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Working Width in Endodontics

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Abstract

Root canal morphology is a critically important part of conventional and surgical endodontics (root canal therapy). Many studies have recorded the scales and average sizes of root canals, but there have been few clinical attempts to determine the working width. In the absence of such that defines the original width and optimally prepared horizontal dimensions of canals, clinicians are making treatment decision without any support of scientific evidence. Most of the research for the root canal instrumentation has not addressed the importance of the horizontal dimensions or working width of the root canal system. In preparing, the long oval or flat canals, the working width concept plays a more critical role that alerts the operator to the possibilities of incomplete root canal preparation. There has been minimal development of concepts, techniques, and technology to measure working width accurately or properly. Understanding the current concepts and techniques of working width can help to solidify the concepts & improve techniques of cleaning and shaping of the root canal system. The perspectives on the current concepts and techniques to handle working width - the horizontal dimension of the root canal system and its clinical implications are much needed.

Keywords: Working width, canal preparation, root canal therapy

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