical knowledge and practical training in use of rotary nickel-titanium instruments

Aim To evaluate students' assessment of sufficiency of theoretical knowledge and practical training four years after the implementation of rotary nickel-titanium instruments in their curriculum.

Methodology The survey was held in Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria and 138 fourth-year and 155 fifth-year students participated voluntarily by completing a questionnaire anonymously. The questionnaire, created for the purpose of this cross-sectional study, consisted of 7 multiple-choice questions. Role and sufficiency of university lectures and practical training lessons were estimated, comparing them with non-university theoretical and practical training resources. Self-assessment of the level of students' experience in use of rotary NiTi instruments in preclinical and clinical course was made using three grades: satisfactory, very good and excellent. Sufficiency of number of clinical endodontic cases shaped with rotary NiTi systems was evaluated by defining it as: insufficient, satisfactory and sufficient.

Results The questionnaire was received by 293 students and 237 of them (80.89%) responded and returned it. Increase of amount/time of practical training was considered necessary by 91.6% of respondents. An extremely high proportion of students (97.5%) appreciated inclusion of more than one rotary NiTi systems in the curriculum. Insufficiency of number of clinical cases was stated (50.4% - insufficient, 38.1% - satisfactory and 11.4% - sufficient). The importance of university teaching program alone or in combination with non-university courses was estimated almost equally - 43% and 49.8% respectively. University practical lessons were considered most influential for acquiring practical experience (74.7%), while non-university practical courses had the lowest importance (6.8%). Practical experience in preclinical course was found 'satisfactory' by 57.4% of students and 'very good' by 48.1% in clinical course.

Conclusions University teaching programs and practical lessons in use of rotary NiTi instruments were found to be very important but at the same time insufficient. Better knowledge of rotary systems and increase of clinical experience were advocated.

R051

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Quality of root fillings performed by dental students during undergraduate clinical training

Aim To evaluate radiographically the quality of root fillings of in teeth treated by dental students during their undergraduate clinical training.

Methodology Root fillings of 543 root canals: 311 maxillary and 232 mandibular, 263 in single-rooted and 280 in multi-rooted teeth, were independently evaluated by two experienced endodontists on dental RVG images using Kodak Dental Imaging Software 6.11.7.0. The assessment of the length and homogeneity of the fillings was performed. Underfilling, overfilling, overextension and presence of voids or insufficient lateral seal were considered. The results were statistically verified with software StatSoft

Statistica 9.1PL using Mann-Whitney and Chi-square independence tests.

Results Overall 78.7% of root canals were filled to the proper length, however, 2.8% of them were underfilled. The sealer, gutta-percha and/or both were present beyond the apex in 10.5%, 7.5% and 0.4% of cases, respectively. Maxillary canines were the most often underfilled teeth ($P < 0.01$). 82.3% of canals were homogeneously filled, nevertheless 17.7% of root fillings were of poor density. The least often homogeneously filled canal was in mandibular canines comparing with buccal or palatal canals in maxillary premolars ($\chi^2 = 7.34$; $P < 0.01$) and the distal canal in mandibular molars ($\chi^2 = 7.05$; $P < 0.01$).

Conclusions On the basis of the radiographic database, the root fillings performed during undergraduate training met high standards. For the students, root filling of canines in terms of the density (mandibular) and proper length (maxillary canines) was the biggest challenge.

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R052

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Quality of apical sealing performed by undergraduate dental students: an *ex vivo* study

Aim To evaluate the quality of apical obturation of the root canal filling performed *ex vivo* by undergraduate students.

Methodology The study was conducted on 40 extracted single-rooted permanent teeth with fully developed root apices, straight roots, free of cracks, caries, resorptive defects and fractures. The root canals were instrumented to an apical size 40 Hedström hand file and then filled with Endomethasone and 0.2 taper gutta-percha with the lateral condensation technique by 4th grade undergraduate students. The access cavities were sealed with glass ionomer cement. Two layers of coloured nail varnish were applied on the surface 2 mm short of the apex. Roots were then suspended in freshly prepared 2% methylene blue for 48 h. Following this, the roots were rinsed for 15 min under running tap water. The teeth were embedded in acrylic blocks and sectioned horizontally at 1 mm (Group A), 2 mm (Group B) and 4 mm (Group C) from the apex. The sections were evaluated under stereomicroscope (102X magnification). The void areas were calculated using Adobe Photoshop CC. The results were analyzed by ANOVA and t-test.

Results Root canals were filled with gutta-percha 58%, 68% and 81% at 1, 2 and 4 mm, respectively. The t-test showed that the results were significant for Group A versus B ($P < 0.05$), and were not significant for Group A versus C and Group B versus C.

Conclusions Although the radiographs can show an adequate root filling, the void areas inspected under magnification are striking. The root filling ability of students needs to be improved.

R053

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Infection control assessment of dental students in Endodontic clinics

Aim To assess the infection control level and disseminate awareness among students, nursing staff and clinical instructors at endodontic clinics.

Methodology Three hundred and ten ($n = 310$) microbiological swabs were taken from students' endodontic instruments, drawers and working surfaces, as a part of the infection control campaign that was done at the undergraduate ($n = 150$) and postgraduate ($n = 160$) clinics. Ten predefined items were selected to take the swabs from, divided into critical and non-critical items. The samples were taken from randomly selected students at the beginning of their treatment session. Sterile wet swabs were used to test the level of microbial contamination on the selected items. The swab was removed from its sealed tube, moistened with phosphate buffered saline (PBS), rubbed and rolled firmly several times across the sampling area, then transferred to 1 ml of PBS (0.85%, pH of 7.4; Oxoid Ltd, UK) and maintained in this buffer for 45 min to standardize storage while in transit to the microbiology laboratory for further processing. Students with positive cultures were informed about their results as well as their assigned instructors and the nursing staff. Those students were visited again to take new swabs from their cubicles to make sure they corrected their performance.

Results Negative cultures within critical items (81.67%) were significantly higher ($P = 0.05$) than the non-critical shared items such as drawer handles and working surfaces (24.73%). Positive culture incidence have significantly decreased since the beginning of this campaign

Conclusions Most of the students were applying proper infection control measures for the critical items. As for the non-critical items, extra care should be taken to clean their surfaces properly prior to any dental procedure. Strict instructions were given to the students not to touch, with their contaminated gloves, anything that is not disposable or will not be sterilized. This microswab culture campaign was a very effective educational tool in reinforcing the infection control measures.

R054

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A new device for monitoring and recording kinematics and forces during clinical procedures *in vitro*

Aim To describe the use of a new device for educational purpose that permits the monitoring and recording of several parameters during root canal preparation *in vitro*: axial forces, lateral forces, torque developed by the instrument, depth of insertion, number of strokes, speed of the pecking action.

Methodology The device consists of a hardware platform and specific software that permits the recording and monitoring of the data obtained. The hardware platform is equipped with two sensors connected to an electronic system to acquire and record the signals

that are coordinated with an external micro-camera that records and monitors the movements of the hand-piece. The data can be followed in real time or recorded and stored for post-treatment analysis using specific software (Pro-Endodontic Training, Multimodal 3D). Two NiTi systems were analyzed in preparing canals in 10 resin blocks each: Mtwo system (Group M) and Reciproc single-file system (Group R). The maximum and average torque and the apical and lateral pressure exerted during the preparation were recorded for the different instruments, as well as the number of strokes per minute and the average amplitude of the strokes. The data were analyzed statistically using an ANOVA test ($P < 0.05$).

Results Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were found among all the sizes of Group M and Group R. Reciprocating instruments (Group R) had a higher number of strokes per minute but lower values in terms of amplitude of the strokes ($P < 0.05$); moreover, Group R had higher values of torque and apical pressure but lower values of lateral pressure.

Conclusions The possibility to monitor and record the main parameters related to endodontic mechanical instrumentation may give to the clinician the ideal parameters of use for each system tested. These values are reproducible and can be useful during for both undergraduate and postgraduate training on NiTi mechanical files. Moreover, this system can be used for other applications such as the filling or retreatment procedures.

R055

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Performance of Reciproc, ProTaper Next and WaveOne Gold in a pre-clinical student course setting

Aim To evaluate the performance of one NiTi rotary ProTaper Next (PTN) and two NiTi reciprocating single file systems Reciproc (R) and WaveOne Gold (WOG) in a pre-clinical student course setting.

Methodology Final-year dental students ($n = 25$), who had been trained with R (VDW, Germany) two years before and had limited clinical experience in endodontics, were selected. After an introduction to PTN (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) and WOG (Dentsply Sirona), they performed canal preparation with each system in the mesiolingual canal of an extracted human mandibular molar according to the manufacturer's guidelines. The Reciproc system was used for comparison. Standardized radiographs were taken before and after canal instrumentation. The following parameters were evaluated for each system: time of instrumentation, canal transportation, length control, instrument fracture and master apical file. To evaluate their subjective experience, students were provided with a questionnaire after finishing each system. Results were subjected to descriptive and analytical statistics.

Results No significant differences were found between the 3 systems for preparation time, canal transportation and length control. One WOG instrument fractured. Concerning the master apical file for R 14 students ended the preparation with R25, 10 students with R40 and 1 student with R50; for PTN 20 students ended with X3 and 5 students with X4; for WOG 6 students ended with the Primary file (5 students used the Small file first), 15 with the Medium file and 3 with the Large file. Concerning designation (11/25), controllability (13/25) and the feeling of security (13/25), WOG was the most preferred system, for cutting efficiency PTN (10/25) and for learning curve R (14/25). Overall WOG was preferred by most students (13/25).

Conclusions R, PTN and WOG systems had similar behaviour with respect to canal transportation and length control. With the single file systems, instrumentation time was not significantly shorter and in many instances students used more than one file.

Most of the undergraduate dental students preferred WOG over PTN and R.

R056

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Medical acupuncture – basic understanding for students of dental medicine: evaluation sheet

Aim To examine the attitude of undergraduate students of dental medicine towards medical acupuncture after the first ever lecture and practical demonstration of acupuncture in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana.

Methodology The lecture was a part of the elective course in advanced endodontics in December 2016. After the lecture, an on-line link to the Google Form with 16 questions was sent to all 29 participants. Statistical analysis was performed using descriptive methods, Chi-squared test of independence, and Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test.

Results The response rate was 97%. When presented with the theme of this lecture, 72% of students liked the idea, 14% were sceptical, 14% did not have an opinion, and nobody was against it. 17% of students had already used some form of alternative or complementary medicine for their personal medical issues in the past; only one had acupuncture. During the lecture, the proportion of students who approved medical acupuncture increased from 41% to 76% ($P < 0.01$), others remained neutral. Before the lecture, 24% of students perceived acupuncture as mere placebo effect and 14% were without an opinion of its effectiveness. After the lecture none of the students perceived the effectiveness of acupuncture as a mere placebo effect ($P < 0.01$); only one student failed to create an opinion of its effectiveness. The proportion of students who believed acupuncture was important or very important method of treatment in modern western medicine rose from 21% to 90% during the lecture ($P < 0.01$). After the lecture, 21% of students wanted to master acupuncture themselves. 55% would actively recommend it to patients but would not perform it themselves. They would most frequently recommend acupuncture to treat various types of pain conditions, mostly chronic and neuralgic pain. All of the students wished to acquire additional knowledge about acupuncture.

Conclusions Educating students of dental medicine in medical acupuncture had positive impacts on their acceptance, perception, and interest in acupuncture as part of western medical education and treatment.

R057

WITHDRAWN.

R058

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A questionnaire-based study on antibiotic-prescribing for endodontic therapies amongst general dental practitioners (GDPs) and final-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) students

Aim To evaluate the views of Cardiff University final-year BDS students and GDPs within Cardiff, Wales on antibiotic prescribing for endodontic diseases.

Methodology A cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey of 12 questions was distributed to 76 final-year BDS Cardiff University students and 55 dental practices within Cardiff. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, and contingency tables, Chi-Square (χ^2) tests, Fisher's-exact tests, and relative-risk calculations were performed in SPSS software.

Results The response rate was 60% ($n = 79$). All students were aware of the consequences of antibiotic over-use. Approximately 60% were aware of guidelines for antibiotic use in endodontic therapies, and 83% would only use antibiotics for a limited selection of patients (e.g. patients with systemic complications). Student responses to clinical-scenarios indicated overall that they were comparable to the ideal answers except for acute apical abscess (64% believed that antibiotics were indicated). The majority of GDPs were aware of the consequences of antibiotic over-

use. Only 28% of GDPs were aware of guidelines for antibiotic use in endodontic therapies. Overall responses showed that antibiotics were indicated: systemic complications (78%), acute apical abscess (72%) and symptomatic apical periodontitis (28%). The GDPs' responses to the clinical-scenarios showed incompatibility with antibiotic prescribing guidelines for endodontic therapies.

Conclusions Year five students showed awareness of the antibiotic resistance crisis and a third of students were not aware of guidelines for the use of antibiotics in endodontic therapies but majority of responses were more compatible with guidelines. GDPs were less aware of the implications of over-use of antibiotics and the existence of guidelines, and their responses were incompatible with antibiotic-guidelines for endodontic therapies.

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SESSION 2: FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

APEX LOCATORS/WORKING LENGTH

R059

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Evaluation of a new rotary motor with integrated apex locator

Aim To evaluate *ex vivo* the efficacy of both the electronic apex locator (EAL) and auto apical reverse (AAR) functions of the endodontic motor MM Control compared to the Root ZX II.

Methodology The actual length (AL) of 36 single-rooted teeth was obtained using a digital caliper (DC). The EAL measurements at the marks 'APEX' and '0.5' of both devices were obtained using an alginate model. The teeth were randomly divided into two groups ($n = 18$) and root canal preparation was performed with rotary instruments using the AAR function (0.5 mark) of each motor. After preparation, the AAR length was obtained (AARL). The electronic lengths (EL) and AARL were compared with the AL, and the difference was assigned as negative when it was less or positive when greater. The means of the absolute values and the percentage of distribution of the electronic measurements between devices were compared

Results There was no difference between the devices when comparing the means of the EAL measurements or AARL (ANOVA $P > 0.05$). However, the MM Control was associated with a greater percentage of EL measurements >1.01 mm longer than the AL (chi-square $P < 0.01$). The AAR function provided an acceptable apical limit in 83.3% of the cases for Root ZX and 77.8% for the MM Control.

Conclusions The AAR function of both MM Control and Root ZX II provided an adequate apical limit of preparation *ex vivo*. However, the use of only the EAL function of the MM Control resulted in significantly more overextended readings.

R060

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Ex vivo evaluation of the accuracy of two apex locators for determining the working length of endodontically retreated curved mesial roots of maxillary molar teeth

Aim To evaluate the accuracy of PROPEX PIXÍ (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) and Apex ID (Sybron Endo, USA) in determining the working lengths of curved mesial roots of maxillary molars during retreatment procedure.

Methodology Twenty curved mesial roots of maxillary molar teeth were selected. Canals were measured with the visual technique using a size 10 K-file and shaped with ProTaper Next instruments (Dentsply Sirona) up to X3. After instrumentation, the canal lengths were determined with a microscope (Carl Zeiss GmbH, Germany) at 2.5X magnification (DM) and then also detected electronically (EM1P and EM1A) with PROPEX PIXÍ (Dentsply Sirona) and Apex ID (Sybron Endo) in an alginate

model. Specimens were then root filled with the lateral condensation technique using a size X3 master gutta-percha cone (Dentsply Sirona) and an epoxy resin-based (AH Plus; Dentsply DeTrey, Germany) root canal sealer. Seven days later, the coronal part of the filling was removed with a size 3 Gates Glidden drill (Mani Inc, Japan) and for the middle part Protaper Universal Retreat-ment File D2 was used. Eucalyptus oil was introduced into the canal and in the presence of the root filling materials in the apical third of the roots, working lengths were electronically detected again by two apex locators (EM2P and EM2A) with a size 25 K-file. Data were analysed using the Wilcoxon Signed Rank and Mann Whitney U test. Statistical significance was accepted at the alpha level of 5% ($P < 0.05$). The analyses were carried out with MedCalc Statistical Software version 12.7.7 (MedCalc Software bvba, Belgium).

Results No significant difference was found between direct measurements (DM) and electronic measurements before and during retreatment for PROPEX PIXÍ ($P = 0.135$) and Apex ID ($P = 0.232$). Also there was no significant difference in determination of root canal length between the two apex locators before ($P = 0.108$) and during retreatment ($P = 0.242$).

Conclusions PROPEX PIXÍ and Apex ID were considered accurate for the root canal length determination during retreatment procedure.

R061

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Surface active agents do not affect the accuracy of two apex locators for working length determination: an ex vivo study

Aim To evaluate *ex vivo* the effect of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) solutions mixed with various surface active agents on the accuracy of two different electronic apex locators for working length determination.

Methodology Twenty extracted, non-carious, single-rooted human teeth were decoronated at the cemento-enamel junction. Visually, the actual canal length to the major foramen was determined by using a size 15 K-file under a stereomicroscope at $\times 30$ magnification. The real working length was determined by subtracting 0.5 mm from the actual length. All teeth were embedded in an alginate mould as the electronic medium. Electronic measurements were performed using a size 20 K-file with the Propex Pixi (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) and Raypex6 (VDW, Germany) in the presence of several 5% NaOCl solutions in the root canals. The following freshly prepared irrigants were tested: 5% NaOCl without any surface active agents (Wizard, Rehber Kimya, Turkey); NaOCl with 0.1% benzalkonium chloride (BAK); NaOCl with 0.1% Triton X-100 (TRX) and NaOCl with 0.1% Tween 80 (TWN). The electronic measurements were performed 3 times per tooth under each condition. Positive values indicated measurements that were long of the real working length, whereas negative values indicated measurements that were short. Differences between real working length and electronic length were analyzed

statistically by repeated measures ANOVA and the paired sample t-test. The significant level was set at 0.05.

Results The mean differences between the real working length and electronic length for Propex Pixi were: -0.18 ± 0.21 mm, -0.06 ± 0.23 mm, -0.14 ± 0.21 mm and -0.08 ± 0.2 mm for NaOCl, NaOCl+BAK, NaOCl+TRX and NaOCl+TWN solutions, respectively. In the Raypex6 group, -0.19 ± 0.23 mm, -0.13 ± 0.26 mm, 0.12 ± 0.24 mm and -0.12 ± 0.24 mm for NaOCl, NaOCl+BAK, NaOCl+TRX and NaOCl+TWN solutions, respectively. Among the irrigation solutions in both Propex Pixi and Raypex6 groups, no significant differences were found ($P = 0.100$ and $P = 0.153$, respectively). The t test also showed no significant difference between the accuracy of the two apex locators ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusions NaOCl with added surface active agents did not interfere with electronic working length determination.

R062

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The Influence of MTAD and QMiX on the Accuracy of Electronic Apex Locator in Locating Simulated Root Perforations

Aim To assess the accuracy of the Raypex 6 (VDW, Germany) electronic apex locator in detecting artificial root perforations in the root canals of extracted teeth in dry conditions and in the presence of the following irrigation solutions: 0.9% saline solution, Chlorhexidine (CHX), QMiX and MTAD.

Methodology The root canals of twenty-five extracted, single-rooted human teeth were perforated artificially in the middle section of roots. The actual lengths of the canals up to the perforation site were determined by visualization of the tip of a size 20 K-file at the perforation defect under a stereomicroscope (Olympus SZ61, Olympus Corp., Japan) with a magnification of $20 \times$, and the distance from the rubber stop to the file tip was measured with a caliper. Then the teeth were embedded in an alginate mould. Electronic measurements of the perforations were obtained by electronic apex locator according to the manufacturers' recommendations in dry conditions and in the presence of 0.9% saline solution, Chlorhexidine (CHX), MTAD and QMiX using a size 20 K-file. Each canal was irrigated with distilled water and then dried with paper points between measurements with the different irrigants. For the Raypex 6 device, a size 20 K-file with a rubber stop was advanced into the canal until an 'APEX' reading was obtained. Statistical analyses were performed using the Friedman test and Spearman Rank correlation coefficient to assess the correlations between the measurements of the methods.

Results Dry conditions and 0.9% saline solution had the most ($r: 0.932$, $r: 0.940$ respectively) and MTAD ($r: 0.697$) had the least correlated results with actual lengths according to the correlation analysis. However, there were no significant differences among measurements between groups ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusions The most accurate measurements of artificial perforations were obtained in dry condition and in the presence of 0.9% saline solution.

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R063

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Clinical working length determination using the apex locator Apex ID

Aim To perform a clinical evaluation of the accuracy of the Apex ID apex locator (Kerr Endodontics), using digital radiographs.

Methodology After providing written consent, seventy-two patients that underwent root canal treatment at the Dental Clinic of the Paranaense University (Cascavel, Brazil) participated. A total of 80 anterior single rooted teeth were included. After conventional endodontic procedures (anaesthesia, access and isolation) all canals were pre-flared using Gates-Glidden drills, irrigated with 2.5% sodium hypochlorite and negotiated with a size 15 K-file. Two calibrated operators performed all the electronic measurements and a digital radiograph (XIOS Sirona) was taken with the file in position. The electronic measurements were considered acceptable when the file was positioned 0–2 mm from the root apex, otherwise proper adjustments were performed. Data were analyzed statistically (Wilcoxon and z test, significance set at 0.05).

Results Most of the measurements ($n = 62$) were obtained at the '0.5' mark. However, for 18 teeth the electronic reading was not stable at the 0.5 mark, therefore the '0.0' mark was used. The mean distances from the apex were significantly different for each mark: respectively 0.87 mm (± 0.62) and 0.3 mm (± 0.61) for the marks '0.5' and '0.0'. Acceptable measurements were observed in 88.7% for the 0.5 mark and 72.2% for the '0.0' mark. Over-extension occurred significantly more for the '0.0' mark (22.2%) compared to the '0.5' mark (4.8%). No difference was observed regarding gender/age of the patient, type of the tooth or pulp vitality.

Conclusions Overall, the electronic device Apex ID was considered accurate and clinically suitable to obtain the apical limit for endodontic procedures. Clinicians should be aware that the mark '0.5' can be used to establish a proper working length while the mark '0.0' is meant to locate the apical foramen. Therefore, the use of '0.0' mark might require some adjustments to prevent over-extension.

PREPARATION: INSTRUMENT FRACTURE

R064

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Cyclic fatigue resistance of EdgeFile, ProTaper Gold, OneShape and ProTaper Universal

Aim To compare the cyclic fatigue of EdgeFile, ProTaper Gold, OneShape and ProTaper Universal nickel-titanium rotary instruments

Methodology F2 ProTaper Universal and ProTaper Gold (Dentsply, Tulsa Dental Specialties, Tulsa, OK, USA), C2 EdgeFile (EDGE-ENDO, Albuquerque, NM, USA), and size 25 OneShape (Micro-Mega, Besançon, France) (15 instruments each group) were tested for cyclic fatigue in an artificial canal with a 6-mm radius and a 45° curvature. The number of cycles to fatigue (NCF) was recorded; the lateral surface and fractured face of segments were

examined using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and the cross-sectional area was measured. One-way ANOVAs and Games-Howell test were utilized for data analysis. Significant difference was set at 0.05.

