

November 2006

META Analysis of Effectiveness of Single-visit Versus Multiple-visit Root Canal Treatment

A review of evidence shows that multiple visits with calcium hydroxide treatment does not improve clinical outcome and this META analysis of randomized and controlled trials provides at least a minimal level of evidence for considering one versus two appointments when planning NSRCT procedures. The difference in healing rate between these two treatment regimens was not statistically significant.

There is considerable interest in the efficacy of different regimens of NSRCT on the healing of apical periodontitis, largely because the treatment protocol is under the clinician's control. This study is a well-designed systematic review. The study does provide an important conclusion: **there was no significant difference in the healing of apical periodontitis in the one-visit cases versus the multiple-visit cases with calcium hydroxide treatment. Indeed, if anything, one-visit treatment tends to have a better outcome.**

These results have strong therapeutic and research implications. First, the finding of this systematic review that multiple visits with calcium hydroxide treatment does not improve upon clinical outcome provides at least a minimal level of evidence for considering one versus two appointments when planning NSRCT procedures. Secondly, this finding has considerable scientific implications. In particular, what other NSRCT regimens might further increase success in the healing of apical periodontitis? In addition, the quality of the coronal restoration or the post and core appear to have a significant and perhaps larger impact on clinical outcomes.

Evidence-Based Dentistry (2006) 7, 13–14. doi:10.1038/sj.ebd.6400372 Dr. Ken M. Hargreaves (Department of Endodontics, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, USA, PhD in Pharmacology and editor, *Journal of Endodontics*)

Updated 2006 Northshore Pharmacy List Enclosed

There have been many changes in our area's pharmacies, and this update is hot off the press!
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Safe and Effective Use of Zithromax

Zithromax is used in dentistry as an alternate antibiotic in the treatment of common orofacial infections caused by aerobic gram-positive cocci and susceptible anaerobes. **It is also used as an alternate antibiotic for the prevention of bacterial endocarditis** in patients undergoing dental procedures.

While Zithromax is very effective in dental applications, there are important precautions that should be observed. While it **may be taken with or without food, it should not be taken with antacids that contain aluminum or magnesium**. Zithromax is **contraindicated** with pimozide (**Orap**), and may increase the concentration of bromocriptine (**Parlodel**), carbamazepine (**Tegretol**), and triazolam (**Halcion**).

There are other drug interactions of which to be aware. Zithromax inhibits substrate of CYP3A4 (weak) and may increase the serum concentrations of **cardiac glycosides**. Monitor Colchicine, as Zithromax may increase the adverse/toxic effects, and may increase the serum levels of the anti-HIV medication Nelfinavir (Viracept). It should also be monitored for adverse effects with **Warfarin (Coumadin)**, as Zithromax and other macrolides may decrease metabolism, via CYP isoenzymes, of Warfarin, **potentially causing increased effects**.

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As we begin the 2006 holiday season, we wish to express our Thanks to you for being part of the many blessings we have received throughout the year. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your team and value your confidence as shown by your referral of your patients. Thank you!

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving season,

Catherine