

In vitro evaluation of apical microleakage in retrofillings with different resection angles

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ABSTRACT

Paraendodontic surgery is a procedure that aims to solve problems that could not be solved by, or when it is not possible to perform conventional endodontic treatment. The aim of this experimental study was to compare the apical microleakage of teeth sectioned at 45° or 90° to the long axis of the tooth and root-end filled with mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) using stereomicroscopy. In this study, 26 maxillary central incisors were used. Cleaning and shaping were performed with use of the Oregon technique and the samples were randomly divided into two groups. In Group A (n=10) apical section was performed at an angle of 90°, making a retrocavity with an ultrasonic tip and retrofilling with MTA. In group B (n=10) the same procedures were performed, but the apical section was at a 45° angle. Then the samples were immersed in a dye (India ink), placed in an oven

at 37° for 48 h before applying the clearing technique. Afterwards the teeth were assessed by stereomicroscope at 20x magnification to analyze dye leakage. Data were submitted to the Student's-t test with significance level $p < 0.05$. There was statistically significant difference between groups. Group B showed higher apical microleakage values compared with group A ($P = 0.004$), but both groups showed dye leakage. The results showed that the 90° apical section promoted lower dye microleakage values at the dentin-retrofilling material interface than the 45°-section and could be considered the most effective technique for apical preparation in paraendodontic surgery.

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Keywords: Periapical diseases, retrograde obturation, mineral trioxide aggregate.

Avaliação in vitro da microinfiltração apical de retrobturações com diferentes ângulos de ressecção

RESUMO

A cirurgia paraendodôntica é um procedimento que visa resolver problemas que não poderiam ser resolvidos, ou quando não é possível realizar o tratamento endodôntico convencional. O objetivo deste estudo experimental foi comparar a microinfiltração apical de dentes seccionados a 45° ou 90° em relação ao longo eixo do dente e extremidade radicular preenchida com agregado de trióxido mineral (MTA) utilizando estereomicroscopia. Neste estudo, 26 incisivos centrais superiores foram utilizados. Limpeza e modelagem foram realizadas com o uso da técnica de Oregon e as amostras foram divididas aleatoriamente em dois grupos. No Grupo A (n = 10) foi realizada seção apical em ângulo de 90°, realizando retrocavidade com ponta ultrassônica e retrobturação com MTA. No grupo B (n = 10), os mesmos procedimentos foram realizados, mas a seção apical estava em um ângulo de 45°. Em seguida, as amostras foram imersas em um corante

(nanquim), colocadas em estufa a 37°C por 48 h, antes da aplicação da técnica de clareamento. Posteriormente, os dentes foram avaliados por estereomicroscópio, com aumento de 20x, para análise do vazamento de corante. Os dados foram submetidos ao teste t de Student, com nível de significância $p < 0,05$. Houve diferença estatisticamente significativa entre os grupos. O grupo B apresentou maiores valores de microinfiltração apical em comparação ao grupo A ($P = 0,004$), mas ambos os grupos apresentaram vazamento de corante. Os resultados mostraram que a seção apical de 90° promoveu menores valores de microinfiltração de corante na interface do material retrobturador dentinário do que a seção 45° e pode ser considerada a técnica mais efetiva para preparo apical em cirurgia paraendodôntica.

Palavras-chave: Doenças da polpa dental, obturação retrógrada, MTA.

INTRODUCTION

In spite of the controversy regarding success rates of conventional endodontic therapy, it is a fact that with the continuous improvement of instruments and

techniques, high indexes are obtained, approximately 88%¹. In case of failure, clinicians may and must decide for endodontic retreatment, that has 80% success rates, an evidence of its effectiveness².

When there is failure in retreatment or when this practice is contraindicated, surgical therapy may be a solution for teeth maintenance. Such procedure consists in exposing the apex of the root, in performing apical resection, apical retropreparation and then sealing with retrofilling material^{3,4}.

Apical sealing is the most important surgical success factor resulting from the use of retrofilling material, which can prevent bacterial activity and bacterial by-products inside the root canal and in periapical tissues^{5,6}. Periapical infections may be resistant to antimicrobial therapy and only paraendodontic surgery can produce disinfection and enhance tissue repair⁷. Success indexes of paraendodontic surgeries performed according to modern concepts account for 88,4%⁸.