Results The EdgeFile had significantly greater resistance to cyclic fatigue, compared to ProTaper Gold, OneShape and ProTaper Universal ($P < 0.05$). No significance difference was found between the OneShape and ProTaper Gold ($P > 0.05$), and the ProTaper Universal had significantly lower resistance to cyclic fatigue compared to the other systems ($P < 0.05$). The OneShape had the significantly smallest cross-sectional area ($P < 0.05$), while no significance difference was found between the cross-sectional area of EdgeFile, ProTaper Gold and ProTaper Universal ($P > 0.05$). No significant differences were found between the groups regarding the length of the fractured segments ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusions The EdgeFile rotary files had superior resistance to cyclic fatigue, followed by the ProTaper Gold, OneShape and ProTaper Universal rotary files.

R065

WITHDRAWN.

R066

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A comparative study of 3 reciprocating single-file systems Reciproc, Reciproc Blue and WaveOne Gold: a laboratory study

Aim To compare the fracture resistance of three reciprocating single-file systems.

Methodology Three groups of 8 instruments with tip size of 0.25 mm were tested: Reciproc (VDW, Germany), Reciproc Blue (VDW) and WaveOne Gold (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland). Resin blocks with an artificial canal (60° curve and 5 mm radius) (VDW) were used. The canals were prepared with the following protocol: glide path to working length (18.5 mm) with a size 10 K-file, irrigation, three pecking motions, rinsing with NaOCl and patency check with size 10 K-file. This was repeated until working length was reached. Preparation was done with VDW Gold motor (VDW) with the appropriate settings. A single operator prepared the canals with one instrument. After each preparation files were cleaned and checked by another operator and defects were documented. All instruments were used on a new block until fracture occurred. A total of 117 blocks were prepared. These data were subjected to a Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a post hoc Dunn's Multiple Comparison Test.

Results Files fractured after a mean preparation of 6.5 blocks for Reciproc, 5.5 blocks for Reciproc Blue and 2.63 blocks for WaveOne Gold. Both Reciproc and Reciproc Blue prepared a significantly greater number of blocks in comparison to the WaveOne Gold. There was no significant difference between Reciproc and Reciproc Blue. All of the Reciproc and Reciproc Blue files fractured without prior deformation, in contrast to the WaveOne Gold files.

Conclusions Reciproc and Reciproc Blue instruments had a significantly higher fracture resistance than WaveOne Gold when used in simulated canals within resin blocks.

R067

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Cyclic fatigue resistance of three rotary system files in dynamic model after immersion in sodium hypochlorite

Aim To evaluate in the laboratory the resistance to cyclic fatigue of three different nickel-titanium rotary file system (ProTaper Next (PN), HyFlex CM (CM) and HyFlex EDM (EDM)), after immersion in 3% sodium hypochlorite solution in a clinical simulation mechanical model featuring axial movement.

Methodology Thirty instruments of 3 different titanium rotary file systems, PN X2 (size 25, 0.06 taper); CM size 25, 06 taper and EDM 25, ~ (variable taper), were randomly divided according to a 3x3 factorial design and tested under dynamic immersion in a 3% NaOCl solution for 5 min, 1 min or without immersion, making a total of 9 groups ($n = 10$). The analysis of resistance to cyclic fatigue was performed on a dynamic device specifically developed for this study and tested in an artificial root canal featuring an apical curvature with 45° angle and 5 mm radius. Statistical analysis was performed using two-way factorial ANOVA to detect main effects and interactions associated to the fixed factors file system and immersion protocol with Tukey post-hoc tests, at a significance level of 5%.

Results Regardless of the immersion treatment, PN X2 had on average 1200 ± 178 cycles to fracture, CM had 1949 ± 362 and EDM had 5573 ± 853 , which was a significantly different ($P < 0.01$). The immersion protocol promoted a significant reduction in the number of cycles to fracture ($P = 0.01$), regardless of the duration. This was noticed in the groups CM and EDM, for which the immersion in NaOCl led to a mean reduction of 309 cycles [41 to 576] and 682 [46 to 1319].

Conclusions HyFlex EDM instruments performed better to cyclic fatigue followed by HyFlex CM. Immersion in NaOCl decreased the resistance to cyclic fatigue of these instruments. Protaper Next was associated with the least resistance to cyclic fatigue but it was not modified by immersion in NaOCl.

Acknowledgements Laboratory for Biostatistics and Medical Informatics to Prof. Dr. Francisco Caramelo for the statistical analysis. The authors thank Coltène and Dentsply Sirona for providing the instruments.

R068

WITHDRAWN.

R069

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Removing fractured endodontic NiTi instruments with a tube technique: Influence of pre-treatment with various agents on adhesive forces

Aim To enhance the adhesive force for removing intracanal fractured nickel-titanium instruments using a modified tube

technique with various pre-treatment agents in combination with a light-curing composite.

Methodology A total of 120 NiTi-Mtwo instruments (VDW, Germany) were cut at their shaft (outer diameter 1.2 mm) and surfaces were smoothed so that no undersized areas influenced the adhesive bond. Instruments (6 groups/ $n = 20$) were fixed in a chuck with an overlap of 2 mm and surfaces were treated with different agents: (A) GC Metal Primer (GC, USA); (B) Prime&Bond active (Dentsply DeTrey, Germany); (C) NaOCl (3%); (D) Citric acid (15%); (E) Phosphoric acid (37%) and one group (F) underwent no pre-treatment. Light curing SDR (Dentsply DeTrey) was placed into suction cannulas (Transcendent LL16G, Transcendent, Germany) with an inner diameter of 1.3 mm and tips were placed in a standardized approach over the instruments. A glass fibre (Conrad Electronic SE, Germany) with a diameter of 1 mm was inserted into the tube and composite was light cured for 2 min. Pull-out tests were performed with a constant speed of 2 mm/min; failure load was measured digitally. Data were statistically analysed using ANOVA and Student-Newman-Keuls tests.

Results Prime&Bond active was associated with significantly greater pull-out values (30.5N) compared to all other groups ($P < 0.001$). Metal Primer (18.5N) was significantly superior to the untreated (12.6N) and NaOCl (11.7N) group ($P < 0.05$). No significant differences (including D = 15.2N and E = 14.2N respectively) were obtained between all other groups ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusions Prime&Bond active significantly increased adhesion of NiTi instruments using a modified tube technique with light curing composite.

PREPARATION: APICAL EXTRUSION

R070

WITHDRAWN.

R071

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Effect of four canal preparation techniques on debris extrusion and vertical root fracture resistance

Aim To compare the effect of several canal preparation techniques on debris extrusion (DE) and vertical root fracture resistance (VRFR).

Methodology Access cavities in 80-extracted single-rooted mature mandibular premolars were prepared and working lengths were measured. Eppendorf tubes without covers were weighted with an analytical balance. Teeth were inserted into the covers up to cemento-enamel junction. A needle equalized air pressure inside and outside of the tube. Samples were randomly assigned into four groups according to the preparation technique as follows ($n = 20$): Group PTU; ProTaper Universal (F2; size 25, .08 taper), group PTN; ProTaper Next (X2; 25, .06), group OS; OneShape (25, .06), group R; Reciproc (R25; 25, .08). The extruded debris and irrigation solutions were collected in Eppendorf tubes and stored in an incubator at 70 °C for 5 days. The dry weight of extruded debris was calculated by subtracting the weight of empty tubes from the weight of tubes with debris. After this step, 20 decoronated but not prepared teeth were added as a control group for VRFR experiments. Teeth were embedded into acrylic

resin blocks. Periodontal ligament was simulated by impression material. VRFR was tested with an Instron at a speed of 1 mm/min. The maximum force required to fracture was recorded in Newton (N). The data were analysed with Kruskal-Wallis and Mann Whitney U test with Bonferroni correction ($P < 0.05$).

Results The amount of debris extrusion was; OneShape > ProTaper > ProTaper Next > Reciproc. Only OneShape and Reciproc groups were significantly different ($P < 0.05$). VRFR occurred as follows; control > Reciproc, ProTaper > ProTaper Next > OneShape. The control group had significantly higher VRFR than the other groups ($P < 0.05$) except Reciproc ($P > 0.05$) which was significantly higher than OneShape and ProTaper Next ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions Reciproc was safer than OneShape in terms of apical debris extrusion and vertical root fracture.

R072

WITHDRAWN.

R073

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An *in vitro* comparison of apically extruded debris using several rotary instrument systems

Aim To evaluate the weight of extruded debris apically from root canals using several Nickel Titanium rotary instruments.

Methodology Sixty extracted human mandibular incisor teeth with similar diameters were divided into 4 groups of 15 teeth each. Root canals were instrumented using ProTaper Next, Reciproc, WaveOne and Typhoon rotary files. Irrigant and debris extruded during instrumentation were collected in pre-weighed Eppendorf tubes. The tubes were stored in an incubator at 70 °C for 5 days and weighed again. Initial weights of the tubes were subtracted from final weights to calculate the weight of dry debris. Data were statistically evaluated using Kruskal-Wallis and independent t tests. Tukey test was used for multiple comparisons.

Results The Typhoon group was associated with significantly more extruded debris than other groups ($P < 0.05$). No significant difference was found among ProTaper Next, Reciproc and WaveOne groups ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusions All file systems were associated with extrusion of debris. Typhoon instruments were associated with the most debris extrusion. Continuous rotary systems were associated with greater debris extrusion compared with reciprocating single-file systems.

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PREPARATION: CLEANING ABILITY

R074

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Comparative evaluation of root canal cleaning ability of eS5 and Gentlefile instrumentation systems in the apical third: a scanning electron microscopic study

Aim To compare the efficacy of root canal wall debridement in the apical third following preparation with a conventional NiTi rotary system (eS5) versus a stainless steel file system (Gentlefile). **Methodology** A total of 22 root canals (DB root canals from 22 maxillary molars) were instrumented with eS5 Endostar nickel-titanium rotary files powered by the endodontic micromotor (Group 1) and with Gentlefile stainless steel instruments activated using a specially designed handpiece at 6500 rpm (Group 2). Irrigation was performed with 3% NaOCl at each change of instrument; final irrigation was conducted with 17% EDTA. For cleanliness evaluation, roots were split longitudinally, examined under environmental scanning electron microscopy and scored according to Hülsmann *et al.*, for debris and smear layer on the surface of the root canal wall in the apical region. Data were analyzed statistically by Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests.

Results There were no significant differences among groups when comparing either debris remaining or quality of smear layer removal. For debris, eS5 and Gentlefile achieved 45.4% and 54.5% scores of 1 and 2, respectively. For smear layer, eS5 and Gentlefile received these good scores in 36.3% and 45.4% of specimens, respectively.

Conclusions Instrumentation with a novel stainless steel file system was as effective as conventional NiTi rotary instrumentation in remaining debris and smear layer in the apical third of root canals.

R075

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Ability of BT-Race and WaveOne to eliminate bacteria from infected root canals *ex vivo*

Aim To compare *ex vivo* the ability of BT-Race rotary files versus WaveOne reciprocating files to eliminate viable *Enterococcus faecalis* populations from long oval root canals.

Methodology Fifty caries free, single-rooted oval teeth (buccolingual to mesiodistal ratio >2.5:1, at 5 mm from the apex) were cleaned, an access cavity prepared and patency was gained (to size 25). Afterwards, the canals were sterilized, contaminated with *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 29212) and randomly distributed into two groups ($n = 25$ each): G.1, BT-Race and G.2, WaveOne. For each tooth, irrigation was performed with a total of 15 mL of 2.5% NaOCl. Smear layer was removed with 5 mL 17% EDTA, followed by 5 mL of 2.5% NaOCl which was then inactivated by 5 mL of 10% Na₂O₃S₂ and washed away by distilled water. For each tooth, two microbial samples were taken: S1 after determination of the working length, and S2 at the end of the instrumentation. CFUs were log-transformed for the analysis of variance due to the skewed distribution. The non-parametric

Mann-Whitney test was used for the comparison of S1 and S2 between the two study groups. Between-group differences in the changes in CFU were evaluated using repeated measurements analysis of variance (ANOVA). All reported *P*-values are two-tailed. Statistical significance was set at 0.05.

Results Both groups had significantly fewer CFUs in the S2 samples ($P < 0.001$). The degree of CFU reduction from the S1 to S2 measurements was 99.95% in the Wave One group (IQR: 99.83–99.99) and 99.98% in the BT Race group (IQR: 99.96–100.0). This difference was significantly greater in the BT Race group ($P = 0.010$).

Conclusions The multiple file system BT-Race was more efficient in reducing the microbiological load of viable *E. faecalis* from long oval root canals compared to the single reciprocating file WaveOne.

PREPARATION: SHAPING ABILITY

R076

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Root canal transportation and centering ability of rotary, reciprocating and hybrid NiTi endodontic instruments: a micro CT study

Aim To evaluate and compare root canal transportation and centering ability of rotary, reciprocating and hybrid NiTi endodontic instruments in extracted mandibular first molars using micro-computed tomography (MCT).

Methodology A total of forty-eight mesial root canals of mandibular first molars were randomly divided into three groups, according to the instrument system used for root canal preparation ($n = 16$): ProTaper NEXT (PTN), WaveOne (WO) or Genius (GN). Canals were accessed in a conventional manner and instrumented according to the manufacturer's protocol. MCT, at an isotropic resolution of 22.8 μm, was used to scan the specimens before and after instrumentation. Root canal transportation and centering ability was assessed on a comparison of the pre- and post-instrumentation MCT scans in the coronal, middle and apical thirds. One-way analysis of variance was performed to determine any significant differences among groups; significance was set at $P < 0.05$.

Results No significant difference in root canal transportation and centering ability in all thirds was found between PTN, WO and GN groups ($P > 0.05$). Transportation in the mesial direction was greater than that in distal for all files systems.

Conclusions There is no difference between rotary PTN, reciprocating WO and hybrid GN NiTi endodontic instruments when considering canal transportation and centering ability.

R077

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Evaluation of ProTaper Gold, ProTaper Next and ProTaper Universal on dentinal defect formation in curved canals

Aim To investigate the incidence of dentinal defects after preparation of curved root canals, using three rotary systems.

Methodology Eighty mesial roots from extracted mandibular molars with curvatures between 25–35 degrees and radii between 2–4 mm were collected and randomly divided into three experimental groups ($n = 20$) and one group control ($n = 20$). The roots were examined under stereomicroscope (Zeiss Stemi 2000-C, Germany) to exclude defects before the procedure. The teeth in the control group were left unprepared. The mesial roots were separated and shaped by ProTaper Gold (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland), ProTaper Next (Dentsply Sirona) and ProTaper Universal (Dentsply Sirona) up to size 25, .06 taper. The roots were cut horizontally at 3, 6 and 9 mm from the apex and the slices were examined through a stereomicroscope with 20X magnification. The presence of dentinal defects (cracks, incomplete fractures and craze lines) were investigated by two endodontists. Dentinal defects were scored: 0 for no defect and 1 for defects. The data were analyzed using chi-square and Fisher's exact tests.

Results No defects were observed in the unprepared group. The ProTaper Gold system caused fewer defects (28%) than the ProTaper Universal system (37%) ($P < 0.05$). There were no significant differences in crack formation between the ProTaper Next and ProTaper Universal groups ($P > 0.05$). With the ProTaper Next and ProTaper Gold systems, fewer dentinal defects were formed in the apical third than in the middle and coronal regions ($P < 0.05$). The ProTaper Universal system caused significantly more defects in the middle region comparative to the coronal third ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions Rotary instrumentation induced dentinal defects, but the ProTaper Gold files tended to cause fewer defects than the ProTaper Universal system, especially in the apical part of curved root canals.

R078

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Evaluation of shaping ability and cleaning efficacy of rotary and hand nickel-titanium instruments

Aim To compare *ex vivo* the cleaning efficacy and shaping ability of rotary and hand nickel-titanium instruments in severely curved root canals of extracted human teeth.

Methodology Sixty root canals of mandibular and maxillary molars with curvatures ranging between 25° and 40° were embedded in a muffle system. Canals were divided into five groups ($n = 12$) and prepared using ProTaper Universal, FlexMaster, EasyShape and BioRaCe rotary nickel-titanium instruments according to the manufacturers' recommendations. Hand nickel-titanium instruments were used in a balanced-forced technique. Pre- and post-operative radiographs were taken to assess canal straightening. Pre- and postoperative root canal cross-sections were evaluated to calculate the percentage of unprepared areas

and to analyse post-operative cross-sectional shape. Amount of remaining debris and smear layer was calculated using longitudinal sections of the root canals.

Results ProTaper Universal and FlexMaster were able to maintain the original canal curvature significantly better than hand instrumentation ($P < 0.05$), whereas the other rotary systems did not differ significantly from hand instrumentation ($P > 0.05$; ANOVA). There was no significant difference for debris or smear layer removal among groups ($P > 0.05$; Kruskal-Wallis). Instrumentation using BioRaCe and FlexMaster resulted in significantly more adequate post-operative cross-sectional shapes ($P < 0.05$; Kruskal-Wallis). The instrumentation system had no significant effect on the calculated percentage of unprepared areas ($P > 0.05$; Kruskal-Wallis).

Conclusions None of the systems was superior in terms of cleaning efficacy. With respect to cross-sectional shaping ability BioRaCe and FlexMaster appeared to be superior compared to the other systems.

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R079

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An investigation of the efficacy of instrumentation in mandibular molars using the XP-endo Shaper NiTi rotary file: a micro CT analysis

Aim To investigate the percentage of root canal surface instrumentation achieved by XP-endo Shaper rotary NiTi file (FKG Dentaire SA, Switzerland) in mandibular molars, using micro computed tomography (μ CT) imaging and three-dimensional analysis.

Methodology Thirty-seven mandibular molars were scanned and reconstructed using μ CT scanner at a high resolution. Twelve molars were selected from the pre-preparation scans, taking into account the canal space volume, canal anatomy, degree of curvature and canal dimensions. The molars were scanned with μ CT at 20 μ m resolution pre-preparation and post preparation with the XP-endo Shaper (XPS). A single operator undertook all the preparation. Images were manipulated and reconstructed in three dimensions, to allow superimposition and analysis using image analysis software (Materialise mimic package, Leuven, Belgium). Data were recorded and analysed in SPSS 24 software using Univariate analysis and descriptive statistics.

Results The difference in mean canal space volume between pre and post preparation images was = 414989.17 μ m³, SD = 518793.9 (95% C.I = 195921.72–634056.6). The mean percentage of root canal instrumentation was 62.61%, SD = 15.97, 95% C.I = 55.46–68.95. The difference in root canal space volume was mainly affected by the pre-operative volume of the canal ($P < 0.001$). All other variables did not show any significant effect. No file fracture or procedural errors were detected with the XPS.

Conclusions XP-endo Shaper demonstrated a high percentage of root canal surface instrumentation. The percentage of surface instrumentation was comparable and was shown to exceed that stated previously in the literature. The efficacy of the XPS was affected in some canals by the pre-preparation canal volume.

FILLING: MTA

R080

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Addition of aluminium fluoride to inhibit tooth discoloration caused by white MTA

Aim The hypothesis tested was that the addition of aluminium fluoride to white MTA could inhibit tooth discoloration.

Methodology MTA Angelus, MTA Angelus with 5%, 15 and 45% aluminium fluoride were tested. The set cements were characterized using a combination of scanning electron microscopy, energy dispersive spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction. Radiopacity and setting time were analysed according to ANSI/ADA and ASTM. Solubility was evaluated using volumetric micro-CT analysis. The pH and calcium and fluoride ion release were assessed after 3 h, 24 h, and 28 d. Tooth discoloration in contact with the cements was assessed after 24 h, 28 d and 90 d. Tissue reaction to subcutaneous implantation in rats was verified after 30 and 60 d. Data were submitted to normality test of D'Agostino & Pearson. Statistical analysis was performed using Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's test for radiopacity, setting time, pH, calcium and fluoride ion release and discoloration. The ANOVA/Tukey tests were selected for analysis of solubility and tissue reaction ($P < 0.05$).

Results The addition of aluminium fluoride altered the structure of MTA, even with small amounts. The addition of 5% aluminium fluoride did not significantly alter radiopacity, setting time and solubility ($P > 0.05$). pH and calcium ion release was not significantly affected by the addition of aluminium fluoride ($P > 0.05$). All the tested proportions of aluminium fluoride were effective in preventing tooth darkening verified for MTA Angelus. Aluminium fluoride did not interfere in the inflammatory response of MTA at all periods of analysis, otherwise lower amounts showed less intense inflammatory infiltrate.

Conclusions The addition of low amounts of aluminium fluoride in combination with MTA Angelus resulted in a cement that maintained its chemical, physical and biological properties and prevented tooth discoloration.

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R081

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The effects of various mixing vehicles on push out bond strength of ProRoot MTA

Aim To assess the effect of several mixing vehicles on the push-out bond strength of ProRoot MTA to root canal dentine.

Methodology Two hundred and ten 1-mm-thick root slices were obtained from extracted single-rooted human teeth. The slices were randomly assigned into 7 groups with respect to the mixing vehicles ($n = 30$ /group): 1: (control group); distilled water (DW), 2: 2% chlorhexidine digluconate (CHX); 3: articaine; 4: 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl); 5: propylene glycol (PG); 6: anti-washout gel; and 7: calcium chloride (CaCl₂). In each group, 0.3 mL of test liquid was mixed with 1 g of ProRoot MTA. The push-out bond strength test was performed at a crosshead speed of 1 mm/min, and the bond strength data were analyzed statistically using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's post-hoc tests ($P = 0.05$). Failure modes were assessed quantitatively under a stereomicroscope.

Results Mean push-out values of CaCl₂, antiwashout gel and PG groups were similar ($P > 0.05$) and significantly greater from those of articaine, CHX and distilled water groups ($P < 0.05$). NaOCl and PG groups had similar debonding values ($P > 0.05$). Adhesive failure was the most common type of fracture mode.

Conclusions Viscous mixing vehicles such as calcium chloride, antiwashout gel and propylene glycol significantly increased the push-out bond strength of ProRoot MTA to root canal dentine.

R082

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Effect of curing conditions on setting time, pH and solubility of tricalcium silicate cements

Aim To evaluate setting time, pH and solubility of MTA+ (Cer-kamed, Poland) when cured in different environmental conditions in comparison with ProRoot MTA (Dentsply Tulsa Dental, USA).

Methodology Setting time, solubility after 1 and 28 days and pH after 1, 7, 14, 21 and 28 days were evaluated when the cements were cured at 95% humidity or immersed in saline or HBSS at 37° C. Statistical comparisons were employed using one-way ANOVA. The level of significance was set at $P = 0.05$.

Results Setting time was shorter when the cements were cured at 95% humidity compared with that in saline ($P < 0.001$); HBSS further retarded the setting time. Setting time of MTA+ was shorter than that of ProRoot MTA ($P < 0.001$) regardless of the curing conditions. Both materials had an alkaline pH at all conditions. A gradual decrease of pH was observed as evaluation period increased. ProRoot MTA had a higher pH than MTA+ ($P < 0.05$) at all evaluation periods and in both media of immersion. After both 1 and 28 days of immersion in saline, MTA+ was significantly more soluble than ProRoot MTA ($P < 0.001$); when immersed in HBSS, no significant difference was found ($P = 1.00$). Both MTA+ and ProRoot MTA had greater solubility after 1 day compared with that after 28 days regardless of the immersion medium ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions The results revealed that saline and HBSS retarded setting time significantly. Setting time of MTA+ was longer than that reported by the manufacturer. MTA+ had a shorter setting

time than that of ProRoot MTA, promoted lower pH values and had greater solubility in saline.

