



Non-surgical endodontic retreatment and follow-up of an endo – perio lesion: a case report

Toygan Bora

Toygan Bora, Private Clinic, Practice Limited To Endodontics, Istanbul, Turkey

Endo-perio lesion is a clinical dilemma and may be the most complex, refractory problem we encounter, even for the most experienced hands, and should not be underestimated. When a primarily endodontic pathology changes into a secondary periodontal lesion the clinical features become more unusual. This may delay the diagnosis and the correct treatment. This case report evaluates 6 months follow up of non surgical endodontic retreatment of an endo – perio lesion, which was treated before with conventional endodontic treatment and aims to show importance of obturation technique in lateral canals involved endo perio lesions.

Keywords: Endo-perio lesion; lateral canal; lateral condensation; warm vertical obturation.

The tooth, the pulp tissue it contains and its supporting structures should be viewed as one biologic unit. The interrelationship of these structures influences each other during health, function and disease. The relationship between the periodontium and the pulp was first discovered by Simring and Goldberg in 1964.^[1] The periodontium and pulp have embryonic, anatomic and functional inter-relationship.

Endo- perio lesions primarily occur due to anatomic and vascular connections between pulp and periodontium. Pulp tissue degenerates due to a number reasons such as caries, restorative procedures, restorative materials, chemical insult, thermal insult, trauma and peridontal disease. Three main pathways have been implicated in the development of periodontal-endodontic lesions, namely:^[2]

- Dentinal tubules
- Lateral and accessory canals
- Apical foramen

Pulpal and periodontal tissues are closely related and the disease transmission between these two lesions has been demonstrated by many studies, which showed significant microbiological similarities between infected root canals and advanced periodontitis.^[3-6]

The possible pathways for ingress of bacteria and their products into these tissues can broadly be divided into: anatomical and nonphysiological pathways.^[7]

The most important among the anatomical pathways are vascular pathways such as the apical foramen and the lateral canals and tubular pathways.

Lateral canals

In addition to the apical foramen which is the main avenue of communication, there are a multitude of branches connecting the main root canal system with the periodontal ligament and are now currently termed as ‘accessory canals’. The term accessory canal is now used to describe

Correspondence: Dr. Toygan Bora. Sedef Caddesi, Mercan 6, Daire 5, 34758 Ataşehir, İstanbul, Turkey.

Tel: +90 216 – 455 50 00 e-mail: toyganbora@gmail.com

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any ramification that connects the root canal system to the periodontal ligament.^[7]

As the root develops, ectomesenchymal channels get incorporated, either due to dentine formation around existing blood vessels or breaks in the continuity of the Hertwig's root sheath, to become lateral or accessory canals.

The majority of the accessory canals are found in the apical part of the root and lateral canals in the molar furcation region. The frequency of these ramifications on the root surface are as follows: apical third 17%, coronal third 1.6% and body of the root 8.8%.^[8] Bender et al., stated that periodontal endodontic problems were much more frequent in the molars than in the anterior teeth because of the greater number of accessory canals present in the molars.^[9] The percentage of lateral canals in the furcation is 46% in first molars^[10] and 50 to 60% in any multirooted teeth.^[11] Endo-perio lesions associated with lateral and accessory canals can successfully be treated with complete debridement and obturation of root canals. This case report describes the successful non-surgical management and follow-up of an endo-perio lesion.

It has been stated that lateral canals can radiographically be identified only if they are filled with a contrasting filling material. Radiographically the presence of lateral

canals before obturation can be identified by the following:

Case report

A 42 year old female patient was referred to our clinic by a dentist. Her main complaint was the presence of mild pain during biting on her bridge on the left upper side. The patient had no medical history. Extraoral examination, revealed no contributory sign or swelling. In the intra oral examination the left second premolar was the most tender tooth during percussion test and there was a minor swelling associated with a sinus tract on the vestibular portion along the root surface. Sulcus depths around the tooth were within normal limits. Radiographic examination revealed that the left second premolar had an endodontic treatment before and had a lateral periapical lesion (Fig. 1a).

The patient's clinical and radiographic findings seemed to suggest a primary endodontic lesion associated with a secondary periodontal involvement. Two visit endodontic treatment was performed. Rubber dam was applied during both visits. At the first appointment, gutta percha in the root canal system was removed by ProTaper rotary retreatment files (Dentsply, Maillefer, Switzerland) and working



Fig. 1. (a) Periapical radiograph revealing a lateral periapical lesion. (b) Calcium hydroxide medication. (c) Root canal obturation. (d) Periapical radiograph taken 6 months later reveals healing of the lesion.

length was determined by a #45 K file radiographically. Root canal was shaped manually with K flexo reamers (Dentsply, Maillefer, Switzerland) till #80 using step back technique and was irrigated with %2.5 sodium hypochloride with ultrasonic activation throughout the treatment. %17 EDTA solution and %2.5 NaOCl was used for final irrigation. Passive ultrasonic activation with Irrisafe tip (Acteon Satelec, Usa) for 1 minute was performed to activate NaOCl. Calcium hydroxide was placed and patient was recalled for two weeks later (Fig. 1b).

After two weeks of treatment sinus tract was healed, patient had no tenderness to percussion and symptoms disappeared. Root canal system was rinsed with EDTA to remove the calcium hydroxide (Ulracal XS, Ultradent) by help of ultrasonics (U Files, NSK). The root canal was irrigated with 2.5% sodium hypochlorite and saline solution. After drying the root canal obturation was performed by using warm vertical gutta percha technique and sealer (Kerr pulp canal sealer, Sybronendo, Usa) with downpack (System B Heat Source, Sybronendo, Usa) and backfill (Be-fill Backfill, Vdw GmbH) systems. The access cavity was filled using a temporary filling material (Cavit, 3M ESPE, Germany) (Fig. 1c) The patient was sent to the back to the referring dentist and a recall appointment was given six months later. During the follow-up, there was radiographical evidence of healing of the lesion and new bone formation (Fig. 1d).

Discussion

Complex root canal anatomy may prevent satisfactory removal of bacteria and biofilm from root canal surfaces resulting in failure of endodontic treatment.

In this case, the canal was obturated by cold lateral condensation technique. Although it is one of the most common obturation techniques used by many colleagues, it might not be effective to obturate the irregularities in the root canal system.

Lateral compaction produces a cold-welded, non-uniform mass of gutta-percha cones in the coronal, middle, and apical portion of the canal without perfect replication of the canal, leaving space filled with sealer.^[12] Warm vertical compaction can increase the gutta percha mass density and homogeneity.^[13,14] This technique has shown greater ability to flow into canal irregularities.^[15-17] A 10% higher healing rate was also reported with WVC versus CLC for teeth with previous apical periodontitis.^[18] It is also supported by studies that warm obturation techniques are significantly better than cold lateral compaction in different ways.^[12-15]

In the root canal system was not curved so it was able

to control the gutta percha while condensing and visibility under microscope was better. However, negotiating curved root canals with pluggers and/or GP injection needles can be difficult. In such cases other warm gutta-percha techniques such as carrier based systems can be preferred to prevent voids inside the root canal. These systems have been shown to have gutta percha contents superior to system B and Cold lateral condensation techniques.^[19,20]

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