Materials have been developed through time and their properties have been improved. This has changed the materials of choice for retrofilling. Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA) – developed at the University of Loma Linda in the early 1990's⁹ -presents advantages vis a vis previously used materials, due to its sealing ability, marginal adaptation and biocompatibility¹⁰⁻¹². MTA has been the most widely used retrofilling material, yet, it has some limitations, such as long setting time, difficulty in handling and maintaining the mixture consistency^{13,14}.

Retrocavity preparation may be performed after resection at an angle of 45° or 90° with respect to the long axis of the tooth. For many years, the 45° -angled section was used as it enabled the visual and manual access to the apical region¹⁵. This angling enhances the exposure of dentinal tubules, enabling higher microleakage levels and resulting in keeping the lingual/palatal root portion without the adequate treatment^{16,17}. In the case of the 90° resection, it enables a better crown/root proportion as it preserves more dental structure and promotes less leakage^{18,19}.

Retrocavities need to have at least a 3-mm depth for a more effective and a safer sealing action¹⁶. The use of spherical burs for making these retrocavities means that a root resection at 45° should be made for chamfering the root and having manual access, which tends to promote a higher periapical permeability^{20,21}. However, by using angled ultrasound tips for the apical retropreparation, it was possible to get a more even and conservative preparation, when compared with the spherical burs²² making it unnecessary to chamfer the root portion and permitting that a 90°-angle resection be made²⁰.

The purpose of this research was to evaluate apical microleakage in diaphonized and MTA-retrofilled teeth, by using 45° and 90° apical section angles, through the dyeing (India Ink) method analysed by stereo microscope.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research project was submitted to the Ethics Committee in Research with Humans of the University of Itaúna. The project was approved and protocol N° 421.819 was then assigned.

Twenty-six central superior, uniradicular incisors, with a completely formed apex, were used in the research study. The teeth were cleaned, sterilized in autoclave and previously submerged in saline solution, at the beginning of the procedures. Periapical X-Rays were made for evaluating the absence of calcifications, reabsorptions or of any previous endodontic treatment.

After selecting the teeth, access to their crowns was performed using the high rotation carbide bur 1557 (KG Sorensen, São Paulo, Brazil), and subsequently, the ceiling of the pulp chamber was removed, with the high rotation Endo-Z bur (Dentsply Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). The teeth were instrumented using the Oregon Technique, with manual K-type files. The patency was established by means of the K #10 file (Dentsply Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland) and the length of the canal was determined through visualization of the K #15 file (Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland) in the apical foramen. The length of the task was determined as being 1 mm beyond the apical foramen. Gates-Glidden #2 and #4 Burs (Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland) were used for preparing the two coronal thirds of the dental roots; the apical third was standardized in all the teeth with a K-type #45 file (Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). During instrumentation, 2 ml of a NaOCL solution were used for canal irrigation. The final irrigation was done with 3 ml of Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) 17% (Formula & Action, São Paulo, Brazil) for 60 s, followed by 2 ml of NaOCl 2,5%. Before the filling procedure, the canals were completely dried with absorbent paper cones (Dentsply Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). The filling procedure was done through the lateral condensation technique by using a digital spacer digital #25 (Odous de Deus, Belo Horizonte, Brazil), Endofill cement filling (Dentsply Maillefer,

Ballaigues, Switzerland) and gutta-percha cones #45 and accessory cones R1 (Dentsply Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). Three millimeters of the root crown portion were removed and, then, sealing was done by using IRM (Dentsply / Caulk, Milford, USA).

Subsequently, the samples were divided into two groups: A (n=10) and B (n=10). By using a millimetered ruler, in the apical third of the teeth a 3 mm standard marking was made at the points where the samples were resected. In Group A, the root-end was resected at an angle of 90° with the long axis of the tooth, by means of a high rotation multilaminated Zekrya bur (Dentsply-Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland), with constant irrigation. The section was done from the mesial surface up to the end of the root distal surface. In Group B, the same procedures were applied, however, the apical resection was performed at a 45° cutting angle with the axis of the tooth.