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R083

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Effect of intracanal medicaments on marginal adaptation of ProRoot MTA and Biodentine to coronal dentine: A micro-computed tomographic analysis

Aim To evaluate the effect of three intracanal medicaments on the marginal adaptation of ProRoot MTA and Biodentine to root dentine surfaces using micro-computed tomography.

Methodology Eighty freshly-extracted single-rooted teeth were decoronated, and the root canals instrumented using rotary files. After simulating open apex conditions, Peeso reamers were used to enlarge and standardize the canals. Teeth were randomly assigned into two experimental groups ($n = 40$), which received a 3 mm coronal barrier of ProRoot MTA (Dentsply Tulsa Dental, USA) and Biodentine (Septodont, France). Before placing barrier materials, the specimens were randomly divided to 4 subgroups ($n = 10$) that were treated with following intracanal medicaments: a mixture of metronidazole, ciprofloxacin and minocycline (triple antibiotic paste, TAP); a mixture of metronidazole and ciprofloxacin (double antibiotic paste, DAP); a calcium hydroxide powder mixed with distilled water (CH) and a control group (no medicament). After 3 weeks incubation, the medicaments were removed and barrier materials were placed over the blood embedded spongostans by hand condensation. The specimens were then scanned and three-dimensional micro-CT images were constructed using an *ex vivo* micro-CT scanner (Skyscan 1176, Bruker, Belgium) to analyse the adaptation between the dentine walls and the coronal barrier materials with respect to external void occurrence. The data were analysed statistically using one-way ANOVA and the unpaired Student's *t*-test.

Results The percentage of external voids in TAP and DAP treated dentine were greater than control groups in both ProRoot MTA and Biodentine groups ($P < 0.05$). The occurrence of voids was similar in ProRoot MTA and Biodentine groups when TAP and DAP were used ($P > 0.05$). A significantly lower percentage of voids were determined in CH-medicated specimens in the MTA group when compared to all test groups ($P = 0.04$).

Conclusions The application of CH as an intracanal medicament reduced void occurrence between ProRoot MTA and the coronal third of root dentine. However, TAP and DAP medication decreased the marginal adaptation in both ProRoot MTA and Biodentine when used as coronal barrier material.

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R084

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Influence of operator-dependent variables on the surface microhardness of Mineral Trioxide Aggregate: a pilot study

Aim To compare the effects of mixing ratio and the operator induced variability on the microhardness of MTA.

Methodology Fifteen specialists, from Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry and Maxillofacial Surgery, who have been frequently using MTA in clinical practice were selected. They were asked to prepare an MTA sample of a consistency that they considered acceptable for use. Thereafter, operators were asked to prepare another sample by using a pre-weighed amount of MTA. Groups were formed as follows - Unweighed group: The operator manually adjusted the powder/liquid ratio of ProRoot MTA and mixed it with a spatula on a glass slab. Then the operator transferred the mixed slurry to a silicone cylindrical mould with internal dimensions of 6x4 mm. Pre-weighed group: The operators were given a pre-weighed amount of MTA with a ratio of 3:1 powder/liquid, which was in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The clinician manually mixed the MTA and transferred it to the mould. The Mann-Whitney U test was applied to compare the microhardness values of groups at a significance level of $P < 0.05$.

Results The microhardness values of the unweighed group (mean=50.21) was significantly lower than those of pre-weighed group (mean=66.67) ($P < 0.05$). The lowest microhardness value was recorded as 39.36 HV in the unweighed group.

Conclusions The mixing ratio of MTA administered by the operators varied from that recommended by the manufacturer. Therefore, the optimum properties of MTA, such as the surface microhardness, may not always be achieved.

R085

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Surface roughness of MTA and Biodentine in several environmental conditions

Aim To identify the surface alterations of MTA and Biodentine after exposure to different environments using a three-dimensional (3D) non-contact optical profilometer.

Methodology Forty-eight cylindrical cavities on acrylic blocks were prepared, randomly divided into two groups and filled with either MTA or Biodentine ($n = 24$). The samples in each group were then divided into four subgroups according to the storage condition ($n = 6$): dry; wet (PBS at 7.4 pH); acidic (PBS at 5.0 pH) and blood. The optical micrographs of surface topographies were obtained by profilometry at 45 min, 1, 3 and 28 days of incubation. The surface roughness of the materials was calculated using an image analysis software. The data were analysed using two-way analysis of variance with post-hoc Bonferroni correction.

Results In the dry environment, surface roughness did not change significantly up to 3 days ($P > 0.05$), while it decreased at 28 days for both materials ($P < 0.05$). The storage in wet condition caused an initial decrease in the roughness of MTA, while the roughness of Biodentine increased at 1 day ($P < 0.05$). However, the roughness of both materials in wet condition increased after 1 day up to 28 days ($P < 0.05$). The acidic environment did

not cause any significant changes in the surface roughness of both materials ($P > 0.05$). Exposure to blood caused the highest roughness values for both materials up to 3 days, followed by a prominent decrease at 28 days ($P < 0.05$). Biodentine had higher roughness values than MTA after storage in wet condition at 1 and 3 days and in blood at 28 days ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions Environmental condition and time affect the surface roughness of both materials. 3D optical profilometer is a viable option for determination of surface alterations of materials.

FILLING: SEALERS

R086

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The efficacy of several protocols for cleaning sealer-contaminated pulp chambers

Aim To evaluate *ex vivo* the efficacy of various cleaning protocols for sealer-contaminated pulp chambers.

Methodology After standard access cavity preparation, the canals of extracted human molars ($n = 50$) were chemomechanically prepared and filled with warm vertically condensed gutta-percha and an epoxy resin sealer (AH Plus). The sealer was stained with indigotine dye (0.37 w/w%). Teeth were subjected to the following cleaning protocols ($n = 10$), all executed for 7 s and followed by air/water spray (3 s): scrubbing with a cotton pellet saturated with alcohol, air polishing, cotton/alcohol + air polishing, and the use of a round bur on the cavity walls. Teeth in the control group ($n = 10$) were cleaned with an air/water syringe. Each tooth was split sagittally and standardized pictures of both pulp chamber halves were taken pre- and postoperatively. The percentage of sealer-covered access cavity area (SCA) in each picture was determined using image analysis software (Sigmascan Pro Image Analysis) and compared pre- and postoperatively and across groups using paired samples T test and one-way ANOVA.

Results The mean SCA before cleaning was 43% and was not significantly different between groups ($P > 0.05$). The SCA was significantly reduced in all test groups ($P < 0.05$), but not in the control group. Significant differences in %SCA after cleaning were observed between the control and all test groups. Cleaning with the bur resulted in significantly less %SCA than cleaning with air polishing.

Conclusions All cleaning protocols except air/water spray reduced the amount of sealer. The least sealer-covered areas were observed after use of burs: this method however implies dentine removal. No method was capable of removing all sealer in 7 s.

R087

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Effect of an additional application of sealer during continuous wave of condensation obturation

Aim To assess the effect of an additional sealer application during the continuous wave of condensation (CWC) technique by measuring the percentage of sealer and the distance between gutta-percha (GP) and canal wall.

Methodology Palatal roots of 45 extracted human maxillary molars were sectioned and prepared to master apical file size 40, 0.06 taper with Vortex Blue® files. Roots were assigned randomly to three groups ($n = 15$). Group 1 had a single application of AH Plus™ sealer dyed with Sudan Black B before CWC obturation (Elements™ Free). Group 2 received a second application of dyed sealer following the down-pack. Group 3 (control) was obturated without sealer. Roots were sectioned at 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 mm from the root apex. The obturations were microphotographed (20x) and images measured with ImageJ. The percentage of sealer and distance from GP to canal wall was calculated at each level. Data were analysed using Mood's median test and the chi-squared test of independence ($P < 0.05$).

Results Group 1 had a significantly increased sealer percentage when compared to group 2, but only at the 2 mm interval ($P = 0.00$). Group 2 had a significant increase in the distance between the GP and canal wall when compared to group 1 at the 4 and 6 mm levels ($P = 0.02$). At 3, 4 and 6 mm, group 1 had increased distance between the GP and canal wall when compared with group 3 ($P = 0.00 - 0.05$), as did group 2 at 3, 4, 6 and 7 mm ($P = 0.00 - 0.01$).

Conclusions An additional application of sealer had very little effect on the percentage of sealer present, and increased the distance between the GP and canal wall to a minor degree.

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R088

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Antibacterial efficacy of five bioactive root canal sealers against *Enterococcus faecalis* biofilm

Aim To determine the antimicrobial effect of five bioactive endodontic sealers against 48 h old *Enterococcus faecalis* biofilms.

Methodology Bacterial suspension with *E. faecalis*, which had been isolated from root canal with chronic apical periodontitis, was grown on cellulose nitrate membrane filters (Whatman GmbH, Germany) and placed on the Mitis Salivarius agar plates. After the incubation period (48 h), the colonization was confirmed by scanning electron microscopy. Then, the membranes were divided into six experimental groups ($n = 8$ /each) according to the tested sealer: 1: TotalFill Bioceramic Sealer (BC Sealer, FKG, Switzerland); 2: BioRoot RCS (Septodont, Saint-Maur-Des-Fosses, France); 3: MTA Fillapex (Angelus, Londrina, Brasil); 4: MTA Plus (PrevestDenpro, Bradenton, USA); 5: Apexit (Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein); 6: AH Plus (Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany). The sealers were prepared according to the manufacturers' instructions and approximately 40 µL of each sealer was placed on each membrane. After 30 min of exposure, sealers were removed. The membranes were transferred to tubes containing sterile phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and agitated. After 10-fold serial dilution, the aliquots were plated on Mitis Salivarius agar plates. After 24 h of incubation colony forming units (CFUs) were counted. Positive controls included membranes with *E. faecalis* and without sealer, and sterile membranes with applied sealer served as negative controls. For the statistical analysis Mann Whitney U and Kruskal Wallis tests were used.

Results All sealers reduced the number of bacteria significantly ($p < 0.005$). The greatest antibacterial effect was recorded in the

Apexit group ($p < 0.005$). There were no significant differences in antimicrobial efficacy between other sealers ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions All tested bioactive endodontic sealers had a significant and similar antimicrobial effect against *E. faecalis*, however, Apexit was the most effective.

R089

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Interfacial adaptation to root dentine of two different root canal sealers used with two different root canal filling techniques

Aim To investigate the ability of the Smart past bio[®] (bioceramic sealer) and AH Plus[®] used with a single cone technique C-Point[®] and the System B[®] to effectively fill root canals and to determine the adaptation and distribution of sealer inside dentinal tubules.

Methodology The root canals of forty-four freshly extracted single-rooted teeth were prepared using a rotary single instrument F360[®] (size 35, .4 taper; Komet, France). Four groups of ten teeth each were formed: SmartPaste Bio/CPoint, SmartPaste Bio/SystemB, AH+/CPoint and AH+/SystemB. The two sealers were labelled with 0.1% Rhodamine B fluorescent dye. Four teeth were used as control (sealers without Rhodamine B). The teeth were sectioned horizontally 2, 5 and 9 mm from the apex. The sections were observed under a confocal laser microscope. The maximal penetration depth of sealers inside the dentinal tubules was measured at each level. The percentage of gap-containing region to canal circumference was calculated using the CLSM 2 mm from the apex. Non-parametric statistical tests were achieved to compare both lengths and voids observed in the four groups.

Results CPoint/SmartPaste Bio had the greatest penetration length at 5 mm (1528 μm , $p = 0.0014$), and the groups CPoint/SmartPaste Bio and SystemB/SmartPaste Bio at 9 mm ($p < 0.0001$). There was no significant difference at 2 mm. For the four groups and both sealers, the penetration length was significantly better at 9 mm than at 2 mm. At 2 mm from the apex, the groups SystemB/SmartPaste Bio and SystemB/AH Plus had significantly fewer voids than the other groups (2.0% versus 8.8%, $p = 0.0239$).

Conclusions The use of a bioceramic sealer with SystemB seems to be the best combination for sealing ability of the root canal. Further studies are required to verify the stability of the physical, chemical and biologic properties of the sealer with warm compaction techniques.

R090

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Sealing ability of a single cone root canal filling technique using TotalFill BC sealer[®] and Bioroot RCS sealer[®]

Aim To evaluate and compare the interfacial adaptation to root dentine and distribution of sealers inside dentinal tubules of two bioceramic sealers, TotalFill BC[®] and Bioroot RCS[®], used with a single gutta-percha cone filling technique.

Methodology The root canals of twenty-two freshly extracted single-rooted teeth were prepared using a rotary single instrument F360[®] (size 35, .4 taper; Komet, France). Two groups of ten teeth each were formed. The two sealers were labelled with 0.1% Rhodamine B fluorescent dye and the teeth filled using a

0.2 taper gutta-percha cone. Two teeth were used as controls (sealers without Rhodamine B). The teeth were sectioned horizontally at 2, 5 and 9 mm from the apex. The sections were observed under a confocal laser microscope. The maximal penetration depth of sealers inside the dentinal tubules was measured at each level. The percentage of gap-containing region to canal circumference was calculated at 2 and 5 mm from the apex. Non-parametric statistical tests were achieved to compare both lengths and voids observed in the two different groups.

Results The penetration length inside the dentinal tubules was not significantly different at the various levels: at 2 mm: $p = 0.1509$; at 5 mm: $p = 0.2265$, and at 9 mm: $p = 0.5940$. No significant difference was observed between the two sealers concerning the percentage of voids at 2 and 5 mm even when the means were lower for the Bioroot RCS sealer: at 2 mm, $p = 0.1988$, Bioroot 1.56% voids, TotalFill 8.82% voids, and at 5 mm, $p = 0.6501$, Bioroot 3.87% voids, TotalFill 10.48% voids.

Conclusions The two bioceramic sealers used with a single gutta-percha cone seem to correspond to current criteria of root filling techniques. Clinical studies are needed to confirm the bioactivity of these new sealers.

R091

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The effect of final irrigation activation techniques on dentinal tubule penetration of two different root canal sealers

Aim To evaluate the effect of final irrigation activation techniques on dentinal tubule penetration of two root canal sealers.

Methodology The root canals of ninety single-rooted teeth were instrumented using ProTaper rotary instruments up to F4 (size 40) and randomly divided into three study groups based on the final irrigant activation technique used: EndoVac (EV) system, photon-induced photoacoustic streaming (PIPS) and conventional syringe irrigation (CSI). Thirty specimens from each experimental group were divided into two subgroups according to the root canal sealer used: AH Plus and TotalFill BC. Root canals were filled using the cold lateral compaction technique. Access cavities were filled with a temporary material and specimens were stored in 100% humidity at room temperature for 1 week to allow the sealers to set completely. The total percentage and maximum depth of sealer penetration were measured at 2, 5, 8 mm from the root apex using confocal laser scanning microscopy. Statistical analysis was carried out by using Student's *t* test, Mann-Whitney *U* test, Friedman Test, Fisher's exact test, and Chi-square test ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Results TotalFill BC use after final irrigation with EV and CSI at 2 mm or PIPS at 5 mm had a significantly greater percentage of sealer penetration than that with AH Plus ($p < 0.05$). For groups in which AH Plus was used, PIPS was associated with a significantly greater depth of sealer penetration than CSI at 2 mm ($p < 0.05$). The maximum depth and total percentage of sealer penetration within each experimental group were observed at 8 mm, followed by 5 mm and 2 mm ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions TotalFill BC had superior tubular penetration compared with AH Plus, whereas PIPS was associated with a greater depth of penetration with AH Plus than CSI at 2 mm.

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FILLING: CANAL

R092

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Scanning electron microscopic evaluation of the adaptation of several root filling materials to root canal walls

Aim To evaluate the adaptation of three materials: AH Plus sealer with gutta-percha, Acroseal sealer with gutta-percha and RealSeal SE system to root canal walls using scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

Methodology The root canals of 120 extracted single-rooted human mandibular premolars were prepared according to a crown-down technique with BioRaCe rotary instruments and enlarged to a size 40 apical file. Each canal was rinsed with 1% NaOCl during and after preparation. The final rinse was performed using EDTA. The teeth were divided into 3 groups according to the filling material: AH Plus with gutta-percha, Acroseal with gutta-percha and RealSeal SE system, and filled using cold lateral condensation technique. The teeth were cut longitudinally and the adaptation of materials was evaluated 2 mm from the apex of roots using SEM. The assessment were made using a pre-defined scale. Statistical analyses were performed using the Kruskal–Wallis test with Bonferroni *post-hoc* test.

Results The best adaptation to dentine walls occurred in samples filled with AH Plus sealer and gutta-percha. The worst adaptation and penetration was in the Acroseal with gutta-percha group. There was significantly worse adaptation in the Acroseal group ($p < 0.017$) compared to the other groups. Between RealSeal SE System and AH Plus gutta-percha group there was no significant difference ($p > 0.017$) concerning adaptation to dentinal walls.

Conclusions Neither of the groups had complete seal without gaps. AH Plus sealer and RealSeal SE system had better apical sealing ability and adaptation to dentine than Acroseal sealer.

R093

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MicroCT analysis of root canals filled with gutta-percha and BioRoot RCS using three different techniques

Aim To compare the average void percentage using microCT analysis in root canals filled with three different methods: cold lateral condensation (CLC), single cone (SC) and warm vertical compaction (WVC) with a new calcium silicate cement, BioRoot RCS (Septodont, France).

Methodology The root canals of forty single-rooted premolars were prepared with ProTaper Universal using a standard technique. The teeth were divided into 4 groups ($n = 10$) and root filled using one of three methods – Group 1 LC, Group 2 SC, Group 3 WVC or used a negative control (unfilled). Each group was filled using gutta-percha and BioRoot RCS. Teeth were scanned with high resolution microCT (13.6 μm) before and after root filling then reconstructed for analysis. The pre and post-obtained images were registered using 3D slicer software to ensure alignment. The root canal volume, filling material and remaining voids were calculated for each canal, and for all thirds (cervical, middle and apical) using ImageJ software. Data were compared

statistically using the Kruskal–Wallis test and Mann–Whitney Test with the significance level set $p < 0.05$.

Results The mean void volume percentage was low for each group and ranked as follows (high to low): WVC ($0.75\% \pm 0.18$) > SC ($0.7\% \pm 0.19$) > LC ($0.63\% \pm 0.13$) and no significant differences were determined when compared. The greatest void percentage occurred in the apical third of the root canal and the least occurred in the middle third for each technique. However the difference was only significant in WVC.

Conclusions BioRoot RCS used with the SC technique did not produce a root filling with significantly greater voids than those techniques used to pack gutta-percha. This may suggest that using such a sealer with the SC technique may produce an adequate root filling, which is less time consuming and simpler than other techniques.

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RESTORATION OF ROOT FILLED TEETH

R094

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Dentine bond strength of a bioactive resin modified glass ionomer cement

Aim To analyse the dentine bond strength of a novel bioactive material using a shear bond strength test, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and stereo microscopy to evaluate the modes of failure.

Methodology Seventy-five mature bovine teeth stored in distilled water were mounted in dental stone then randomly assigned into five groups ($n = 15$). Each group was allocated a restorative material: control group 1. Filtek Supreme resin composite (3M), 2. Filtek Bulkfill resin composite (3M), 3. Fuji II LC (GC Corporation Tokyo, Japan) and test groups 4. Activa Bioactive restorative (PulpDent), 5. Activa Bioactive base/liner (PulpDent). The materials were bonded to superficial dentine on the buccal surface of each bovine tooth and the shear bond strength was tested using an Instron machine operated with a crosshead speed of 1 mm/min. Modes of failure were analysed using scanning electron and stereomicroscopy to determine cohesive, adhesive or mixed failure modes within each group. Data for shear bond strength (SBS) were analysed with SPSS using the Kruskal Wallis nonparametric and a *post-hoc* pairwise test for comparison.

Results There was a significant difference in bond strength between the control group 1 and Activa Bioactive restorative, base/liner in groups 4 and 5 ($p < 0.05$). Adhesive failure was evident on SEM micrographs for Activa Bioactive restorative material.

Conclusions The shear bond strength and the failure analysis of the bioactive resin material revealed the material is not comparable with conventional resin composites that are used for coronal restoration of root filled teeth. Further investigation into this material is suggested.

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R095A.N. Coban^{1,2,*} & S. Belli^{1,2}¹Department of Endodontics, Dentacademy Private Oral and Dental Health Center, Istanbul & ²Department of Endodontics, Selçuk University Dentistry Faculty, Konya, Turkey**Laboratory evaluation of the effect of poly-dopamine, time and current luting cements on bond strength of glass-fibre posts to dentine****Aim** To evaluate the effect of surface treatment and luting cements on push-out bond strength of a fibre post to root dentine at 24 h and 6 months.**Methodology** The crowns of 64 mandibular premolar teeth were removed and canals prepared (Twisted File Adaptive, SybronEndo). The roots were divided into two groups according to the storage period (24 h versus 6 months) and subgroups according to the surface treatment (poly-dopamine and silane). Nine millimetre long post spaces were prepared with Gates-Glidden drills (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland). The fibre posts (GC) were luted using: Multilink N; Ivoclar Vivadent; Clearfil SA Cement, Kuraray; Rely X, 3M ESPE; Variolink N; Ivoclar Vivadent. The samples were then kept at 100% humid conditions for 24 h and 6 months. Six slices of 1 mm thick were obtained from each root. Push-out tests were performed with a universal testing machine at a crosshead speed of 1 mm/min. The data was calculated as MPa and analysed statistically (Univariate Analysis of Variance and *post hoc* Tukey tests).**Results** A significant difference was found between the time periods (24 h > 6 months, $p = 0.007$); between the locations (coronal > apical, $p = 0.000$), between the cements (Rely X \geq Variolink N > Multilink N > Clearfil SA Cement, $p = 0.000$) and surface treatments (poly-dopamine > silane, $p = 0.000$). No relation was found between the time and location parameters ($p = 0.223$); and between the other parameters ($p = 0.15$). The positive effect of poly-dopamine on bond strength was not significant at the end of six months. The samples showed 75% mixed failure. Poly-dopamine coating stained the glass-fibre surfaces.**Conclusions** Poly-dopamine coating increased the push-out bond strength of fibre-posts and can therefore be considered as an effective surface treatment option. On the other hand its staining effect might be a disadvantage for aesthetic restorations.**Acknowledgements** This study was supported by Scientific Research Projects Coordination Center (BAP) of Selçuk University, Konya, Turkey (15102002).**R096**S.R. Olsson^{1,*}, M. Pigg², P.E. Isberg³ & H. Fransson¹¹Department of Endodontics, Odontology, Malmö, ²Department of Orofacial Pain and Jaw Function & Endodontics, Odontology, Malmö & ³Department of Statistics, Lund University School of Economics and Management, Lund, Sweden**Demographic factors in the choice of coronal restoration after root canal treatment in the Swedish adult population****Aim** To compare demographic characteristics between individuals choosing an indirect coronal restoration (crown, inlay/onlay) and individuals choosing other restorations after completion of a root filling.**Methodology** This was a registry study of a cohort consisting of all root filled maxillary first molars that were reported to the tax-funded Swedish Social Insurance Agency (SSIA) during 2009. After registration of the root filling, any subsequent coronal restorations within two years were identified. The study group consisted of individuals registered with a root filling followed byan indirect coronal restoration and the control group was the remaining individuals with a root filled tooth and a direct coronal restoration or no registration of any coronal restoration. Data on gender, disposable income, age, educational level, civil status and country at birth, were received from Statistics Sweden or SSIA. Chi-square test and *t*-test compared groups. $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.**Results** Overall 7 806 individuals (21.9%) received an indirect coronal restoration and 27 886 individuals (78.1%) comprised the control group. All demographic variables but gender differed significantly between groups. The mean disposable income and the mean age were higher in the study group receiving an indirect coronal restoration and they also had a higher educational level. A smaller proportion of the individuals in the study group was living on their own or was born outside of Sweden.**Conclusions** The identified demographic differences between individuals choosing to restore their newly root filled teeth with an indirect restoration compared to those receiving other restorations indicate that the tax-funded Swedish dental insurance fails to provide dental care on equal terms for Swedish citizens.**Acknowledgements** Grants from the South Swedish Dental Society, the Swedish Dental Society, Faculty of Odontology, Malmö University and TePe Munhygienprodukter AB, Sweden, were received.**R097**D. Angerame¹, M. De Biasi¹, M. Lenhardt^{1,*}, V. Franco² & A. Castaldo³¹Clinical Department of Medical Science, Surgery and Health, University of Trieste, Trieste, ²Private Practice, Rome & ³Clinical Department of Medical Science, Surgery and Health, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy**Endodontic fit of two different fibre post systems: single versus double taper****Aim** To evaluate the fit against root canal walls obtained with a single-taper post system, placed without further canal enlargement, and a double-taper post system requiring traditional post space preparation with burs.**Methodology** Twenty straight single-rooted teeth were cut to obtain 14 mm-long roots. Canals were shaped with Mtwo rotary files up to size 40, 04 taper and filled with the continuous wave of condensation technique, leaving an unfilled coronal space of 9 mm. Ten roots were randomly assigned to group 1 (G1) and received a SurgiPost Multiconical single-tapered post, which had previously undergone standardised trimming. In the remaining roots (G2), the post space was prepared with the bur of the DT Light-post system to place a double-taper post of corresponding size. The posts were luted with RelyX self-adhesive cement. Cement thickness was measured on sectioned specimens at the scanning electron microscope (120 readings per post third). Parametric statistical tests were used to compare the cement thickness between the two groups and among post thirds ($\alpha = 0.05$).**Results** At the coronal level, cement thickness was minimum and similar in the two groups. The effects of drilling were visible on the canal walls on the apical third of the post in G1, which was characterized by even cement distribution irrespective of the post third. The cement thickness was limited also in G2, but slightly increased at the post tip ($p < 0.05$).**Conclusions** The post systems achieved satisfactory fit in straight single-rooted teeth in the coronal and middle post thirds. At the tip of the post, the post space preparation with drills allowed for excellent fit but required further removal of dentine, while single-taper posts provided an inferior fit at this level due to the standardised methodology needed in the research setting.

