

Comparison between cold test and electric pulp test after pulpal diagnosis

ABSTRACT NO.

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OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study was to test the hypothesis if there is a correlation between diagnostic evaluation (cold and electric pulp tests) of the pulpal status prior to access and the clinical assessment of the pulpal status after access into the pulp chamber on initiating root canal treatment.

MATERIALS and METHODS: Twenty patients needing root canal treatment were selected for the study. One operator performed all of the diagnostic tests to eliminate inter-operator variability. A preliminary pulpal diagnosis was noted based on the diagnostic testing. After administration of infiltration or block anesthesia, tooth was isolated under rubber dam and access cavity preparation was gained. The presence or absence of vascularity in the pulpal chamber and a clinical diagnosis of the pulpal condition were noted. These findings were then compared to the pre-operative diagnostic findings and the results were subjected to statistical analysis.

RESULTS: Eighty percent of the teeth were diagnosed as vital and 3 of them showed normal bleeding while 13 of them showed profuse bleeding. Twenty percent of the teeth were non vital and 4 of them showed no bleeding.

CONCLUSION: Cold test was more accurate and reliable than EPT in diagnosing pulpal condition.