After apicoectomy, the cavities were shaped with the Retro-D700 ultrasonic tip adapted to the ENAC ultrasonic device (Osada, Tokyo, Japan), by applying medium-power and under constant irrigation, with standardized 3 mm cavity depth and diameters. The samples were covered with two layers of enamel, except for the apical 3 mm portion. Six teeth were used as a negative control and all the surfaces of the dental structure were covered with two layers of enamel, showing the effectiveness of the enamel as a barrier to dye penetration. Retrofillings were irrigated with EDTA, 24%, during 3 minutes and then carefully rinsed with water for removal of excess of EDTA. The chosen retrofilling material was white MTA (Ângelus, Londrina, Brazil), handled according to the manufacturer's label and inserted into the cavities by using an MTA applicator (Ângelus, Londrina, Brazil). After the handling procedure, and according to the manufacturer's label, an initial 15-minute lapse was considered for letting the MTA set.

After these procedures, the teeth were submerged in Indian ink and placed in a microbiological oven at 37°C, and 100% Relative Humidity, during 48 hours. Subsequently, the samples were withdrawn from the oven and placed on surgical bandage to remove the excess of dye. Then, they were left at room temperature during 24 hours for dye fixation. Subsequently, the teeth were decalcified in hydrochloric acid, 5%, during 3 days, rinsed during

24 hours, and dehydrated in incremental alcohol solutions (70%, 80%, 90% and 100%, respectively) during 4 hours, a diaphonization technique previously described by Vertucci²³. Then, the teeth were clarified using methyl salicylate, and remained like this until the analyses²⁴. An examiner, trained and calibrated for identifying lineal dye penetration, performed the analyses of the samples.

Then, the teeth were photographed and evaluated in a stereomicroscope (Leica Microsystems, Heerbrugg, Switzerland) with a 20X magnification, for observing the dye penetration process along the root-end surfaces. The lineal distance of the dye penetration was measured using the Image J software. This was transferred to a Microsoft Office Excel sheet and, then, to SigmaPlot program (Systat Software Inc. version 8.0, San Jose, CA, USA). The measurements of the lineal dye microleakage in both groups were analysed using a Student's-t test, with a $p < 0.05$ significance level.

RESULTS

The measurements of the lineal dye microleakage of both groups are exhibited in Fig. 1 and illustrated in Fig. 2. The statistical Analysis showed a significant difference between Groups A and B ($p = 0.004$). Both sections showed apical microleakage, yet, the group resected at 90° showed less leakage than the group with a 45° section in relation to the long axis of the tooth.

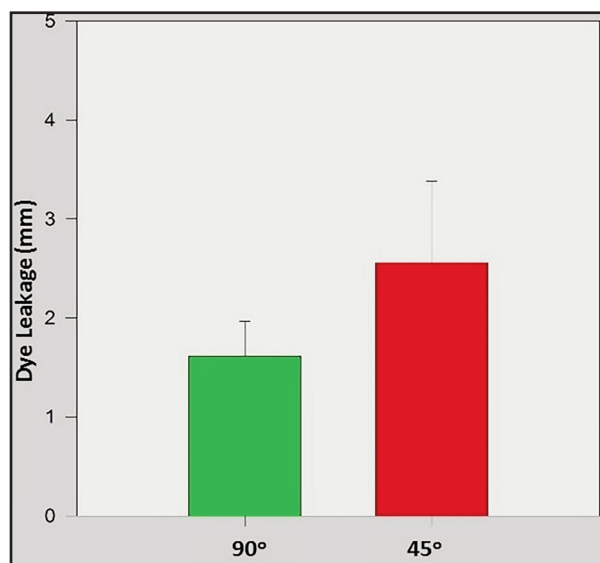


Fig. 1: Measures (arithmetical means) of microleakage in Group A (green column) and Group B (red column) in millimeters (mm). The vertical lines stand for standard deviations.