R098I. Križnar^{1,*}, F. Zanini² & A. Fidler¹¹Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia & ²Elettra – Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A., Basovizza (Trieste), Italy**Effect of endodontic procedures on gap formation at the tooth-restoration interface assessed by phase-contrast μ CT****Aim** To evaluate gap formation between access cavity walls and bonded composite resin restorations using non-destructive phase contrast (PC) micro-computed tomography (μ CT).**Methodology** Standardized access cavities were prepared in four human maxillary molars. Teeth were subjected to procedures simulating root canal treatment: 1) saline irrigation (control), 2) irrigation with 5.25% NaOCl, followed by 17% EDTA, 3) same irrigation protocol as for group 2, followed by application and removal of Ca(OH)₂ on the access cavity walls, 4) same as for group 2 followed by application and removal of root canal sealer on the walls. The access cavities were filled using an etch-and-rinse adhesive and a composite material in a multi-layering technique. The samples were thermocycled for 1000 cycles between 5°C and 55°C. Synchrotron-based μ CT imaging was performed obtaining absorption and PC μ CT images before and after the immersion of the samples into 50% AgNO₃. Using Image J computer software PC μ CT images were compared to absorption μ CT and conventional optical microscopy images.**Results** PC μ CT of samples enabled the best visualization of gaps, while PC μ CT with AgNO₃ staining led to an overestimation of gap size due to anterograde and retrograde infiltration of AgNO₃ into dentinal tubules as well as underestimation of large gaps due to lack of AgNO₃ penetration. Gap formation ranged from 10 to 50 μ m and was prevalent in places, where Ca(OH)₂ or root canal sealer contaminated dentine surfaces and incorporated into the adhesive layer, leading to debonding of the resin composite material. Due to the 3D complexity of gaps further image analysis using advanced segmentation methods will be carried to visualize and measure their 3D structure.**Conclusions** Access cavity wall contamination during root canal treatment led to increased gap formation at the tooth-restoration interface best depicted with PC μ CT. PC μ CT could provide a better alternative for future studies of the tooth-restoration interface compared to absorption μ CT or optical microscopy.**Acknowledgements** This work was supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Slovenia, under grant P3-029.**R099**

WITHDRAWN.

R100A. Isufi^{1,*}, E. Pepla², P. Galeano³, D. Di Nardo¹, G. Miccoli¹, S. Staffoli¹, L. Testarelli¹ & G. Gambarini¹¹Department of Endodontics, Sapienza, University of Rome, Rome, Italy, ²Department of Conservative and Endodontics, Bristol University, Bristol, UK & ³Department of Conservative and Endodontics, Private practitioner, Rome, Italy**Incidents of gaps and voids in post-endodontic restorations****Aim** To evaluate and compare the quantitative volume of the gaps formed in endodontically treated teeth with conservative

access cavities restored with a bulkfill flowable material (SonicFill) and a traditional resin composite.

Methodology Twenty maxillary and 20 mandibular molars were selected based on similar dimensions. After performing conservative access cavities, cleaning, shaping and filling of the root canals and adhesive procedures, specimens were assigned to 2 subgroups for each tooth type ($n = 10$): Group A: access cavities were restored with a traditional resin composite (EsthetX; Dentsply-Italy, Italy) and Group B: access cavities were restored with a bulkfill composite (SonicFill; Kerr, USA). After restoring the access cavities according to the manufacturer's instructions the specimens were scanned with CBCT (iCAT). The sliced image data were exported as DICOM-files and imported into the MeVisLab framework system for segmentation and volume measurement. After segmentation, volumes of the gaps created at the tooth-resin composite interface and inside the resin composite of the filling itself were measured. The data were subjected to statistical analyses of variance.**Results** There were no significant differences between the two groups. The volume of the gaps was similar between teeth restored with traditional resin composite and teeth restored with the bulkfill composite ($p > 0.05$).**Conclusions** Endodontically treated teeth with conservative access cavities and restored with bulkfill resin composite had similar gap formation as those restored with gradual light-curing protocols.**R101**

WITHDRAWN.

R102E. Pepla^{1,*}, A. Isufi², G. Plotino², N.M. Grande³, P. Ioppolo⁴, R. Bedini⁴, L. Testarelli² & G. Gambarini²¹Department of Conservative and Endodontics, Bristol University, Bristol, UK, ²Department of Endodontics, Sapienza, University of Rome, Rome, Italy, ³Department of Conservative and Endodontics, Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy & ⁴Department of Technologies and Health, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy**Fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth with conservative access cavities restored with different materials****Aim** To determine and compare the fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth with conservative access cavities restored with two bulkfill materials (SDR and SonicFill) and a traditional resin composite.**Methodology** Forty maxillary and 40 mandibular molars were selected based on similar dimensions. After cleaning, shaping and filling of the root canals and adhesive procedures, specimens were assigned to 3 subgroups for each tooth type ($n = 10$): Group A: control group, including intact teeth; Group B: access cavities were restored with a traditional resin composite (EsthetX; Dentsply, Italy); Group C: access cavities were restored with a bulkfill flowable composite (SDR; Dentsply-Italy), except a 1.5 mm region of the occlusal surface that was restored with the same resin composite as Group B. Group D: access cavities were restored with a bulkfill composite (SonicFill; Kerr-California, USA), except a 1.5 mm region of the occlusal surface that was restored with the same resin composite as Group B. The specimens were subjected to compressive force in a material static-testing machine until fracture occurred, the maximum fracture load of the specimens was measured (N) and the type of fracture was recorded as favorable or unfavorable. Data were analyzed statistically with one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Bonferroni tests ($p < 0.05$).

Results No significant differences were found among groups ($p > 0.05$). Fracture resistance of root filled teeth restored with a traditional resin composite and with bulkfill composites (SDR and SonicFill) was similar in both maxillary and mandibular molars with no significant decrease in fracture resistance compared to intact specimens.

Conclusions No significant difference was observed in the mechanical fracture resistance of root filled molars restored with traditional resin composite restorations compared to bulkfill composite restorations.

SURGERY

R103

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Microleakage and marginal adaptation of three root-end filling materials: a laboratory study

Aim To compare microleakage and marginal adaptation of White Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (WMTA), Biodentine and chemical cured Glass Ionomer Cement (GIC) as root-end filling materials.

Methodology Ninety extracted human mandibular premolar teeth were used. The crowns of the teeth were removed at the level of cemento-enamel junction. After canal instrumentation and root filling, the apical 3 mm were resected perpendicular to the long axes of the roots. Root-end cavities were prepared using diamond coated ultrasonic retrotips. Samples were divided into three experimental groups according to the root-end filling material used ($n = 30$): White ProRoot MTA, Biodentine, and EQUIA-Fil GIC. The procedures were performed under the magnification of Dental Operating Microscope (DOM). Samples in each group were subdivided into two subgroups A,B ($n = 15$). Samples in subgroup A were evaluated for microleakage using a dye extraction method, while those in subgroup B were evaluated for marginal adaptation using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). The results were analyzed statistically using ANOVA and *post hoc* Tukey tests. The significance level was set at 5% ($p \leq 0.05$).

Results White ProRoot MTA specimens had the lowest mean dye absorbance value and interfacial gap width followed by Biodentine and EQUIA-GIC groups with no significant difference between them.

Conclusions WMTA, Biodentine and chemical cured GIC demonstrated comparable microleakage and marginal adaptation as root-end filling materials.

R104

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Assessment of push-out bond strength of three root-end filling materials in retrograde cavities prepared with ultrasonic retrotips

Aim To assess the push-out bond strength of three retro-filling materials in root-end cavities prepared using ultrasonic tips.

Methodology Sixty human freshly extracted central incisors were used. Teeth were randomly divided into three groups of 20 teeth each. Following the preparation of access cavities, root canals were prepared using ProTaper rotary files and filled with ProTaper F3 gutta-percha cones and AH Plus sealer. Apical

diamond fissure burs and retrograde cavities were prepared by ultrasonic retrotips. In the first group, retrograde cavities were filled with ProRoot MTA (Dentsply Tulsa Dental, Tulsa, OK, USA), in the second group with Biodentine (Septodont, Saint-Maur-des-Fosses, France) and the third group with Tech Biosealer RootEnd (Isasan srl, Rovello Porro, Co, Italy). All samples were stored in 100% humidity at 37°C for 7 days to allow complete setting of the materials. Three serial 1 mm thick slices were sectioned from the apex of each root using a low speed saw. Only the slices in the middle were used. Push-out tests were performed at a cross-head speed of 0.5 mm/min using a universal testing machine. Data were analyzed with the Kruskal Wallis statistical test at 0.05 level of significance.

Results The mean values for MTA, Biodentine and Biosealer were respectively 10.07 ± 0.6 Mpa, 10.83 ± 0.62 Mpa and 7.74 ± 0.37 Mpa. Significant differences were established among the groups ($p < 0.05$). The mean of the Biosealer group was significantly lower than the other groups ($p < 0.05$). There was no significant differences between MTA and Biodentine ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions Tech Biosealer RootEnd had lower bond strength values compared with MTA and Biodentine.

RETREATMENT

R105

WITHDRAWN.

R106

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Retreatment of artificial canals filled with Guttaflow Bioseal

Aim To evaluate the possibility to retreat and re-establish apical patency in artificial canals filled with Guttaflow Bioseal, a recently introduced polysiloxane-gutta-percha calcium silicate-bioglass-containing root canal sealer (Coltène, Switzerland).

Methodology Twenty-six canals in resin blocks were instrumented with HyFlex EDM sequence (size 25, .12 taper, size 10, .05 taper and EDM OneFile) (Coltène) and randomly divided in 2 groups according to the root filling method: Group 1 ($n = 13$): Guttaflow Bioseal with a master gutta-percha cone (Coltène); Group 2 ($n = 13$): Guttaflow Bioseal without gutta-percha. The filled canals were temporized with Coltosol (Coltène) and stored in Hank's Balance salt solution (HBSS) at 37°C for 10 days. After the removal of the temporary material with ultrasound, all retreatment procedures were performed by a single operator with HyFlex EDM OneFile, without use of chemical solvents. Time needed to reach working length and presence/absence of apical patency were recorded for each sample. The Mann-Whitney *U*-test was used to compare retreatment time as it had a Gaussian distribution (Shapiro-Wilk test $p = 0.0001$).

Results No significant difference was observed between the two groups regarding the time needed to reach working length ($p = 0.41$) with an average time of 21.9 ± 7.9 s for Group 1 and 21.2 ± 9.4 s for Group 2. Apical patency was re-established in 100% of specimens in both groups.

Conclusions The novel calcium silicate-based sealer Guttaflow Bioseal was removed from artificial plastic canals, and apical resection of all specimens was performed using conventional

patency was regained in every sample. The results suggest the possibility to easily remove this filling material during clinical retreatment procedures

R107

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Evaluation of the efficacy of ProTaper Universal, Reciproc and Reciproc Blue in the removal of epoxy-resin based sealer from root canals – a micro-computed tomography study

Aim To compare the efficacy of rotary and two reciprocating techniques during the removal of epoxy resin based sealers from root canals

Methodology Thirty six root canals of extracted single-rooted human maxillary premolars were shaped with ProTaper Next (PTN) up to X3 (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) and filled with gutta-percha points and an epoxy-resin based sealer (AH Plus, Dentsply DeTrey, Germany) using the lateral compaction technique. After two weeks, the samples were randomly distributed into three groups ($n = 12$) according to the retreatment technique used: Group 1: ProTaper Universal retreatment system and additional PTN instruments up to size 40, .06 taper; Group 2: Reciproc instrument size 40, .06 taper (VDW, Germany); Group 3: Reciproc Blue instrument size 40, .06 taper (VDW). The retreatment techniques were used according to the manufacturers' instructions. After the retreatment procedure, the root canals were irrigated with 1 mL 2.5% NaOCl, then filled with 1 mL 15% EDTA, left in canal for 3 min, and finally rinsed with 1 mL 2.5% NaOCl. The samples were scanned in a micro-computed tomographic (micro-CT) device after root canal filling and after the retreatment procedure. The results were analysed with Kruskal–Wallis and *post-hoc* Mann–Whitney *U* test at level of significance set at 0.05.

Results There was a significant reduction in the volume of root filling after all retreatment techniques ($p < 0.05$). The Reciproc technique had the largest reduction in the volume of the filling compared to the ProTaper Universal ($p = 0.09$) and the Reciproc Blue ($p = 0.016$). There were no significant difference between ProTaper and Reciproc Blue ($p = 0.465$).

Conclusions The Reciproc was the most effective technique in the removal of epoxy resin based sealer from root canal compared to Reciproc Blue and the rotary ProTaper technique.

R108

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Micro-CT evaluation of CM-wire, M-wire and NiTi instruments in retreatment of curved root canals

Aim To evaluate the removal of filling material when using CM-wire, M-wire and NiTi instruments, under reciprocating and rotary motions.

Methodology Thirty maxillary lateral incisors with apical curvature were used. The teeth were instrumented, filled and divided into three groups ($n = 10$) according to the filling removal protocol: Group 1: Reciproc R25 followed by Mtwo size 40, .04 taper and ProDesign Logic size 50, .01 taper files; Group 2: ProDesign

R size 25, .06 taper followed by ProDesign Logic size 40, .05 taper and ProDesign Logic size 50, .01 taper files and Group 3: Gates–Glidden drills, Hedström files and K-files up to apical size 30, followed by sizes 40 and 50 K-files up to the working length. The samples were scanned before and after each re-instrumentation procedure using a micro-CT system to evaluate filling material removal. The samples were reconstructed, the volumes were recorded and the percentage of remaining filling material at several root canal levels was expressed in terms of percentage of the initial filling material volume. Statistical analysis was performed with Kruskal–Wallis, Friedman and Wilcoxon tests ($p < 0.05$).

Results All groups had residual filling material after retreatment procedures. No significant difference in filling material removal was found between Groups 1, 2 and 3. The use of Mtwo and ProDesign Logic size 40, .05 taper rotary files did not enhance filling material removal after the use of reciprocating files. The use of ProDesign Logic size 50, .01 taper files significantly reduced the amount of filling material at the apical levels compared with the use of reciprocating files. The apical portion had a large amount of filling material after retreatment procedures in all groups.

Conclusions The combination of reciprocating and rotary files in the retreatment of curved canals, irrespective of the type of the alloy of the instruments, was efficient, but did not remove root canal filling material completely. The use of ProDesign Logic instrument size 50, .01 taper CM-wire is indicated during root canal retreatment, since it significantly reduced the amount of filling material in the apical third without weakening the tooth structure.

R109

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Radiographic and microscopic evaluation of ProTaper and Reciproc systems for gutta-percha removal

Aim To compare the efficacy of reciprocating and rotary systems for removing gutta-percha, through radiographic and microscopic evaluation.

Methodology The root canals of sixty mandibular premolars were instrumented using ProTaper Next (Dentsply Sirona) to a final size of X3 and filled by cold lateral condensation and AH Plus (Dentsply, DeTrey). They were randomly divided into two experimental groups ($n = 30$) according to the instrument used for retreatment: Group 1, Reciproc R25 and R40; Group 2, ProTaper Universal Retreatment (Dentsply Sirona) followed by F4. Remnants of filling material on canal walls were evaluated as a percentage by measuring the amount of radiopaque material in the canal using AutoCAD software. The teeth were then split longitudinally into halves for stereomicroscopic evaluation under 20× magnification and scored 0 (<5% of the root canal area covered by remnants), 1 (6–20% of the split canal) and 2 (>21% of the split canal). The areas of material remnants, as well as similarities or differences between radiographic and microscopic scores were assessed. The data were analyzed using Pearson chi-square test.

Results After radiographic evaluation, Group 2 had the smallest mean value for remaining filling material ($p < 0.05$). Microscopic evaluation revealed more residual filling material than radiographic evaluation, with significant differences in Group 2 ($p < 0.05$). Differences between radiographs and microscopic evaluation were found in 26 of 60 teeth (43.33%). In 22 samples (36.66%) the remnants were scored higher following microscopic

evaluation, while in 8 samples (13.33%) the remnants were given 0 following radiographic and 2 following microscopic evaluation.

Conclusions Both retreatment systems left root filling material on the canal walls. ProTaper Retreatment left significantly less residual material than Reciproc following radiographic evaluation. Radiography underestimated the presence of remaining root filling material, which was detected using the microscope.

R110

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Comparative SEM evaluation of the efficacy of several instrumentation techniques in removing Resilon during root canal retreatment

Aim To compare the efficacy of three rotary and two hand instruments in removing RealSeal SE System during root canal retreatment using scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

Methodology The root canals of sixty extracted single-rooted straight premolars were prepared using a crown-down technique with BioRaCe rotary instruments and enlarged to a size 40 before filling with laterally condensed RealSeal Se System. The samples were stored for three weeks in saline at 37°C in an incubator, before being randomly divided into 5 groups of 12 teeth each with regards to instrument used for retreatment: K files, Hedström files, ProFile, ProTaper Universal Retreatment System (PTUS) and D-RaCe. Canals were irrigated with 3% NaOCl and a final rinse using 17% EDTA. Following retreatment the roots were split longitudinally and three different areas (coronal, middle and apical thirds) of the root canal were evaluated and compared using SEM. The assessment and comparisons of present debris and remaining filling material were achieved using a predefined scale. Statistical analyses were performed with the Kruskal–Wallis test with Bonferroni *post-hoc* test.

Results D-RaCe system was the most effective in removing debris and filling material. The D-RaCe system was significantly more efficient than both K-files ($p < 0.0112$) and Hedström files in the coronal third ($p < 0.032$), while ProFile instruments were significantly more effective than K files in the middle third ($p < 0.039$). There were no significant difference between D-RaCe and PTUS systems. When comparing efficiency of each instrument in the three thirds of the root canal, a significantly greater amount of debris and residual filling material was found in the apical third ($p < 0.05$), except when Hedström files were used.

Conclusions All instrumentation techniques left RealSeal SE remnants inside the root canals. In the coronal third of root canals, D-RaCe instruments were more effective than hand instrumentation techniques, while in the middle third the ProFile system was more effective than K-files. Instrumentation technique had no influence on removal of debris and filling material in the apical third. The apical third was the area with the greatest amount of debris and residual filling material compared to coronal and middle thirds, except when Hedström files were used.

R111

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Evaluation of apical extrusion of debris during retreatment: R-Endo rotary instruments versus hand files

Aim To compare *ex vivo* the amount of debris extruded during retreatment using stainless steel hand files (Hedström files, Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) and R-endo (Micro-Mega, France) nickel-titanium rotary instruments.

Methodology Eighty single-rooted freshly extracted human mandibular premolars were assigned into two groups consisting of 40 teeth each. Retreatment was performed with R-Endo and Hedström files. The experimental teeth were filled with standard conditions. 1.5 mL Eppendorf tubes were used for collecting material that was extruded during preparation. The amount of extruded debris was calculated by subtracting the postinstrumentation weight of the tubes from the preinstrumentation weight. The mean weight of extruded debris for each group was analysed statistically using SPSS in Windows (SPSS Inc., USA) and Student-*t* test was used to compare two groups ($p < 0.05$).

Results All instruments tested caused measurable apical extrusion of debris. Apical debris extrusion in the R-Endo group was significantly less than the hand instrumentation group ($p < 0.001$). The R-Endo required less time to reach working length and also less time for gutta-percha removal compared to hand instruments. There was a statistically significant difference between the groups.

Conclusions All instruments were associated with apical extrusion of debris. Hand files extruded significantly greater amounts of debris compared to R-Endo during root canal retreatment procedures.

R112

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Chloroform – Is it avoidable in endodontic practice?

Aim To evaluate the ability of several endodontic solvents for the dissolution of gutta-percha.

Methodology Stainless steel moulds were prepared and filled with gutta-percha. They were exposed to eucalyptol, xylene, chloroform, EndoSolv R, EndoSolv E and citrol, for 2 and 5 min. Distilled water was used as a negative control. Gutta-percha dissolution was quantified as a percentage, considering the difference between the initial and the final weight. The results were compared with factorial analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the IBM® SPSS® Statistics 23.0 software, considering a 0.05 significance level.

Results EndoSolv E was the best solvent. There were significant differences in the mean values of gutta-percha removal within the solvents studied, except when comparing chloroform with EndoSolv E. Similar to the control, EndoSolv R and citrol were not effective. The immersion time had an additive effect on the mean solubility of gutta-percha, as the longer time corresponded to an increased solubility.

Conclusions EndoSolv E, specially recommended for zinc oxide eugenol sealers, proved to be an effective alternative to chloroform in the solubility of gutta-percha. A solvent presenting less efficiency may be an important adjunctive step enabling the retreatment file

to engage in the softened gutta-percha. The remaining apical gutta-percha can be better removed if it can be preserved as a solid mass. Greater dissolution ability may prevent the complete removal of the gutta-percha during retreatment. For further cleaning of the remaining gutta-percha on root canal walls a final irrigation with a more efficient solvent may be indicated in a short period of time.

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ROOT FRACTURE

R113

WITHDRAWN.

R114

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Fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth treated with different tapers of endodontic files

Aim To determine and compare the influence of the taper of endodontic files on the fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth with conservative access cavities.

Methodology Thirty maxillary and 30 mandibular molars were selected based on similar dimensions. After cleaning, performing conservative access cavities and negotiating with size 10 K-files (Kerr Endo, USA) at the major apical foramen. Specimens were assigned to 3 subgroups for each tooth type ($n = 10$): Group A: control group, including intact teeth; Group B: canals were instrumented to length with .04 taper K3 NiTi rotary instruments (Kerr Endo) up to size 25; Group C: canals were instrumented to length with .06 taper K3 NiTi rotary instruments up to size 25. After shaping and filling of the root canals, adhesive procedures and performing restorations of access cavities with a traditional resin composite, the specimens were subjected to compressive force in a material static-testing machine until fracture occurred, the maximum fracture load of the specimens was measured (N) and the type of fracture was recorded as favorable or unfavorable. Data were analyzed statistically with one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Bonferroni tests ($p < 0.05$).

Results No significant differences were found among groups ($p > 0.05$). Fracture resistance of root filled teeth with various canal tapers was similar in both maxillary and mandibular molars with no significant decrease in fracture resistance compared to intact specimens.

Conclusions No significant difference was observed in the mechanical fracture resistance of root filled molars when the canals were prepared with endodontic files with various tapers.

[Correction added on 20 December 2017 after first online publication: Abstract R114 entitled "Fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth treated with different tapers of endodontic files" has been added in this version.]

R115

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Effect of filling technique on tooth resistance to vertical fracture after removal of fractured instruments

Aim To evaluate the effect of several root filling techniques on vertical root fracture resistance after the removal of fractured instruments using ultrasonics and the Masserann kit.

Methodology Three-hundred forty-two extracted single and straight roots were used. The crowns were removed and the roots were adjusted to 13 mm in length. All canals were prepared to a size F1 ProTaper instrument and divided into three experimental and two control groups. 4 mm of F2 instruments were fractured in the coronal, middle or apical thirds of the canals. The fractured instruments were removed from the canals using ultrasonic tips or Masserann kits. The groups were divided into 3 subgroups according to the root filling technique, which were lateral condensation, SystemB+Obtura and Resilon+Epiphany. The samples were subjected to a continuous vertical loading, using a universal testing machine for vertical fracture. Data were analyzed using one-way ANOVA and Tukey HSD test.

Results The force required to fracture the roots vertically was significantly higher in the positive control group than the experimental groups ($p < 0.01$). The roots from which the fractured instruments had been removed using ultrasonic tips required more force to fracture than roots in the Masserann group in the middle and apical sections. The groups root filled with Resilon required significantly more force to fracture than the other techniques in all sections. Lateral condensation was associated with the least resistance in the middle section in the Masserann group ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions Removal of a fractured instrument from the middle and apical third of the canal decreased the force required to fracture the root vertically, regardless of the technique used for instrument removal. Resilon appears to compensate for root dentine loss that occurred as a consequence of attempts at retrieval of broken instrument.

R116

WITHDRAWN.

R117

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Crack formation following root-end preparations in roots with the butterfly effect

Aim To investigate apical crack formation in roots with the butterfly effect following root-end resection and ultrasonic preparation. The effect of root filling material on crack formation was also studied.

Methodology Forty extracted single-rooted teeth were decoronated at the cemento-enamel junction and coded according to the presence or absence of the butterfly effect using light microscopy (10 \times). Canals were prepared using ProTaper Next (Dentsply Sirona) to size X3 and randomly assigned to two root filling groups (gutta-percha (GP) and AH Plus, and ProRoot MTA alone). Each group contained 20 roots (10 butterfly, and 10 non-butterfly). Roots were resected perpendicular to their long axis, 3 mm from the apex and root-end cavities cut using ultrasonic retrotips. Resin replicas of the root-ends were used for crack analysis from SEM images (25 \times). The Chi-squared test was used for data analysis using the Stata 13.1 program.

Results Cracks occurred significantly more frequently in roots with the butterfly effect (80%) than those without (20%) ($p = 0.001$). Most cracks (73%) ran buccolingually. Teeth root filled with MTA developed fewer cracks (40%) compared to those filled with GP and AH Plus (60%), but this difference did not reach significance ($p = 0.206$).

Conclusions Root-ends with the butterfly effect suffered more buccolingual cracks following apical resection and ultrasonic root-end preparation. This might explain the development and prevalence of some vertical root fractures. MTA root filling may protect against crack formation.

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R118

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Dentinal crack formation after several obturation techniques

Aim To compare the incidence of dentinal crack after using various obturation techniques.

Methodology Seventy-five mandibular teeth with mature apices and straight root canals (<50) that had been extracted for periodontal reasons were selected and stored in distilled water. The teeth were randomly assigned to five groups of 15 teeth each. The groups were: 1) no canal preparation, 2) canal preparation, 3) canal preparation and root filling with cold lateral condensation, 4) canal preparation and root filling with warm lateral condensation, 5) canal preparation and root filling with a single cone. Afterwards, the teeth were horizontally sectioned at 3, 6, and 9 mm from the apex with a low-speed saw under water-cooling. All slices were then viewed through a stereomicroscope at 25× magnification and pictures were taken. The presence of dentinal crack was noted and analyzed using the Chi-square test.

Results Group 1 had no dentinal cracks. All the other treatments resulted in dentinal crack formation. In the 6 and 9 mm sections, treatments in groups 3 and 4 produced significantly more dentinal cracks than in the other groups ($p < 0.05$). The treatments in groups 3 and 4 produced significantly more dentinal crack in the 6 and 9 mm sections than 3 mm sections ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions The single cone technique seems to be the safest root filling technique in respect to dentinal crack formation.

R119

WITHDRAWN.

R120

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Incidence of dentinal defects after root filling *ex vivo* by two techniques

Aim To evaluate the incidence of dentinal defects, including partial thickness and full thickness cracking, after root canal instrumentation and root filling by ultrasonic compaction or cold lateral compaction.

Methodology A total of 118 extracted mandibular premolars were divided into 4 groups. The negative control group ($n = 3$) was left unprepared. The canals of all other teeth were instrumented with a reciprocating file (WaveOne®, large file; Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) at working length. Group UF ($n = 15$) was left unfilled while the other canals were filled with gutta-percha and AH Plus (Dentsply DeTrey, Germany) either by cold lateral compaction (group CL, $n = 50$) or ultrasonic compaction (group UC, $n = 50$). Teeth were then sectioned horizontally 3, 6 and

9 mm from the root apex and inspected under a stereomicroscope. The presence of dentinal defects was recorded and differences were analysed using the Fisher's Exact test for the categorical results and Shapiro-Wilk test for the continuous variables

Results No crack was detected in the negative control group. Instrumentation using WaveOne large files alone gave rise to dentinal defects in 2/15 (13.3%) of the teeth. The incidence of dentinal defects after cold lateral compaction and ultrasonic compaction was 16% and 14% of teeth, respectively. There was no significant difference among the only-instrumented and two root filling groups ($p > 0.05$). No correlation was found between the appearance of cracking and level of the roots. The distribution of various types of dentinal defects was significantly different between the two root filling techniques ($p = 0.009$). Both techniques did not induce full thickness cracking on root dentine.

Conclusions The use of ultrasonic compaction for root filling did not show any significant difference with cold lateral compaction of gutta-percha regarding the amount of dentinal defect formation. Root canal treatment was not a direct cause of defects on root dentine under the *ex vivo* condition of this study.

R121

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Dentinal microcrack formation and canal preparation: a longitudinal *in situ* micro-CT study using a cadaver model

Aim To evaluate the development of dentinal microcracks after root canal preparation with Reciproc and ProTaper Universal systems, using an *in situ* cadaver model, by means of a micro-CT imaging system.

Methodology At autopsy, 8 maxillary bone-blocks having at least the premolar teeth ($n = 16$) were excised, scanned at a resolution of 13.18 µm, and randomly distributed into 2 groups ($n = 8$), according to the preparation protocol: Reciproc and ProTaper Universal groups. Root canals were prepared up to R25 and F2 instruments in the Reciproc and ProTaper groups, respectively. After the experimental procedures, the specimens were scanned again, and the registered pre and post-operative cross-section images of the roots ($n = 19,060$) were screened to identify the presence of dentinal defects.

Results In the Reciproc group, 9,176 cross-section images were analyzed and no cracks were observed. In the ProTaper group, 244 out of 9,884 cross-section slices (2.46%) had dentinal defects; however, these defects were already present in the corresponding pre-operative images, indicating that no new microcracks were observed after root canal preparation with the systems.

Conclusions Mechanical preparation of root canals with Reciproc and ProTaper Universal systems did not induce the formation of dentinal microcracks in a cadaver model.

SESSION 3: SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

BASIC SCIENCE PULP

R122

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Freshly-mixed-and-setting hydraulic calcium-silicate cements favour proliferation of human dental pulp cells

Aim To evaluate the bioactive effect of freshly mixed and setting hydraulic calcium-silicate cements (hCSCs) on human dental pulp cells (HDPCs) by means of an *in vitro* cell-proliferation assay.

Methodology Freshly mixed and setting cements were evaluated for their ability to stimulate the proliferation of HDPCs with a XTT colorimetric assay at different time points. To collect the eluates, disks occupying the whole surface of a 12-well plate were made using the hCSCs Pro-Root MTA or Biodentine. Immediately after preparing the disks (non-set), 3 mL of Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum (FBS) were added. The medium was left in contact with the disks for 24 h before being collected. To carry out the proliferation assay, cells from passage 3 to 6 obtained from at least 3 different patients were used. 1×10^3 HDPCs were seeded in 100- μ L culture medium in 96-well plates. The cells were incubated at 37°C and 5% CO₂ for 24 h. Once the cells were attached, the culture medium was replaced by 100 μ L extracts dilutions (1:1; 1:2; 1:4; 1:10). A XTT assay was performed at day 1, 4 and 7 (refreshing the medium and eluates from the wells at day 3 and at day 6). The medium to collect the cements' extracts was refreshed every 24 h (3 mL of DMEM +10% FBS) to simulate the washing effect of the blood/serum when the cements are exposed to pulp tissue. Each extract was tested in triplicate per test and the experiment was repeated 3 times with cells from 3 different patients. Absorbance values of the positive and negative controls were adjusted to 100% and 0% and the relative formazan production was calculated.

Results For the 100% and 50% concentrations, freshly-mixed MTA stimulated the proliferation of HDPCs better than Biodentine (Mann-Whitney *U* test; $p < 0.01$). For the 25% and 10% concentrations, no significant difference was found between the materials.

Conclusions Using freshly-mixed-and-setting cements is a suitable test set-up for bioactivity testing of pulp-capping materials. Pro-Root MTA stimulated the migration of HDPCs better than Biodentine.

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R123

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Immunohistochemical identification of the blood vessels of a dental pulp polyp by CD34. Report of a rare case

Aim The immunohistochemical identification of the vessels of a dental pulp polyp by the use of a pan-endothelial marker for paraffin embedded tissues, CD34.

Methodology A 32 year old healthy female visited the Postgraduate Clinic of the Department of Endodontology, Dental School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Upon clinical examination a large pulp polyp was found in an extensive deep carious lesion of the mandibular right second molar, that filled the entire cavity and had a light pink colour. After the application of block anaesthesia, the pulp polyp was excised with a sharp sterile bone excavator and immediately placed in 10% formalin solution for 48 h. The specimen was embedded in a paraffin block and 5 μ m sections were obtained using a microtome HM340 E (MICROM Laborgeräte, Germany). The Avidin: Biotinylated enzyme complex (ABC) technique was used for staining with CD34 (Novocastra). Observation of the sections was conducted using a Zeiss LM (AxioStar, Zeiss, Germany). The regions of interest from each section were captured by a video camera, which was connected to the LM and to a computer video grabber.

Results The immunohistochemical staining of the polyp using CD34 antigen revealed extensive vascularization of the polyp in a mesenchymal background tissue. The endothelial walls were identified by the CD34 brown staining. A large number of vessels were dilated.

Conclusions The polyp associated with the hyperplastic pulpitis was fully vascularized showing at the same time an enormous number of undifferentiated mesenchymal cells, possibly stem cells derived from the dental pulp.

R124

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Synergistic effect of demineralized dentine and dental pulp stem cells on VEGF and BMP-2 release and odontogenic differentiation of cells

Aim To investigate the release of VEGF and BMP-2 from demineralized dentine in the presence of DPSCs, and the effect of exogenous growth factor addition based on the release profile on odontogenic differentiation of cells.

Methodology Proliferation and morphology of human DPSCs on demineralized dentine discs (dd) were determined using MTT and SEM analysis, respectively ($n = 3$, assayed in triplicate). VEGF and BMP-2 release from dd in the presence or absence of DPSCs were measured to determine the expression of these growth factors using ELISA analysis. In accordance with growth factor release profiles, the exogenous VEGF (VEGF-dd) and BMP-2 (BMP-2-dd) was added in osteogenic medium. DPSCs that were cultivated in dd and in monolayer culture plates (DPSC) that were used as the control groups. The odontogenic differentiation of DPSCs was then evaluated by mineralized nodule formation and the expressions of dentine matrix protein (DMP-1) and bone sialoprotein (BSP) using RT-qPCR analysis.

Results DPSCs were able to proliferate and attached onto the dentine surface. The release of BMP-2 from dentine discs was constant in a sustained manner up to 28 days regardless of the presence of DPSCs ($p > 0.05$) while the release of VEGF was markedly enhanced in the presence of DPSCs after 14 days ($p < 0.05$). VEGF-dd and BMP-2-dd upregulated BSP and DMP-1 expressions as compared to dd and DPSC groups ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions An increase in VEGF release from demineralized dentine occurred in the presence of DPSCs. The addition of VEGF and BMP-2 at specific time of cell differentiation enhanced the odontogenic differentiation of DPSCs on dentine matrix.

R125

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Do hypoxia and the hypoxia mimetic agent L-mimosine modify the production of Sclerostin and Dickkopf-1 and the pro-angiogenic capacity of dental pulp-derived cells?

Aim To reveal the impact of hypoxia and the hypoxia mimetic agent L-mimosine on the production of Sclerostin (Sost) and Dickkopf (Dkk)-1 in human dental pulp-derived cells (DPC) and their pro-angiogenic capacity.

Methodology DPC in monolayer, spheroid, and tooth slice cultures were exposed to hypoxia and L-mimosine. Resazurin-based toxicity and MTT assays were performed to determine cell viability. Sost, Dkk-1 mRNA and protein levels were evaluated using RT-qPCR and ELISA, respectively. The pro-angiogenic response to hypoxia and L-mimosine was validated based on the measurement of Vascular endothelial growth factor (Vegf), Interleukin (Il)-8, Stromal cell-derived factor (Sdf)-1, Angiogenin (Ang), and Angiopoietin-like 4 (Angptl4) were assessed at mRNA and protein levels.

Results DPC monolayer cultures, DPC spheroid cultures, and tooth slices remained vital upon treatment with hypoxia or L-mimosine. DPC monolayer cultures showed a downregulation of Sost and Dkk-1 mRNA levels in response to hypoxia and L-mimosine, respectively. Protein levels of SOST, but not DKK-1, were reduced by hypoxia. DPC spheroid cultures showed downregulation of Sost and Dkk-1 by L-mimosine at mRNA levels. At protein levels DKK-1 was downregulated by exposure to hypoxia. mRNA levels of Vegf, Il-8, Ang, Angptl4 were increased by treatment with L-MIM or hypoxia in DPC monolayer and spheroid cultures while Sdf-1 levels were downregulated. Sost, Dkk-1, Vegf, Il-8, Sdf-1, Ang, and Angptl4 were produced and released from tooth slices upon L-MIM or hypoxia treatment.

Conclusions Hypoxia and the hypoxia mimetic agent L-mimosine can downregulate Sost and Dkk-1 while inducing a pro-angiogenic response in DPC. However, the specific response is dependent on the culture model. These results can serve as primer for the development of hypoxia-based strategies for oral tissue regeneration.

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BIOCOMPATIBILITY

R126

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Assessment of the intraosseous tissue response to Biodentine compared with that of mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA)

Aim To assess and compare the intraosseous tissue response to Biodentine (Septodont, France) with that of MTA (ProRoot™ MTA, USA).

Methodology Twenty, white, adult, male, Wistar albino rats were selected. All the experimental procedures were carried out according to the protocol approved by the Ethical Committee of Research in the Faculty of Oral and Dental Medicine, Cairo University. The animals were submitted to general anaesthesia and a longitudinal groove parallel to the long axis of the shaft of the tibia was created. A sterile polyethylene tubes filled with one of the two experimental materials ($n = 20$) was then implanted in the right tibia of each animal while an empty tube was implanted in the left tibia of the same animal to serve as a control ($n = 20$). Thirty days after implantation, the animals were sacrificed and the implant sites were removed and prepared for histopathological examination and histomorphometric analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by the Mann-Whitney U test for pair-wise comparisons; one-Way ANOVA was used for data with parametric distribution.

Results Histopathological examination revealed the deposition of newly formed bone trabeculae at the open ends of the implant sites with the presence of osteoblasts at the periphery of bone trabeculae and mild chronic inflammatory cell infiltration in Biodentine and MTA groups. The number of osteoblasts was significantly higher in Biodentine and MTA groups than the control ($p < 0.05$). The histomorphometric analysis revealed a significant increase in the area percentage of the newly formed bone with Biodentine and MTA compared to the control ($p < 0.05$) with no difference between the two experimental groups ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions Biodentine and MTA had similar biocompatibility to intraosseous tissue. Biodentine seemed to be a bioactive material that could be used as a substitute for MTA.

R127

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Effects of GuttaFlow Bioseal, GuttaFlow2, MTA Fillapex and AH Plus on cell migration and cell attachment of human periodontal ligament stem cells (hPDLSCs)

Aim To investigate the effects of various endodontic sealers on mesenchymal cell migration and cell attachment of human periodontal ligament stem cells (PDLSCs).

Methodology hPDLSCs were cultured in contact with extracts of endodontic sealers up to 168 h *in vitro*. A scratch wound healing assay was used to determine their effects on cell migration. To assess cell attachment hPDLSCs were directly seeded onto the material surfaces and analysed by scanning electron microscopy

(SEM). Statistical differences were assessed by ANOVA and Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$).

Results Cell migration was evident after 24 h in the presence of GuttaFlow Bioseal and GuttaFlow2 but not in the case of AH Plus or MTA Fillapex. At 48 h, GuttaFlow Bioseal and GuttaFlow2 exhibited high and moderate cell migration respectively, whereas AH Plus and MTA Fillapex revealed low rates of cell migration ($p < 0.001$). Finally, SEM studies revealed a high degree of migration, cell spreading and attachment, especially when using GuttaFlow Bioseal disks at 168 h.

Conclusions GuttaFlow Bioseal exhibited better cell migration and attachment than GuttaFlow2, MTA Fillapex and AH Plus.

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R128

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Effect of MTA[®], Biodentine[®], and TotalFill[®] on proliferation, osteogenic and angiogenic differentiation of human bone marrow stem cells *in vitro*

Aim To compare the effect of three commonly used bioceramic materials on cellular proliferation, and osteogenic/or angiogenic differentiation of stem cells.

Methodology Commercially available human bone marrow stem cells (hBMSCs) were cultured (passages 2–4 were used). The cells were subjected to serial concentrations of MTA, Biodentine[®], or TotalFill[®] eluates for 24 h, 3 and 7 days and cellular viability and proliferation was thereafter assessed by MTT assay. Gene expression of osteogenic (Alkaline Phosphatase (ALPL), Osteoprotegerin (OPG), Osteocalcin (OC), Collagen 1A1 (COL1)) or angiogenic (Vascular Endothelial Growth factor A (VEGFA), and Fibroblast Growth Factor-1 (FGF1)) factors was assessed by quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) after short stimulation of the cells (for 6 h and 24 h) with bioceramic eluates. Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) served as reference gene. All experiments were performed in triplicate and cells not subjected to bioceramic eluates were used as controls. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare the results ($p \leq 0.05$).

Results The proliferation of hBMSCs was hampered by exposure to TotalFill[®] at 3 and 7 days and MTA at 7 days in a dose-dependent manner. Only the highest concentration of Biodentine eluate reduced cellular proliferation at 7 days. Biodentine increased the expression of ALPL whereas Biodentine[®] and TotalFill[®] decreased the expression of OC at 6 h stimulation. Biodentine[®] and TotalFill[®] increased the expression of OPG at 24 h. MTA decreased the expression of COL1 and FGF and increased the expression of VEGFA at the same time period. VEGFA expression was also increased by 24 h stimulation with TotalFill[®].

Conclusions Human BMSCs *in vitro* responded differently to the three bioceramic materials tested. Cell proliferation was mostly affected by TotalFill[®] stimulation. Certain osteogenic factors were increased by Biodentine[®] and TotalFill[®] stimulation. The gene expression of the angiogenic factor VEGFA was increased after MTA and TotalFill[®] stimulation.

R129

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Biological impact of dentine conditioning by various chelating agents on the viability of dental pulp stem cells

Aim To investigate the effect of dentine conditioning by phytic acid (inositol hexakisphosphate; IP6) and etidronic acid (HEDP) as alternative chelating agents to EDTA on the viability of DPSCs.

Methodology Dentine discs (2 mm thick and 6 mm diameter) were prepared from extracted human third molars and treated with 1.5% NaOCl for 5 min. Following that, the dentine discs were conditioned by using one of the following chelating agents for 5 min: 17% EDTA; 1% IP6 and 9% HEDP and distilled water (DW) as a control group ($n = 4$). DPSCs (2×10^5 /disc) were seeded on dentine discs and incubated for 1 day, 3 days and 5 days. For each time points, the culture medium was removed and the viability of DPSCs was determined using MTT analysis ($n = 4$, assayed in triplicate). The obtained data were analyzed using two-way ANOVA and Bonferroni for post-doc comparisons ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Results No significant difference was found in the viability of DPSCs amongst the groups at 1 day ($p > 0.05$) but there was a significant difference at 3 days and 5 days ($p < 0.05$). At 3 days, the largest number of viable cells were observed in the control group (DW) while significantly more viability were noted in EDTA group as compared to IP6 and HEDP groups ($p < 0.05$). Cytotoxicity of the agents were ranked as follows: DW < EDTA < IP6 = HEDP at 3 days while IP6 allowed more viability as compared to HEDP group at 5 days ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions IP6 could be an alternative dentine conditioning agent for the proliferation of DPSCs. HEDP was associated with the lowest viability of DPSCs as compared to EDTA and IP6.

R130

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Biocompatibility of silicon-based sealers in subcutaneous tissue

Aim To evaluate the biocompatibility of a new silicon-based sealer (GuttaFlow Bioseal) in subcutaneous tissues of rats in comparison with GuttaFlow2 and AH Plus.

Methodology Twelve Wistar rats were selected. Each animal received 4 subcutaneous tissue implants: GuttaFlow Bioseal, GuttaFlow2, AH Plus and one empty Teflon tube (negative control group). Half the animals were euthanized at 8 days and the remaining 30 days after material implantation. Histological sections prepared from skin specimens were stained with haematoxylin & eosin and analysed using light microscopy. Scores were established for the inflammatory reaction, macrophage infiltrate, thickness of fibrous capsule and vascular changes. Differences between groups and periods of time were accessed using the Friedman test and all pairwise comparisons. The p value for significance was set at 0.05.