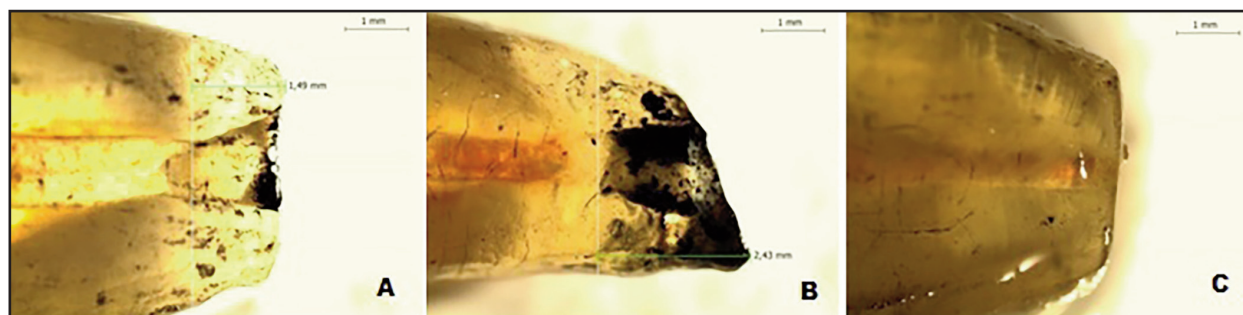


Fig. 2: Stereomicroscope with an original 20X magnification showing Indian ink penetration in the analysis groups and absence of leakage in the control group: A) Group A; B) Group B; C) Control Group.

DISCUSSION

In spite of the limitations of *in vitro* research studies, such studies are very valuable for developing endodontic techniques and materials, leading to relevant information for clinical practice²⁵.

Analysis using diaphonization permits the direct visualization of the internal anatomy of the root canal system and enables measuring lineal dye leakage in the interface dentin/retrofilling material. Diaphonization, which was used in previous Endodontia research studies, is a user-friendly method, with good sensitivity levels and no need for sophisticated methods and equipment. The dye used has a penetration capability similar to that of endodontic bacteria. This permits associating the outcomes of this *in vitro* study with those of the clinical study²⁴⁻²⁶.

The relation between apical section angling and microleakage has been approached in several research studies, through different methodologies^{3-7,9}. In this research, diaphonization was the analytical method chosen as it enables the internal visualization of retrofilled teeth and of the apical third dyed by penetration of Indian ink. By means of diaphonization, it was possible to have a 3D view of all the surfaces of the tooth and, consequently, to have a good access for determining the penetration of the dye^{27,28}. In literature, there are studies in which the chosen methodology was vertical dental resection for analysis of microleakage, yet, this technique restricts the visual access to retrocavity peripheral areas and deteriorates the adequate evaluation of dye penetration, not simulating a real clinical situation^{18,29}.

Periapical surgeries are additional therapeutic procedures for teeth maintenance that may and must be applied in cases of failure of treatment and/or of

endodontic retreatment, provided they are well prescribed and performed^{8,20}.

With the development of dental materials, more desirable properties have been obtained for different clinical scenarios. Among such materials, MTA should be pointed out. MTA is undergoing extensive research and has shown to have physical and chemical features that make it appropriate for retrofilling, specially because it is biocompatible and helpful in tissue repair processes⁹⁻¹³. It is considered that this favorable biological response of MTA results in hydroxyapatite formation, useful in post-surgical bone repair²⁸.

The manufacture of ultrasonic angled tips has turned apical bevelling unnecessary as these tips allow clinicians to perform more uniform retropreparation, with parallel walls that make it easier to insert and adapt the filling material. Besides, it minimizes major leakage episodes associated with the augmented exposure of tubules caused by the 45° resection, as shown in this research study^{17,18,30,31}.

Lin et al. compared two retropreparation techniques - with ultrasonic tips and with the traditional spherical bur technique - using stereomicroscopy for evaluating the quality of the shape and size of a given retropreparation. The outcomes of such research study showed that the preparations with ultrasonic tip were more conservative and that there was a smaller number of root perforations than in the preparations with the spherical drills¹⁹.

CONCLUSION

Irrespective of the technique used for performing apical resection, there was presence of microleakage. Nevertheless, the 90° section with the long axis of the tooth produced lower microleakage values when compared with the 45° section.

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