Results At 8 days, GuttaFlow Bioseal had the lowest inflammatory reaction compared to GuttaFlow2 and AH Plus. At day 30, AH Plus had higher inflammation scores than the negative control and GuttaFlow2 ($p = 0.037$). Overall, there was a reduction

in inflammatory reaction from day 8 to day 30 ($p < 0.01$). Macrophage infiltrate increased over time in all groups except for the negative control. At day 30, the groups had different scores of macrophage infiltrate ($p = 0.004$), with GuttaFlow Bioseal and GuttaFlow2 having higher infiltrates than the negative control ($p = 0.002$ and $p = 0.007$, respectively). No significant differences were found in fibrous capsules between sealers. AH Plus was associated with a significant decrease of vascular alterations from day 8 to day 30 ($p = 0.026$), with most cases showing normalcy at the end of the follow-up.

Conclusions GuttaFlow Bioseal induced limited inflammatory reactions at both evaluation periods. The initial inflammatory reaction to GuttaFlow2 and AH Plus subsided at 30 days. All tested sealers were considered biocompatible 30 days after subcutaneous implantation.

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CLINICAL TRIALS

R131

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Partial pulpotomy in mature permanent teeth with clinical signs indicative of irreversible pulpitis: a randomized clinical trial

Aim To assess the outcome of partial pulpotomy using mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) compared with Calcium Hydroxide (CH) in mature cariously exposed permanent molars.

Methodology Fifty permanent molar teeth with carious exposures in 50 patients aged above 20 years were included. Preoperative pulpal and periapical diagnosis was established based on history of presenting pain, results of cold testing and radiographic findings. After informed consent the tooth was anaesthetized, isolated via rubber dam and disinfected with 5% NaOCl before caries excavation. Partial pulpotomy was performed by amputating 2 mm of the exposed pulp, haemostasis was achieved and the tooth was randomly assigned for placement of either white MTA (White ProRoot, Dentsply Tulsa, USA) or CH (Dycal, L.D. Caulk, USA) as pulpotomy agents. Postoperative periapical radiographs were taken after placement of the permanent restoration. Clinical and radiographic evaluation was completed after 6 months, 1 and 2 years postoperatively. Statistical analysis was done using the Fisher's exact test.

Results Clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of at least partial irreversible pulpitis were established in all teeth. Immediate failure occurred in 4 teeth. At 1 year MTA had a higher tendency toward success compared to the CH group, and the difference was significant after 2 years (83% versus 55%, $p = 0.052$ at 1 year, 85% versus 43%, $p = 0.006$ at 2 years). Gender did not have a significant effect on the outcome.

Conclusions MTA partial pulpotomy sustained a good success rate over 2 years in mature permanent teeth clinically diagnosed with at least partial irreversible pulpitis. More than half of CH cases failed within 2 years.

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R132

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Three-year randomized clinical trial on the effectiveness of two integrated techniques for the treatment of maxillary central incisors with periapical pathosis

Aim To assess the effectiveness of two integrated shaping and filling techniques for the treatment of maxillary central incisors affected by chronic apical periodontitis.

Methodology The trial enrolled 60 patients with a maxillary central incisors needing root canal treatment affected by chronic apical periodontitis with periapical radiolucency smaller than 5 mm in diameter. Block-randomization was undertaken to allocate the patients to two treatment groups with different canal shaping and filling protocols: group 1 (G1, $n = 30$), Revo-S/One Step Obturator; group 2 (G2, $n = 30$) GTX/GTX Obturator. An independent examiner evaluated the patients at baseline, after 6, 12, 24 and 36 months by performing percussion and palpation tests. At the same time points, standardized periapical radiographs were taken to score the radiographic healing according to a previously published scale. For this analysis, the level of agreement with regard to the scores assigned by two blind evaluators was tested by weighted kappa statistics. Comparability of baseline clinical data, as well as the differences between the two groups and among time points concerning clinical and radiographic data were evaluated with non-parametric tests ($p < 0.05$).

Results All the patients were re-evaluated after 3 years. One patient per group complained of mild symptoms at the end of the observation period. Radiographic healing was progressive during the follow-up. The lesions were classified as totally healed, partially healed and not healed in 93.3%, 3.3% and 3.3% of cases in G1 and in 93.3%, 0% and 6.7% of cases in G2. The differences between groups were not significant ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions The two integrated endodontic systems were equally effective in achieving high three-year success rates in the treatment of maxillary central incisors with chronic apical periodontitis.

R133

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Post-operative pain after instrumentation with different kinematics in root canal preparation: a randomized clinical trial

Aim To compare the absolute risk and post-operative pain intensity after root canal instrumentation in molars of patients, with ProTaper Next (Dentsply Sirona, Switzerland) or Reciproc (VDW, Germany) for a period of 7 days.

Methodology A randomized clinical trial was conducted with sixty-two patients with indication for root canal treatment in molars. The teeth were randomly allocated to one of the instrumentation techniques. Root canal instrumentation was performed in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. At the end of the first session the patient received a form with the NRS-10 and VAS scales for evaluation the post-operative pain levels (6 h, 12 h, 24 h, 2nd to 7th days), and devices for evaluating pain perceived on vertical percussion. In addition, the consumption of analgesics was evaluated. In the second session, seven days after the first, the root canals were filled. Intragroup (ProTaper and

Reciproc) analysis of the post-operative pain intensity in the different time intervals of evaluation was performed ($p < 0.05$), followed by evaluation between each time interval. The post-operative pain intensity was compared between the groups for the post-preparation time intervals ($p < 0.05$). In each time interval of evaluation, the absolute frequencies of the presence and absence of pain between the instrumentation techniques were also compared, as well as the absolute risk and intervals of confidence.

Results The post-operative pain results were analyzed in 58 participants (35 women and 27 men), 4 patients were lost to follow-up. The mean age of the patients evaluated was 30.7 years. No significant difference was observed between the systems for all the variables observed in all the time intervals evaluated ($p > 0.05$). The peak post-operative pain was observed in the first 24 h, with significant reduction from the 4th day after instrumentation for the two techniques evaluated. There was no significant difference in pain after vertical percussion and the consumption of analgesics ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions The ProTaper Next and Reciproc systems caused the same level of post-operative pain, and presented the same absolute risk of generating pain.

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R134

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Clinical and radiographic evaluation of direct pulp capping using three different materials: a randomized clinical study

Aim This prospective randomized clinical study aimed to assess the outcomes of one visit direct pulp capping with two calcium silicate-based materials (Biodentine™, ProRoot® MTA) and calcium hydroxide (Dycal).

Methodology One hundred twenty permanent molars with deep carious lesions in healthy adults aged 18–47 years were treated by direct pulp capping with three different materials. Teeth were randomly assigned to three groups ($n = 40$) according to material used for capping, as follows: Group 1: Dycal; Group 2: Biodentine and Group 3: ProRoot® MTA. During treatment; degree of bleeding, exposure size and location, cavity design were recorded. Clinical and radiographic evaluations were performed at 1, 3, 6 and 12 months. Teeth with no response to pulp vitality tests and those exhibiting clinical or radiographic signs and symptoms were considered to be failures. Intragroup comparisons of the observed values were analyzed using Chi-square and Fisher's Exact test.

Results Ninety four teeth (78.3%) were available for clinical and radiographic follow-up evaluation ranging from 1 to 12 months. After 12 months, the overall success rate of direct pulp capping was 80.9%. The success rates of ProRoot MTA, Biodentine and calcium hydroxide groups were 82.9%, 82.4% and 76% respectively. Findings were non-significant ($p > 0.05$) between Biodentine and MTA groups. However calcium silicate-based materials were more successful than calcium hydroxide ($p < 0.05$). Age of the patients, gender, teeth location, degree of bleeding, the diameter of pulpal exposure and location had no bearing on the success rate.

Conclusions Use of both calcium silicate-based materials for direct pulp capping were associated with better success rates than calcium hydroxide.

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R135

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Postoperative pain intensity after single versus two-visit root canal retreatment: a randomized clinical trial

Aim To evaluate postoperative pain after single visit and two visit root canal retreatments with two different intra-canal medicaments.

Methodology A total of 150 patients with asymptomatic root filled teeth in need of root canal retreatment were divided randomly into three groups ($n = 50$). Patients on Group 1 (G1) were treated in a single visit. Group 2(G2) and 3(G3) were treated in two-visits with Ca(OH)₂ and chlorhexidine (CHX) as intra-canal medicaments, respectively. All two-visit treatments were completed one week after the first visit. The presence of postoperative pain was assessed after 1, 2, 3, 7 days and 1 month after the treatment. Data were analysed using Mann-Whitney U, Kruskal Wallis and Pearson chi square tests ($\alpha = 0.01, 0.05$).

Results Postoperative pain was significantly higher in G3 compared to G1 ($p = 0.026$) on the first day of assessment. On the second day, postoperative pain was significantly less in G1 ($p = 0.015$) than those of other groups. There were no significant differences among the groups on the 3rd and 7th days. At the 1 month assessment, postoperative pain was significantly higher in both G2 ($p = 0.003$) and G3 ($p = 0.02$) compared to G1.

Conclusions Single-visit root canal retreatment was associated with fewer incidences of postoperative pain values compared to two-visit root canal retreatment from 1 day to 1 month.

R136

WITHDRAWN.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

R137

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Prevalence of apical periodontitis in a German population: a CBCT analysis

Aim To determine the frequency and quality of root fillings (RCF) and the occurrence of apical periodontitis (AP).

Methodology Five hundred randomly selected full-size CBCT-images (Planmeca ProMax3D, FOV = 8 × 8 cm, voxel size $\leq 200 \mu\text{m}$) were obtained from German patients (40.6% = male 59.4% = female; age = 50.21 years). A total of 8254 teeth were examined for pathosis (AP, widened periodontal ligament) by analysing the multiplanar reconstruction of each tooth. The relationship between AP and existing RCF and the quality of RCF (homogeneity, length, extrusion of filling material) was documented. Frequency and correlations between the left and right side and gender distribution were analysed statistically using the Chi-square test.

Results The overall prevalence of AP was 3.8%, whereas for teeth with RCF it was 41.2%. Patients had approximately 1.4

root filled teeth (8.2% of all teeth). Root fillings terminated in 31% more than 2 mm short of the radiological apex. 9.1% of all teeth were associated with extruded root filling material. Additionally, 5.3% of the teeth had untreated root canals. Regarding the right and left side as well as the gender of the patients no significant differences occurred ($p > 0.05$). In 37.1% of teeth associated with AP the RCF terminated more than 2 mm short of the apex, but only 5.7% of teeth were associated with extruded filling material. Further reasons were non-filled canals (5%) followed by inhomogeneity of the RCF (2.5%).

Conclusions About 41% of root filled teeth were associated with AP and in more than one third of these teeth the RCF terminated more than 2 mm short of the apex.

R138

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Cleaning of sealer-contaminated pulp chambers by dentals practitioners: results from a cross-sectional digital survey in Belgium

Aim To assess the protocols for sealer removal from pulp chambers adopted by dental practitioners in Belgium.

Methodology A digital questionnaire was distributed by email to active dental practitioners in Belgium through the national dental societies. The questionnaire consisted of twelve multiple-choice questions on the type of sealer they used, sealer removal protocols, 'orifice sealing' and restoration of the pulp chamber after root canal treatment. Data were imported in a database and subjected to descriptive statistics.

Results A total of 901 questionnaires were completed. The majority of the respondents (85.2%) were general dental practitioners (GDPs), 9.1% were endodontists. The most frequently used sealers were epoxy resin (58.0%), followed by calcium hydroxide (17.9%) and medication-containing sealers (9.2%). 62.2% of the respondents used more than 1 sealer. 9.8% of the respondents rarely or never removed the sealer from the pulp chamber, 70% always did. A cotton pellet (67.4%), air/water syringe (30.2%) and microbrush (28.2%) were the most popular methods to remove sealer remnants. Alcohol (36.6%) was mainly used as a solvent, followed by no product (32.5%) and water (20.9%).

Conclusions Epoxy resin sealers are the most widely used sealers in Belgium. 10% of the practitioners rarely or never removed the sealer from the pulp chamber. Among the ones who do remove the sealer, the use of a cotton pellet with alcohol was the most popular method.

R139

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Endodontic practice and referral behaviour by Flemish and Walloon dentists

Aim This study sought to expose similarities and differences in aspects of endodontic practice and referral behaviour between Flemish and Walloon dentists. Another goal was to obtain an overview of contemporary endodontic practice in Belgium.

Methodology A questionnaire was attached to both the monthly magazine of the French-speaking Dental Society as well as the

Flemish Society of Dentistry, reaching respectively 2400 and 4500 active dentists. The questionnaire consisted of an epidemiological part and multiple choice questions on endodontic practice and referral need. Postal return of the questionnaire was free of charge. Data were imported in a database, merged and subjected to descriptive and analytical statistics. Endodontic practice was compared to contemporary quality guidelines.

Results The combined response rate was 21.75% ($n = 1423$). Fifty-three percent of the respondents were men, 73.7% were general dental practitioners (GDPs), 32.5% of the respondents worked in a group practice. There were no significant differences between Flanders and Wallonia regarding the use of rubber dam, microscope, K-files, Hedström files and reamers nor for the use of sodium hypochlorite. Overall, the use of EDTA (58% never), magnification (58% never) and activation of irrigants (almost 60% never) was limited. Approximately 56% of the respondents never or seldom used rubber dam. Walloon dentists used NiTi, single cone or hybrid condensation technique significantly more frequently compared to their Flemish colleagues. On the other hand, EDTA and a cold lateral condensation technique were more frequently used by Flemish dentists. Generally, younger respondents used rubber dam, NiTi and sodium hypochlorite significantly more frequently compared to their older colleagues. When asked to rate the importance of secondary care, endodontics scored an average of 7.17 out of 10. This number, however, differed significantly between Wallonia (7.95) and Flanders (6.63). Persistent pain or symptoms, difficult tooth anatomy, open apices, root canal obstruction, retreatment and perforation were identified as important factors for referral by well over half.

Conclusions Endodontic practice by Walloon and Flemish dentists does not differ considerably, but was not always in agreement with quality guidelines. Generally, more recently graduated dentists tend to use present-day materials and techniques more frequently. The perceived need for secondary endodontic care in Belgium is substantial.

R140

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Prevalence and characteristics of cracks in teeth undergoing root canal treatment: a clinical observational study

Aim To investigate the prevalence, characteristics, and factors associated with cracks in teeth undergoing root canal treatment in the Department of Endodontics, Eastman Dental Hospital.

Methodology Patients scheduled for root canal treatment or retreatment of posterior teeth at the Endodontic Department of the Eastman Dental Hospital, over a period of three months, were included. Clinicians ($n = 29$) recorded information for each designated tooth, including demographic, pain, occlusal and restorative characteristics, as well as soft tissue findings and pulpal/periapical diagnoses of the tooth. The presence, number, direction and extent of cracks, as well as canal orifice involvement were recorded at three stages: (1) after removal of coronal restoration; (2) after completion of access cavity preparation; and (3) after completion of chemo-mechanical preparation, using four methods of inspection (visual, transillumination, microscope, and combination of transillumination/microscope). Data were analysed descriptively.

Results Of 122 teeth included, cracks were present in 27%. All cracks were identified at the restorability assessment stage, with no further detection of cracks at subsequent stages. Most cracks were identified using the microscope. Cracks were more prevalent in: mandibular (35%) than maxillary (23%) molars; teeth whose opposing teeth had attritive wear facets (46%) than those that did

not (26%); and teeth with intra-coronal restorations (31%) than those with cuspal coverage restorations (16%). Most frequently encountered patterns were single (70%) compared to multiple cracks (30%), and directed mesio-distally (55%).

Conclusions Cracks were present in 27% of the posterior teeth undergoing root canal (re)treatment. All the cracks could be identified as early as the restorability assessment stage and presented most often as single cracks directed mesio-distally.

R141

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Periapical status among adult patients in the Lodz region of Poland

Aim To evaluate the prevalence of apical periodontitis among adult patients in the Lodz region of Poland.

Methodology The survey enrolled 760 patients who were referred to the Central Clinical Hospital Medical University of Lodz for the first time. The study group was a systematic attempt of the population adopted in 2016. A panoramic radiograph was taken for each patient using Orthoralix 9200 (Italy). The periapical status and the RCT prevalence were evaluated. AP was recorded when more than double widening of the periodontal ligament space on the lateral aspect of a tooth or the presence of a radiolucency connected with the apical part of the root in the periapical region were seen (Genc et al. 2008). A tooth was classified as endodontically treated when there was a radiopaque material in the root canal and/or the pulp chamber.

Results Each of 493 adults (64.9%) had at least one tooth with AP. No difference between the prevalence of AP and gender was found ($p = 0.561$). The AP prevalence increased with age ($p < 0.005$). Lesions occurred most often (85.7%) in patients over 60 years old, the least frequently (29.9%) in patients below 30 years old. AP was observed in 6.7% of teeth, significantly more often ($p < 0.0005$) in molars (13.5%) and premolars (7.3%) than in incisors (3.1%) and canines (3.1%). The AP prevalence was associated with the prevalence of RCT. AP was detected in 37.9% of RCT teeth and in 3.1% of teeth without RCT ($p < 0.0005$).

Conclusions The AP prevalence among the population of the Lodz region was high and increased with age. AP was observed more often in the maxilla than the mandible and in posterior teeth compared with anterior. More than one third of endodontically treated teeth had AP, which indicates unsatisfactory quality of RCT in the study population.

R142

WITHDRAWN.

R143

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Endodontic treatment in Switzerland: a survey of current treatment protocols

Aim To collect information about current treatment protocols of endodontic therapy by Swiss dentists and to compare them to the ESE quality guidelines and former Swiss and foreign data surveys.

Methodology The questionnaire collected information on the socio-demographic distribution of participants: age, gender, clinical experience and specialties, practice location and university of graduation. Specific questions referred to the number of root canal treatments (RCT) per month, tooth types treated, techniques and materials used and hours accumulated in continuing education (CE). Data of specialists, endodontic minded (EM) and general practitioners were analysed.

Results A total of 506 surveys were collected (response rate: 33.2%). The questionnaires were divided into three groups. The general practitioner group (GP) with 414 participants consisted of 81.8% of all respondents. The EM group were respondents from the Swiss Endodontic Congress (SSE), accounting for 14.4% of all respondents. The third group consisted of endodontic specialists (ES), making up 3.8% of the respondents. The majority of the participants were male (59.9%), the mean age was between 40 and 59 years and the average clinical experience was more than 20 years. 98.4% of the participants perform RCT regularly. 14.1% of all participants never used rubber dam during RCT, 13.7% reported using a microscope and 63.9% of all respondents used loupes during treatment routinely. Rotating instruments (43.2%) were mainly used, followed by conventional hand-instruments (37.8%) and reciprocating instruments (19%). GP rarely activated irrigants and used lower concentrations of NaOCl compared to ES. Most of the respondents (68.5%) performed multi-visit RCTs. 57% of GP preferred lateral compaction as the root filling technique whereas 89.5% of ES performed vertical compaction.

Conclusions The majority of Swiss dentists follow the ESE quality guidelines. Specialists were more likely to use new techniques, such as warm vertical compaction and to use microscopes.

R144

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Changes in periapical status, quality of root canal fillings and estimated endodontic treatment need in an urban German population after 20 years

Aim To assess the periapical status of root filled teeth, quality of root fillings and the endodontic treatment need of an urban German population after 20 years in a repeated cross sectional study.

Methodology Clinical and radiographic data as well as the performed operative procedures of 353 patients coming to a dental surgery in 2013 were evaluated. The periapical index score (PAI) was applied to assess apical pathosis. Descriptive and regression analyses were performed and the endodontic treatment need was calculated. Results were compared with data from the year 1993, obtained under comparable conditions.

Results A total of 9269 teeth were examined (26.2 teeth per patient; 1993: 24.4). In 207 individuals at least one tooth had a root filling, a necrotic pulp or an irreversible pulpitis. A total of 337 teeth had a root filling (3.6%; 1993: 2.7%). Prevalence of apical periodontitis in root filled teeth was 34% (1993: 61%). Quality of root fillings was good in 117 cases (35%; 1993: 14%). Minimum endodontic treatment need was 1.6% (1993: 2.3%), including teeth with clinical symptoms. Including symptomless

teeth with apical periodontitis and poor quality of root filling, the treatment need was 2.9% (1993: 3.7%). Regression analysis showed that quality of root filling was a significant factor for periapical health ($p = 0.01$, odds ratio 3.4 \times), as well as type of instrumentation. Teeth treated with rotary files had a significantly better outcome ($p = 0.02$, odds ratio 2.0 \times).

Conclusions Quality of root fillings and the periapical status improved over the last 20 years in Germany. However, there is still a need for improvement of the quality of root canal treatment. Rotary instrumentation and a good technical quality root filling were a reliable predictor for periapical health.

R145

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Prevalence of conservative and endodontic treatments in patients affected by oncologic diseases. A retrospective clinical study

Aim To determine the prevalence of conservative and endodontic treatments administered to a cohort of patients with several types of cancer, and whether the condition was associated with other diseases, and to the use of medications, in a referral dental institution over a 4-year period.

Methodology A retrospective analysis was conducted using the medical records of 144 oncologic patients requesting dental treatment from January 2011 to January 2016. Dental therapies performed were divided in conservative and endodontic treatments. The variables recorded for each patient were demographic data, medical history, use of medications, administration of antibiotics before (prophylaxis) or after (therapy) dental treatment. The data were entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and analyzed using IBM SPSS package version 21.0 for Mac.

Results The patients age ranged from 26 to 88 years and the male to female ratio was 0.58:1. A total of 431 dental treatments were performed on oncological patients and out of them 325 were conservative treatments performed in 70.2% of individuals and 106 were endodontic therapies performed in 29.8% of patients. Antibiotic prophylaxis was given to 27.7% of individuals, and antibiotic therapy was prescribed in 25% of treated cases. Breast cancer was the most common type of cancer in the overall group (51.4%) and among women (80.2%). In addition to oncological pathology all the patients included in this study were affected by one or more medical disorders. The prevalence of associated medical disorders increased with age, but was concentrated between the 4th and 5th decades. The most commonly associated systemic conditions were cardiovascular (21%) and rheumatic (21%) diseases. One hundred twenty-six patients were under medical prescriptions, mostly in the 5th–7th decades; 69.9% of the individuals received from 1 to 4 medications/day and among patients receiving more than 8 drugs/day the number of females was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions There is an increasing need for conservative treatment in patients who have cancer which is often associated with other medical conditions, and use of several medications. Dental practitioners should receive training to provide the best care possible and prevent complications.

R146

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Pain and discomfort from root filled teeth. Aspects of prevalence and characteristics

Aim To examine the prevalence and characteristics of pain and discomfort from root filled teeth in an adult Swedish population regularly attending dental care. A further aim was to examine if symptoms could be related to (i) periapical radiographic appearance and (ii) clinical findings.

Methodology This cross-sectional observational study screened all adult patients scheduled for routine check-up in the public dental service, Örebro County, Sweden in April 2015. All (798) individuals with at least one root filled tooth were asked to participate. The examination included (i) clinical examination, (ii) radiographic examination (intraoral periapical images), (iii) interviewer-assisted questionnaire covering general health and presence and characteristics of pain. In addition to descriptive statistics Fisher's exact test was used.

Results In total 549 patients with 1257 root filled teeth participated (292 women, 257 men; mean age 61.1 years, range 20–94). 53 (9.6%) of the patients experienced pain or discomfort from at least one root filled tooth. On a tooth level, 63 (5.0%) of all root filled teeth were symptomatic. The average pain intensity was 2.1 ± 2.0 on a 0–10 Numeric Rating Scale, and mean pain duration was 27.9 months. The pain was continuous for 20.7%, recurrent for 41.4%, and occasional for 37.9% of the teeth, and the teeth had been painful on average 9.3 of the last 30 days. Apical radiolucency was recorded for 265 (21.7%) of the root filled teeth. Symptoms were significantly associated with presence of radiolucency ($p < 0.001$), sinus tract ($p = 0.002$), and swelling ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions In the examined population, one in ten adults with a root filled tooth experienced pain or discomfort associated with this tooth. The pain was generally of low intensity and long lasting. In most cases, the patient experienced recurrent or occasional pain, but one in five with painful teeth had continuous pain. Although apical radiolucency, swelling and sinus tract were more common with painful teeth, pain in root filled teeth still remains partly unexplained.

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R147

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Periapical, endodontic, and prosthetic status of teeth in an adult Ukrainian population

Aim To determine the prevalence of apical periodontitis, the presence of root fillings and crowned teeth in an adult Ukrainian population using analysis of orthopantomograms (OPGs) and periapical radiographs.

Methodology A total of 705 individuals were examined: 326 males and 379 females. The status of 17 755 teeth was analyzed: 8 216 in males and 9 539 in females. The presence of an apical periodontal lesion was evaluated using the Periapical Index. The status of each tooth was recorded as 'not root filled', 'root filled', 'crowned', and 'non-crowned'. The data on teeth were dichotomized: '0' – the absence of certain characteristic and '1' – its presence. Obtained data were recorded and processed by specially designed computer database.

Results Root filled teeth were detected in 586 (83.1%) of the 705 patients examined. A total of 2 235 (12.6%) teeth had been endodontically treated. Teeth in the maxilla were more frequently

root filled (64.1%) than teeth in the mandible (35.9%) ($p < 0.001$). Frequency of endodontic treatment increased with age: from 4.4% in the age group of 15 – 19 years to 21.5% in the age group 55 – 64 years. The most frequently root filled tooth (33.6%) was the mandibular first molar, followed by the maxillary first molar and maxillary second premolar – 25.5% and 22.9% respectively. In 448 of 705 adults (63.5%) AP was diagnosed. 1 240 teeth (7.0%) had radiographic signs of periapical radiolucency. Apical periodontitis was evident in 2.0% of all non-root filled teeth. 41.6% of root filled teeth (930 of 2 235) had periapical lesions (scores 3, 4, 5 of PAI). 50% of the population had crowned teeth. The highest prevalence of AP was observed in the group of endo-treated crowned teeth – 44.3%.

Conclusions The prevalence of AP and frequency of endodontically treated teeth in the Ukrainian population is comparable with findings in other countries.

R148

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Prevalence of pulp stones in a Greek population

Aim To describe the prevalence of pulp stones in a Greek population by examining full-mouth periapical radiographs and to examine possible associations between pulp stones and gender, age, tooth type, side, arch, and dental status.

Methodology A total of 416 records were randomly selected from patients referred to a private maxillofacial radiology practice for full mouth periapical radiographs from 2012 to 2015. A total of 10 938 teeth were examined; only permanent teeth with complete roots were analyzed. Teeth with crowns or bridges that prevented adequate vision of the pulp chamber were excluded. Full-mouth radiographs that lacked half or more molars, those that pulp was not visible at half or more molars, those that lacked half or more teeth or the pulp was not visible at half or more teeth were excluded. For each patient name, gender, age and number of teeth was recorded. For each tooth with pulp stones, its status was recorded. The radiographs were examined by two examiners, using a monitor, with magnification and contrast changing as needed. Examiner reliability was calculated via replicate observations derived from double determination of 100 samples. The Cohen's Kappa was calculated 92% and the strength of agreement was considered to be 'very good'.

Results The parameters of gender, type of tooth, dental arch, side, age and tooth status (caries, restoration, periodontitis) were evaluated. Only type of tooth and tooth status were found to be significant ($p < 0.05$). The prevalence of pulp stones in this Greek population was 64.1%.

Conclusions Patient's gender and age, dental arch and side did not affect the prevalence of pulp stones, in contrast with type of tooth and tooth status. Prevalence of pulp stones was high (64.1%) as observed on periapical radiographs.

R149

WITHDRAWN.

R150

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The complexity of non-surgical endodontic treatment in general dental practice in the UK: a prevalence study

Aim To assess the prevalence of non-surgical endodontic case complexity in general dental practice.

Methodology Thirty fully qualified dentists working within general dental practice across the UK were recruited. Each dentist assessed 10–15 consecutive potential endodontic cases as encountered in their day-to-day clinical practice. The data was collected using an online endodontic case assessment tool (E-CAT) recently developed at The University of Liverpool. The tool allowed the data to be recorded into a secure database. Information on tooth-related factors, systemic factors, oral diagnosis and patient-related factors was recorded. Three levels of complexity were defined for the analysis; class 1 (uncomplicated), class 2 (moderately complicated) and class 3 (highly complicated). The data was analysed to express period prevalence with a 95% confidence interval using SPSS 22 statistical software.

Results Overall, 385 endodontic cases were evaluated. The distribution of complexity over classes 1, 2 and 3 was 37.1%, 32.6% and 30.3% respectively. Root canal retreatments formed 23.1% of the cases encountered. The majority of the cases (66.7%) appeared to have <15 degree root curvature, 29.2% had 15–40 degree curvature and only 4.1% had >40° curvature. Teeth with existing extra-coronal restorations formed 19.8% of the cases encountered. Radiographically, visible and moderately reduced canal space was reported in 76.2% of the cases, while 20.5% had severely reduced canal space and only 3.3% were perceived to have invisible canal space. History of trauma was encountered in 9.2% of the evaluated cases.

Conclusions Relatively equal distribution across the three level of endodontic treatment complexity was observed. The prevalence of severe root curvature and severely reduced canal space was relatively low. Previously root filled teeth and teeth with pre-existing extra-coronal restorations formed a considerable proportion of the endodontic treatment encountered in general dental practice.

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HISTOPATHOLOGY OF PERIAPICAL LESIONS

R151

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Effect of chronic alcohol intake on induced periapical lesions

Aim To assess the effect of chronic alcohol consumption on induced periapical lesion in rats, through histologic and histomorphometric analysis, as well as radiographic density of the periapical region.

Methodology Thirty-two male rats were allocated into four groups ($n = 8$). G1 no alcohol intake (A.I.) no periapical lesion (P.L.); G2 with A.I. no P.L.; G3 no A.I. with P.L.; G4 with A.I. with P.L. A 20% alcohol solution (Groups 2,4) or drinking

water (Groups 1 and 3) was administered for sixty days. On the thirtieth day, periapical lesions were induced (Groups 3, 4) through the pulpal exposure of the mandibular left first molar with a diamond bur, under general anaesthesia. At the end, the animals were euthanized with an anaesthetic solution overdose, had their jaw removed and stored in a 10% formalin solution. Then, specimens were subjected to digital radiographic analysis conjointly with an aluminum step wedge to compare the density. Finally, specimens were decalcified with EDTA and proceeded the protocol for paraffin inclusion, 5 micrometers thick sections were cut and stained with haematoxylin and eosin for histological and histometric analysis. Multiple comparisons of results were performed by (ANOVA) followed by Tukey test. For non-parametric data, the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's test was used. The level of significance was 5%.

Results The histopathologic analysis revealed no inflammatory infiltrate and mild infiltrate on G1 and G2 respectively. G3 and G4 had an intense polymorphonuclear inflammatory infiltrate that reached the periapical alveolar bone. There were no significant differences associated with alcohol intake on the periapical lesion groups (G3, G4) $p > 0.05$. The histometric analysis revealed larger areas of bone resorption in groups with induced periapical lesion compared to the others with no lesion induced. However, alcohol consumption did not have a significant effect on lesion size ($p > 0.05$). Digital X-ray analysis also did not show a significant difference between groups regarding to alcohol intake ($p > 0.05$), but only regarding the presence or absence periapical lesions ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions Although the groups taking alcohol had large numbers of inflammatory cells and resorption lacunae in almost the whole extent of the lesion, the magnitude of the inflammatory reaction and bone loss were similar to control groups.

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R152

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m-RNA expression of TNF- α levels In Type 2 diabetic and non-diabetic individuals with apical periodontitis

Aim To compare the gene expression levels of tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α) in teeth with apical periodontitis of diabetic and non-diabetic individuals.

Methodology The study was performed after taking ethical approval and a consent form from the patients. Fifteen type 2 diabetic patients with HgA1c level between 6 and 7, having chronic apical periodontitis were selected for the test group. Fifteen non-diabetic and systemically healthy patients were selected as the control group. Clinical samples were taken from teeth with periapical lesions with a radiographic diameter greater than 2 mm. After chemo-mechanical preparation and drying of canals, three paper points were introduced into the root canal, passing passively through the root apex 2 mm into the periapical tissues for 1 min and collected in TRIZOL reagent. The mRNA expression levels of TNF- α were determined by Real-Time PCR. Following the isolation of total RNA from each sample, cDNA was synthesized, and PCR reaction was performed. GAPDH was used as an internal control. The Student's t-test was used to compare the differences between the groups ($p < 0.05$).

Results Gene expression of TNF- α was significantly higher in diabetic patients than the control group ($p < 0.05$). The mean value of mRNA expression/GAPDH in diabetic patients was 1.606 ± 0.048 , whereas it was 1.08 ± 0.05 in non-diabetics.

Conclusions The pro-inflammatory cytokine TNF- α was expressed significantly higher in periapical lesions of diabetic patients. It is one of the responsible factors for delayed bone healing. The treatment strategy can be changed according to these findings following supporting studies. Given the data of the present study novel endodontic treatment approaches could be developed for diabetic patients.

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MODERN AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

R153

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Metabolomics fingerprint of chronic apical periodontitis with sinus tract: a pilot study

Aim To verify the possibility of identifying the metabolic fingerprint of chronic apical periodontitis (CAP) through the metabolomics analysis of saliva.

Methodology Twenty-one patients were selected. Inclusion criteria were: age: 30–60 years, both genders, good systemic condition and periodontal health, presence of at least 20 teeth, absence of pharmacological therapy. Twelve patients affected by CAP with a sinus tract constituted the study group (Group 1) and 9 patients

without clinical and radiographic signs of CAP were the controls (Group 2). Samples from saliva (2 mL) were collected from each subject and immediately frozen at -80°C . Metabolic profiling was obtained using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). The statistical approach was conducted by partial least square discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) to compare the two groups.

Results The PLS-DA model indicated a clear separation between the groups. Group 1 exhibited high concentrations of valero lactate, putrescine, proline, glycolic acid, lysine, aminopentane, glycine, phosphate and phenylalanine, while it was associated with low concentrations of glucose, sorbitol, maltose, propanediol, galactose and ethanolamine. The differences between the groups with regards to these metabolites were significant.

Conclusions The type of metabolites from saliva in the presence of CAP were closely related to bacterial catabolism and tissue necrosis, and this outcome may be associated to the presence of a sinus tract. These preliminary results indicate that metabolomics can identify the presence of CAP, based on saliva, and that there is the need for future studies with more samples.

R154

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Laser-assisted endodontics: bactericidal efficacy of various laser operation modes

Aim To assess the antibacterial action of diode laser irradiation (Continuous Wave – 1250 mW, 1500 mW) and photo-activated disinfection (PAD) on *Enterococcus faecalis* in an infected tooth model.

Methodology Forty freshly extracted bovine teeth with single canals were prepared to apical size 45, autoclaved and contaminated with *E. faecalis*. After incubation for 48 h the specimens were randomly divided into three treatment groups and one control group ($n = 10$): Group 1 ($n = 10$) was treated with a high-power diode laser emitting at a wavelength of 980 nm and set at a power of 1250 mW, operated in CW mode; Group 2 ($n = 10$) was irradiated with the same laser device set at a power of 1500 mW (CW); Group 3 ($n = 10$) was subjected to photo-activated disinfection (PAD). Toluidine Blue Ortho (TBO) as a photosensitizing agent, was introduced into each canal for 60 s. After this pre-irradiation time, irradiation was performed with a diode laser emitting at a wavelength of 635 nm and set at a power of 100 mW. Laser light was applied through a single-use endodontic difusor, which was gently moved up and down the canal during the irradiation time of 30 s. Group 4 ($n = 10$) was rinsed with saline solution and served as a positive control. After treatment, the dentine samples were collected and the CFUs/mg were counted. Values were subjected to the Kruskal-Wallis test, for group comparisons to the Mann-Whitney U-test.

Results The differences in the mean number of the colony forming units (CFU/mg) between all the groups analyzed were significant ($p < 0.001$). The greatest number of microorganisms was observed in the control group (52.7×10^3 CFU/mg). Both diode laser applications resulted in a significant reduction in the number of *E. faecalis* cells: Group 1 – 8.2×10^3 CFU/mg, Group 2 – 3.4×10^3 CFU/mg, whereas in the group subjected to PAD the extent of reduction was significantly less ($G3 - 42.8 \times 10^3$ CFU/mg).

Conclusions CW diode laser applications are suitable for root canal disinfection, but do not eradicate all bacteria.

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R155

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The effect of gamma irradiation and sterilization on body temperature fatigue behaviour of contemporary martensitic rotary instruments

Aim To compare body temperature cyclic fatigue (CF) resistance of contemporary heat-treated NiTi rotary instruments after been submitted to γ -IR and/or sterilization.

Methodology Hyflex EDM (HF) (size 25, .08 taper, manufactured by electrical discharge machining) and TRUShape (TS) (size 25, .06 taper; manufactured by grinding and shape setting) instruments were selected. A total of 160 instruments (80HF and 80TS) were divided into eight groups ($n = 20$ each) depending on the sterilization process: TS- γ IR and HF- γ IR / TS- γ IR-AC and HF- γ IR-AC (γ -irradiated and autoclaved)/ TS- no- γ IR and HF- no- γ IR (non γ -irradiated)/ TS- no- γ IR-AC and HF- no- γ IR-AC (non γ -irradiated and autoclaved). CF resistance was tested in a water bath at body temperature ($37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$). Instruments were rotated until fracture occurred in a simulated canal (angle 60° ; radius 3 mm; centre of the curvature 5 mm from the tip) with the motor controlled by an electric circuit. Mean half-life, beta and eta parameters were determined and compared with Weibull analysis.

Results Both TS-no- γ IR (mean-life = 101.5s, 95 CI% 91.7–112.3) and TS-no- γ IR-AC (mean-life = 100.7s, 95 CI% 92.1–110.2) lasted significantly longer than TS- γ IR (mean-life = 83.2s, 95 CI% 76–91.1) and TS- γ IR-AC (mean-life = 78s, 95 CI% 69.9–86.9). Further autoclave sterilization of both TS-no- γ IR and TS- γ IR did not affect fatigue resistance significantly. A different pattern was observed with HF. γ -irradiation did not affect HF fatigue behaviour (HF- γ mean-life = 717.9s, 95 CI% 636.8–809.3; HF- no- γ IR mean-life = 678.8s, 95 CI% 595.1–744.2); further sterilization significantly decreased fatigue resistance for both γ -irradiated (mean-life = 524.1s, 95 CI% 476.1–576.8) and non γ -irradiated instruments (mean-life = 570.6, 95 CI% 512.3–635.5). Overall, HF instruments lasted significantly longer than TS.

Conclusions γ -irradiation and sterilization affected differently the fatigue life span of contemporary martensitic rotary instrument manufactured with different methods.

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OUTCOME STUDIES

R156

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The Dental Practicality Index: reliability and validity in assessing the outcome of endodontically retreated teeth

Aim To assess the reliability and validity of the Dental Practicality Index in relation to the outcome of root canal re-treated teeth.

Methodology One hundred and thirty-seven posterior teeth with symptoms and/or signs of endodontic post treatment disease requiring root canal retreatment were included. Clinical and radiographic examinations including digital periapical and cone

beam computed tomography were obtained pre-treatment and 1 year post-operatively. Root canal retreatment and cuspal coverage restorations were performed by Endodontic postgraduate students using a standardised technique. A calibrated and trained assessor assessed all cases using the DPI. Each of the restorative aspects; structural integrity, endodontic status, periodontal health as well as the context of treatment were assessed and giving an overall DPI score. A one year outcome of those teeth was assessed by clinical and radiographic examinations. The DPI score was then correlated to the outcome of treatment.

Results Teeth with a DPI score of 4 or above had 32% failures, whereas teeth with a DPI score of less than 4 had 10% failures.

Conclusions The Dental Practicality Index is a potentially promising tool to aid decision making on whether it is in the patient's best interest to consider re-root canal treatment of a compromised tooth or not.

R157

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Clinical outcomes of teeth treated endodontically through pre-existing crowns

Aim To determine the incidence and treatment outcome using clinical and radiographic assessment as well as evaluate possible prognostic factors affecting treatment outcome when root canal treatment was provided through existing crowns.

Methodology The study population comprised of patients who had primary root canal treatment performed through pre-existing crowns from January 2011 to November 2014 at the National Dental Centre, Singapore. Teeth diagnosed with irreversible pulpitis or pulp necrosis, with or without apical periodontitis were included in the sample. After excluding teeth with incomplete data, or had extraction or re-treatment performed, as well as including only one tooth per patient, 197 patients were eligible for the study. One hundred and seventy-one patients (68.5% recall rate) were examined clinically and radiographically for condition of the crown and periapical status. Periapical healing status was determined by two examiners who reviewed and compared immediate post-obturation and follow-up radiographs side by side. Treatment outcome was dichotomized into 'favourable' (healed/healing in progress, absence of clinical signs and symptoms) or 'unfavourable' (uncertain/post-treatment disease, and/or clinical signs and symptoms). The Chi square test was performed to find significant associations ($p < 0.05$) between several covariables and the periapical healing status of the root filled teeth. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed on prognostic factors that were significant.

Results The incidence of such treatment modality was low, at 3.1% in 47 months. Favourable radiographic outcome for the sample of 171 teeth was 76.6% and 80.5% for per-tooth and per-root evaluation respectively. Including 16 teeth with treatment failure (re-treated or extracted) as having an unfavourable outcome, favourable outcome based on clinical and radiographic assessment was 61.5% for per-tooth evaluation based on a sample of 187 teeth. Multivariate logistic regression analysis revealed that maxillary teeth had a lower chance (OR = 0.46; 95% CI: 0.21–1.00; $p < 0.05$) of a favourable outcome as compared to mandibular teeth. Teeth with adequate length of root filling were most likely to exhibit favourable periapical healing outcome (OR = 3.2; 95% CI: 1.50–6.84; $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions Within the limitations of this study, favourable radiographic treatment outcome for this treatment modality was similar to other outcome studies. Root canal treatment through

prosthesis with intact margins and maintaining them as final restorations is a viable treatment option.

R158

WITHDRAWN.

R159

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Indications and one year follow-up of root canal treatment in a Swedish public dental health setting. Results from a prospective cohort-study

Aim To study the indications and the one-year outcome of root canal treatment performed in the Swedish public dental service.

Methodology The indications for initiating root canal treatment were recorded consecutively by general dental practitioners during a period of eight weeks at eight different clinics in the public dental service, county of Västra Götaland, Sweden. The following variables were registered: gender, age, tooth group and any symptoms present. The follow-up was made by access to the patient records. The 1-year outcome was evaluated as either not completed or completed treatment with a permanent root filling or extracted tooth. The Chi-square test was used for statistical analyses.

Results One hundred and nine teeth in 107 patients (49 (46%) men and 58 (54%) women) were included. The mean age was 49 years. Molars were the most commonly treated tooth (48%) followed by 38 (35%) premolars. The root canal treatment was initiated because of symptoms in 64 teeth (62%) and in 100 teeth (92%) it was a primary root canal treatment. At the 1-year control 72 teeth (66%) were completed with a permanent root filling. Of the remaining teeth 19 (17%) were not completed and 18 (17%) had been extracted. Molars were completed to a significantly less degree (48%) compared to premolars (82%) and incisors and canines (84%) ($p = 0.001$). There was no significant difference in respect to gender, age or symptoms.

Conclusions The findings in this prospective study suggest that in Swedish public dental health root canal treatment is frequently initiated because of symptoms from previously non-root filled teeth. In addition, root canal treatment in molars was associated with particular treatment difficulties.

R160

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Long-term outcome and survival of teeth after endodontic microsurgery: a 5–9 year follow-up study

Aim To evaluate retrospectively the 5–9-year success and survival rates of teeth that underwent endodontic microsurgery (EMS), the various predictors for healing, and patient satisfaction levels at long-term recall. Short and long-term outcomes were also compared.

Methodology Patients who had EMS from 2007 to 2010 were invited to participate. Eligible patients were recalled for a clinical and radiographic examination. A satisfaction survey was

administered at recall, and patients returned the same survey 2 weeks later by post. A blinded radiographic evaluation was carried out by two independent, calibrated examiners. Outcome was determined based on clinical and radiographic findings and associated with pre-, intra- and post-operative variables. Survival status and reasons for extraction of all teeth were determined. Multivariate Cox regression, Kaplan-Meier and Pearson's correlation analyses were used to identify prognostic factors, survival rate and test-retest reliability respectively.

Results Of 151 patients invited to participate, there were 25 discontinuers, 40 dropouts, and 76 participants. The recall rate was 66.1% after excluding discontinuers. Thirty teeth were extracted: 6 due to surgical failure, 20 for unrelated reasons, 4 for unknown reasons. The 6 teeth that were extracted due to surgical failure were included in the computation of healed rates. Outcomes were categorized as healed (77.6%) and not healed (22.4%). Multivariate analysis revealed that adjusted hazard ratio for failure was $4.27 \times$ (95% CI: 1.07,17.01; $p = 0.039$) higher for teeth treated with IRM than with MTA. The 9-year survival rate was 91.8%. Patients reported high levels of satisfaction with Pearson's correlation scores ranging from 0.666 to 0.810 ($p < 0.001$). Teeth classified as 'healed' in the short-term, mostly remained healed at the long-term, whereas those with 'uncertain healing' at short-term had varied outcomes in the long-term.

Conclusions The healed rate was 77.6%, functional retention rate was 87.1%, and 9-year survival rate was 91.8%. This study suggests that MTA was associated with a higher healed rate than IRM. However, this should be interpreted with caution as root-end filling material was not randomly allocated at the time of treatment. Patients reported high levels of satisfaction with EMS at the long-term recall. The satisfaction survey used showed high test-retest reliability, but should be validated in future studies.

Acknowledgements This study was funded by the National Dental Centre of Singapore (NDCS) Research Fund

R161

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A 20-year clinical study: functionality and success of root canal treatments

Aim This prospective cohort study aimed to evaluate endodontically-treated teeth checked periodically for at least 20 years.

Methodology A large number of patients were managed between January 1989 and January 1996 for various endodontic reasons (deep caries/pulpitis, periapical lesion, prosthetic reason, retreatment for re-exacerbate lesion) and followed-up for at least 20 years. Teeth were endodontically treated by a single specialist and restored definitively by four different operators. During the routine hygiene recall-program (approx. every 2 years for 20 years), teeth were clinically and radiographically blindly assessed to detect clinical symptoms, presence of apical radiolucency (PAI), quality of root filling, presence of apical extrusion and quality of coronal restoration (coronal status). A Chi-square-test was performed to detect statistically significant pre-, intra- and post-operative factors associated with root canal treatment disease ($p < 0.05$). Multilevel analysis was performed to explore factors associated to endodontic failure/disease development. A Kaplan Meier analysis was used to examine tooth survival.

Results At 20-year recall, 196 teeth in 70 patients (39M, 31F; mean age 37.7 ± 8 years) were analyzed. 153 (78.1%) were functional and 41 (20.9%) had been extracted. Out of these, 39 were lost for non-endodontic reasons (tooth fracture, periodontal

diseases, deep carious/not-restorable tooth) and 2 as a result of the sequelae of endodontic pathosis. 128 teeth (65.3%) did not have endodontic disease, were not retreated ($PAI \leq 2$) and were defined as healthy. Twenty-seven teeth (13.7%) developed an endodontic lesion, or showed a stable/unaltered periapical radiolucency ($PAI \geq 3$) during the 20 year follow-up; these teeth were defined as endodontically diseased. Pre-operative disease, initial PAI and coronal status significantly influenced ($p < 0.05$) the final outcome/success rate.

Conclusions In the long-term, approximately 80% of treated teeth remained functional. Teeth were more frequently extracted for non-endodontic reasons rather than for endodontic failure/sequelae. Endodontically treated teeth that received and maintained an adequate hygiene therapy and coronal restoration were associated with long-term success.

R162

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Incidence of apical periodontitis in root filled teeth following intra-radicular post placement

Aim To explore the incidence of apical periodontitis, following placement of intra-radicular posts, and its dependence on the quality of previous root filling.

Methodology Two observers evaluated the patient records and intra-oral radiographs from the public dental health organisation of Kalmar county, Sweden. The records consisted of all teeth receiving an intra-radicular post in 2009. Included in this study were teeth that had an existing root filling, older than one year, and where no sign of apical periodontitis was present. Root filling quality was evaluated as good or poor. Each patient was allowed to contribute with one tooth only. Available information in patient records and from follow-up radiographs were analysed for signs of occurrence of apical periodontitis over a 6-year period. Statistical analyses were completed using Fisher's exact test.

Results Intra-radicular posts had been placed in 534 teeth; 175 teeth in 94 women and 81 men fulfilled the inclusion criteria. The mean age at baseline (2009) was 58 years. Twenty-nine teeth (40%) had a good quality root filling and 44 teeth (60%) had a poor quality root filling. During the 6-year period, 73 teeth (42%) had at least one follow-up radiograph. Twenty-one teeth (29%) developed signs of apical periodontitis. For teeth with a good quality root filling, the incidence was 6 teeth (21%). Whilst for teeth with poor root filling quality the corresponding incidence was 15 teeth (34%). The difference in root filling quality was not significant ($p = 0.21$).

Conclusions Findings from this study suggest that placement of intra-radicular posts in previously root filled and apically healthy teeth may be a risk factor for the development of apical periodontitis. Further studies, including more patients and a control group, are needed to provide supporting evidence.

R163

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Healing of apical periodontitis in patients with autoimmune diseases under anti-TNF α medications

Aim To evaluate the healing response following root canal treatment (RCT) of apical periodontitis (AP) in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs) treated with biologic medications (BMs).

Methodology Nineteen patients (22 teeth with AP) affected by IBDs and under treatment with BMs were included (IBD study group). Fourteen patients (22 teeth with AP) without systemic disease and not under any medication represented the control group. Following primary and secondary RCTs, healing of AP was followed-up clinically and radiographically every three months until the end of the study (24 months). Two calibrated endodontists evaluated the extension of AP using the periapical index score (PAI). Data were recorded and statistical analysis using student t-test, Chi-square, Wilcoxon signed-rank test and ANOVA was conducted (p -value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant).

Results At time zero, both groups had similar PAI values (2.8 ± 0.8 IBD; 3.1 ± 0.8 Control). Twenty-two (IBD group) and 18 teeth (control group) were diagnosed as healed at the 24-month follow-up, with an average PAI through the follow-up period lower for the IBD group (IBD 1.56 ± 0.48 ; Controls 2.01 ± 0.79) ($p < 0.05$). IBD group had a 18% higher healing risk than Controls ($p < 0.05$). The beginning of healing was noticeable earlier in the IBD group compared to Controls (3 and 6 months, respectively). Similarly, complete healing occurred earlier in the IBD group (6 months; Controls 10.5). Analysis of variance revealed PAI values of the IBD group 0.47 less than the Control ($\beta = 0.47$, $p < 0.05$, 95% CI = [-0.62, -0.32], and 0.07 smaller ($\beta = -0.07$, p -value < 0.0001, 95% CI = [-0.078, -0.059]) during the follow-up period.

Conclusions Healing of AP was faster in IBD patients under biologic medication. This study suggests a possible positive association between BMs and healing of AP after adequate root canal treatment. Further studies with a larger cohort are needed to confirm these findings.

TRAUMA/REGENERATION

R164

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EDTA-conditioning of circumpulpal dentine induces regenerative events following removal of coronal pulp in miniature swine teeth

Aim To evaluate the pulp response after complete removal of the coronal pulp and EDTA-conditioning of circumpulpal dentine of the coronal pulp chamber without any therapeutic dressing.

Methodology On the occlusal surfaces of 42 fully developed permanent teeth of 3 healthy miniature swine, Class I cavities and

pulp exposures (2.5 mm X 2.5 mm) were prepared. After the complete removal of the coronal portion of the pulp the haemorrhage was controlled and the amputated pulp was covered with thin polyurethane film. Teeth were divided into 3 groups: Cotton pellets soaked in normal saline (control group), or 17% EDTA solution (experimental groups A and B) were placed in the pulp chamber for 3 min. After cleaning of the pulp chamber with saline the film was removed and the pulp cavity was left empty in teeth of Group A, or was filled with sponge of swine collagen in teeth of Group B. Teeth were restored with Teflon discs and glass ionomer. Pulp response was evaluated histo-morphologically after 10 weeks.

Results Traces of mineralized tissue were found along the root dentinal walls of control teeth. The pulp responses of experimental groups were characterized by the following changes: Group A: deposition of large amounts of mineralized matrix along the root dentinal walls and at the site of pulp amputation. Group B: pulp growth and deposition of osteotypic mineralized matrix along the conditioned dentinal walls without any evidence of odontoblast-like cells differentiation, or complete root canal obliteration was seen.

Conclusions The conditioning of coronal circumpulpal dentine with EDTA without use of therapeutic dressing, exerted an *in vivo* morphogenetic activity on the cells in amputated pulps.

R165

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Angiopietins and Tie2 receptor expression in immature permanent teeth

Aim To investigate the distribution of angiogenic factors ANG1, ANG2, their receptor Tie2, and the endothelial cell-surface marker CD34 in the apical papilla (AP) of immature permanent teeth using immunohistochemistry; and their mRNA levels in the AP compared with the coronal pulp using q-PCR.

Methodology Ethical approval was obtained from the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee (H15/002). Ten unerupted immature third molar teeth were extracted, decalcified in 10% EDTA, and embedded in paraffin. Sections were stained by immunohistochemistry using anti-ANG1, anti-ANG2, anti-Tie2, and anti-CD34, and visualized using the chromogen DAB. A pyogenic granuloma served as a positive control. Non-specific anti-IgG was the isotype negative control. Slides were examined using light microscopy and the distribution of markers described. Eight extracted immature third molars were used for mRNA analyses. Teeth were sectioned transversely below the CEJ, and the coronal pulp and AP were removed for RNA extraction. mRNA levels for ANG1, ANG2, Tie2 and CD34 were determined using TaqMan assays. Data analyses were performed with GraphPad Prism[®], using Wilcoxon tests at $p < 0.05$.

Results Endothelial cells were the main cell type expressing these markers centrally in the AP. ANG1 (perivascular), Tie2 (cell surface), and CD34 (cell surface) had more immunopositive staining than ANG2 (intracellular). ANG1, ANG2 and Tie2 (TEK) genes were more expressed in the AP compared with the coronal pulp but these did not reach significance ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions The presence of angiopietins and their receptor mRNA and protein in the AP of immature teeth suggests the potential for these growth factors to contribute to physiological development and pulp healing following injury.

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WITHDRAWN.

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WITHDRAWN.

R168N. Scott^{1,*}, W.M. Thomson² & P. Cathro³¹Postgraduate Endodontic Programme, ²Department of Oral Sciences & ³Department of Oral Rehabilitation, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand**Traumatic dental injuries (TDIs) in the most recent NZ National Oral Health Survey (NZOHS)****Aim** To determine the prevalence and associations of TDIs in New Zealand adults by analysing data from the 2009 National Oral Health Survey (NZOHS).**Methodology** Information about TDIs in a representative sample of 2209 New Zealand adults was collected as part of the NZOHS. This included self-reported information and a clinical examination of the maxillary 6 anterior teeth. Data were weighted and analysed using Stata.**Results** Of the approximately 40% who reported previous orofacial trauma, 70% (that is, 28% of the overall population) reported that this included a TDI. More males than females had experienced orofacial trauma (51% and 31% respectively; $p < 0.05$) but there was no significant difference with TDIs. The most common injury reported was a chipped or broken tooth (67%). Examination of the 6 maxillary anterior teeth revealed a 23% overall TDI prevalence, with more males than females affected (27% and 20% respectively). TDIs were more prevalent in the 35–44 age group (33%). Teeth 11 (15%) and 21 (13%) were the most frequently affected. The most common clinical TDI observation was evidence of treatment or an untreated enamel fracture. These were more common among males and those in the 35–44 age group.**Conclusions** TDIs in the NZ adult population constitute an important public health issue, given that many will need life-long follow-up and treatment.**R169**

WITHDRAWN.

R170M. Ozguven Akbulut¹, M. Turk² & A. Erdemir^{1,*}¹Department of Endodontics, Faculty of Dentistry & ²Department of Bioengineering, Faculty of Engineering, Kirikkale University, Kirikkale, Turkey**Effect of various irrigation protocols on the survival of human stem cells in the apical papilla in organotype root canal models****Aim** To evaluate the effect of different irrigation protocols on survival of human stem cells of the apical papilla (SCAP) with WST-1 assay and SEM analysis.**Methodology** SCAPs were isolated from immature human third molars and CD73, CD90 and CD105 coexpressing cells were used.Forty-three standardized organotype root canal models were prepared for WST-1 assay and randomly divided into 1 control ($n = 3$) and 8 experimental groups ($n = 5$). Standardized organotype root canal models were irrigated with 1 of 9 protocols: (1) no irrigation, (2) 5% EDTA, (3) 17% EDTA, (4) 1% NaOCl/5% EDTA, (5) 2.5% NaOCl/5% EDTA, (6) 5% NaOCl/5% EDTA, (7) 1% NaOCl/17% EDTA, (8) 2.5% NaOCl/17% EDTA, (9) 5% NaOCl/17% EDTA. Following these procedures, isolated SCAPs were mixed with platelet-rich plasma (PRP) and seeded into the organotype models and cultured for 3 and 7 days. Nine mandibular premolar teeth were used for SEM analysis. The prepared root canals were split longitudinally. After irrigation protocols as in the WST-1 assay, isolated SCAP mixed with PRP were seeded into the root canals. After 7 day incubation, the samples were prepared for SEM analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using Kruskal-Wallis H test with the Bonferroni *post-hoc* test.**Results** Irrigation with only 17% EDTA (Group-3) and 2.5% NaOCl followed by 17% EDTA (Group-8) had the highest SCAP viability on day 7 and in these groups, SCAPs in small communities attached on dentine surface were more consistent than the other groups. Final irrigation with 17% EDTA increased SCAP viability more than 5% EDTA, following NaOCl irrigation at both times. In the groups where 5% NaOCl was used (Group-6 and 9), absorbance values decreased from the third day to the seventh day.**Conclusions** Dentine conditioning with irrigation protocols that included 5% NaOCl had irreversible negative effects on SCAP survival. However, irrigation protocols that included 2.5% NaOCl followed by 17% EDTA might be beneficial for regenerative endodontic therapies.**Acknowledgements** This research was supported by Scientific Research Projects Coordination Center (Project number: 2014/005) of Kirikkale University, Kirikkale, Turkey.**R171**K.M. Reichenmiller^{1,*}, C.W. Löst², W. Kraut³, I. Schumacher¹, D. Axmann³ & S. Maier-Schell¹¹Department of Conservative Dentistry and Periodontology,²Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery & ³Department of Prosthodontics, University Hospital, Tübingen, Germany**Effects of three covering materials on human pulp derived stem cells used clinically for capping blood clots in regenerative endodontics****Aim** To analyze human pulp derived stem cells (HPDSCS) after exposure to several light-cured (LC) materials and MTA used clinically for covering blood clots in regenerative endodontics.**Methodology** Cells were derived from pulp tissue of freshly extracted human third molars. Teeth were caries free with incomplete root development. The ages of the donors were 15–22 years. Pulp tissues from four different donors were cultured after enzymatic digestion based on the Gronthos' protocol for obtaining HPDSCS. After reaching confluence, the cells were trypsinized and seeded on 24-well-plates with 10 000 cells per well. After 24 h the cells were exposed to the following materials ($n = 192$ in all groups): 1. MTA (Dentsply/Germany); 2. Calcimol LC (CM; Voco/Germany); 3. Ultrablend plus (UB; Ultradent/USA); and controls. The materials were prepared according to manufacturer's instructions, placed in inserts (pore size 0.4 μm), and then into wells after 24 h. After 1, 4, 7 and 11 days cells were analyzed by Casy cell counter (Roche Innovatis/Germany) focusing on viability/%, viability/mL, and on mean diameter of the cells. Additionally, HE staining was performed. Statistical analysis was achieved by one-way ANOVA followed by a *post hoc* analysis (Tukey's HSD test). Significance level was $p \leq 0.05$.

Results Viability/% showed no differences between the groups on day 1. On day 4 and 7 the viability/% of the cells exposed to UB was significantly lower compared to the MTA or control group. On day 11 the UB and CM groups had significantly lower viability/% than cells of the control group. Viability/mL was significantly lower than in the MTA and control groups on days 1, 4, 7 and 11 in the UB and CM groups. Mean diameter of HPDSCS was significantly larger in the UB group than in the other groups on day 1, while on day 4 this was true for the UB and the CM groups; this was confirmed by HE staining.

Conclusions At the beginning of the observation period the HPDSCS exposed to LC materials had significantly larger diameters than those incubated with MTA or in the control group. At the middle and end of the trial, the viability of HPDSCS exposed to LC materials decreased significantly.

R172

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Evaluation of a fluorescence-aided identification technique (FIT) for removal of composite bonded trauma splints: an *ex vivo* comparative study

Aim To evaluate a fluorescence-aided identification technique (FIT) in comparison with a conventional light source for removal of a composite resin bonded Titan-Trauma-Splint (TTS), regarding time needed, loss of tooth structure and remaining composite resin.

Methodology Twenty-two maxillary models with six bovine teeth (FDI: 13–23) were fabricated. Two models served for calibration of the experimental set-up. A pre-operative digital surface-scan was performed and a TTS was applied under standardized conditions using composite resin. Two dentists removed splints from five models using FIT and five with a conventional light source. For FIT, a 405 nm light-emitting headlamp (prototype) was used. Time was recorded. A post-operative scan was superimposed on the pre-operative scan using OraCheck software. A qualitative and quantitative analysis of tooth defects and composite resin remnants was performed. Data were analyzed statistically.

Results Compared with the conventional technique (CT), FIT was significantly faster (mean: 162 s versus 268 s) ($p < 0.0001$), led to significantly fewer and smaller tooth defects (mean volume: -0.04 mm^3 versus -0.33 mm^3) ($p < 0.0001$), and significantly less composite resin remained on the tooth surface (mean volume: 0.02 mm^3 versus 0.28 mm^3) ($p < 0.0001$).

Conclusions FIT allowed the reliable removal of composite with fewer resin remnants and tooth defects in a shorter period of time compared to the conventional method. Therefore it is highly recommended for splint and composite resin removal.

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WITHDRAWN.

R174

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Evaluation of internal bleaching in traumatized teeth submitted to pulp revascularization

Aim To evaluate internal bleaching of discoloured traumatized teeth submitted to pulp revascularization and the satisfaction of patients with the results of treatment.

Methodology Fourteen teeth of twelve patients were divided into three groups: Group TAP ($n = 4$): discoloured teeth treated with triple antibiotic paste (ciprofloxacin, metronidazole and minocycline) as intracanal dressing, and cervical sealing with white MTA; Group CHP ($n = 4$): discoloured teeth treated with calcium hydroxide and 2% chlorhexidine gel as intracanal medication, and cervical sealing with white MTA, and a Control Group (DT) ($n = 6$): discoloured teeth after dental trauma, treated endodontically. The bleaching agent was sodium perborate mixed with distilled water changed every 7 days, for a maximum of five applications. Colour evaluation was measured by a spectrophotometer at the beginning (T0) and at the end of internal bleaching (T1). A validated questionnaire was used to assess satisfaction of patients. Data were collected based on the CIELAB-CIE1976 ($L^*a^*b^*$) system and analyzed using analysis of variance of repeated measures and Tukey's test. The Pearson correlation test was used for analysis between discolouration time and number of sessions. To verify the difference in the scores of the visual analogue scale, the Wilcoxon test was applied.

Results Independent of the group, the T1 values were significantly higher than T0 values ($p = 0.006$). In the analysis of L^* values, independent of the group, final L^* was significantly higher than values of L^* initial ($p = 0.006$). There was no significant difference between the means of ΔE ($p = 0.48$) and ΔL ($p = 0.42$). All groups resulted in a similar tooth bleaching. Only in group TD, in which teeth had been discoloured for several years needed more bleach applications ($p = 0.0005$). In the analysis of patient satisfaction, there was a significant difference between the initial and final values ($p = 0.003$). At the end of the treatment, 72.7% of the patients were satisfied, while 27.3% were very satisfied.

Conclusions Internal bleaching was effective for discoloured traumatized teeth after pulp revascularization, with satisfactory aesthetic results.

OTHER

R175

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The influence of adalimumab on the healing of apical periodontitis in ferrets

Aim To evaluate the effect of adalimumab (anti-TNF α), on healing and healing time of experimentally-induced apical periodontitis (AP) in ferrets.

Methodology AP was induced in the canines of twelve male ferrets. Three ferrets (12 teeth) provided the positive controls for the

histological evaluation; the canines of the remaining nine ferrets were randomly divided into 3 treatment groups with 12 teeth each in the following manner: Group 1: conventional root canal treatment (RCT) and systemic subcutaneous administration of anti-TNF α every two weeks for 90 days; Group 2: RCT and a single periapical administration of anti-TNF α prior to canal obturation, via root canal; Group 3: RCT only (control). Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) of the jaws were taken at baseline health (T0); AP confirmation (T1); 30 (T2), 60 (T3) and 90 (T4) days post RCT to monitor healing. Two calibrated radiologists assessed the CBCTs independently and blindly for AP identification and quantification. Interclass correlation agreement was measured and rank-based ANCOVA was used for statistical analysis of lesion size. Level of significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

Results AP was induced in all teeth. Following RCT, all AP lesions in the 3 groups were associated with a significant reduction in size. Specific pairwise comparisons of the related samples demonstrated a decreasing trend in lesion size with healing time in all three groups, most pronounced for Group 2 (local adalimumab). No significant difference was noticed between groups ($p > 0.05$). The examiners' interclass correlation coefficient was 0.977.

Conclusions Both systemic and local anti-TNF did not hinder AP healing in this animal model, and a faster healing response when these medications are used may also be anticipated. These findings encourage follow-up studies with larger sample sizes.

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WITHDRAWN.

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WITHDRAWN.

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Influence of heat treatment, environmental temperature and cross-section design on cyclic fatigue resistance of NiTi rotary instruments

Aim To determine how cross-section design, heat treatment and environmental temperature affect the fatigue life of NiTi files of the same size and taper under cyclic fatigue stress in simulated root canals.

Methodology Three groups of One Shape instruments (OS) produced by the same manufacturer (Micro-Mega, Besançon, France) size 25, .06 taper with two different cross sections (A and B) were tested: Group1, OS section A; Group2, OS section B; Group3, OS section B Heat Treated. Cyclic fatigue testing was performed in artificial canals with a 5 mm radius and 60° angle of curvature 5 mm from the tip. The test was performed in a liquid environment at two different temperatures: 0° and 20° C. A total of 120 instruments were rotated at 300 rpm until fracture occurred and the number of cycles to failure (NCF) was recorded. Data were analyzed by one-way Anova and the Bonferroni test ($p < 0.05$).

Results Mean values of NCF recorded for the different groups (\pm SD) were: 462 (60) Group 1 at 20°C; 473 (83) Group 2 at

20°C; 1513 (154) Group 3 at 20°C; 2461 (115) Group 1 at 0°C; 2628 (131) Group 2 at 0°C; 3879 (676) Group 3 at 0°C. There were significant differences between Groups 1 and 2 versus Group 3 at both the temperatures tested ($p < 0.05$), while there was no difference between Group 1 and 2. There were significant differences between the two temperatures in all the different groups of instruments tested ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions Cross section was not a significant variable influencing fatigue resistance. Heat treatment of the alloy was a significant variable influencing the fatigue resistance of the instruments tested; Group 3 obtained the best performances for both temperatures tested. Temperature was also a significant variable influencing the fatigue resistance for both traditional NiTi (Groups 1 and 2) and heat-treated instruments (Group 3).

R179

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Cyclic fatigue testing of Blue NiTi alloy reciprocating files at different environmental temperatures

Aim To investigate how environmental temperature can affect the fatigue life of nickel–titanium (NiTi) rotary files manufactured from Blue alloy.

Methodology Cyclic fatigue testing of NiTi instruments was performed in stainless steel artificial canals with a 5 mm radius of curvature and a 60° angle of curvature located 5 mm from the tip of the instrument. Eighty R25 Reciproc Blue instruments (20 for each Group) of the same size and taper, 0.25 mm tip size and variable taper reducing from .08 at the tip to .04 at the shaft, were rotated in the artificial root canal until fracture occurred and the number of complete rotations to failure (NRF) were recorded. The test was conducted using a thermostatic bath with electronic and infrared controls in a water based liquid media at temperatures of: 0°, 20°, 35° and 39° C. Data were analysed by one-way Anova and the Bonferroni test; the significance was determined at the 95% confidence level ($p < 0.05$).

Results Mean values of NRF (\pm SD) were respectively: 2724 (189) at 0°C, 1974 (401) at 20°C, 954 (255) at 35°C, 705 (290) at 39°C. There were significant differences among all of the groups tested ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions Temperature was a significant variable influencing the fatigue resistance and mechanical properties of NiTi instruments. As the environmental temperature increased the resistance of the instruments to flexural fatigue decreased, with an increase of 180% in fatigue life when 0° was compared to the clinical temperature present in root canals (35°C). A decrease of 26% was observed between 35°C and 39°C, demonstrating great sensibility of this type of alloy even to minimal changes of the environmental temperature. Further studies are needed to determine how to apply these observations clinically.