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CASE REPORT

C-SHAPED CANAL -MANDIBULAR SECOND MOLAR RARE ANOMALY - A CASE REPORT

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Complexities of the root canal anatomy make it complex for dental practitioner to correctly diagnose.

The c-shaped canal is one of the rare anatomic variation which is mostly seen in mandibular second

molars because of the shape of the canal and root. A profound expertise of the tooth, root and root

canal anatomy is essential for the success of the endodontic treatment. This case report presents a rare

root canal system in a mandibular second molar tooth, a single root with a single canal. Shaped canals

with varying configuration are commonly observed in single rooted mandibular second molars.

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ABSTRACT

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INTRODUCTION

A profound expertise of the tooth, root and root canal anatomy is essential for the success of the endodontic treatment (Jafarzadeh and Wu, 2007). It plays a vital role in the diagnosis and treatment planning. In depth, knowledge of the root and canal anatomy has endodontic (Vertucci, 1984) and anthropologic significance (Jerome, 1994; Manning, 1990; Tratman, 1950; Dahlberg, 1965; Walker, 1988). It is vital for dental practitioner to be well acknowledged with the discrepancy in root and root canal anatomy also to be well known with the distinguishing characteristics of various racial groups as it can facilitate in location of variation in tooth anatomy along with subsequent management. One of the rare anatomic variation is c shaped canal configuration. it is called so because of the shape of the root and root canal. The occurrence rate of c-shaped configuration is higher in mandibular second molars but can be seen in mandibular premolars, maxillary molars. There is no gender predilection. The first documented case of c-shaped was reported in 1979 by cooke and cox (Cooke, 1979). The peculiarity of c-shaped canal is that in lieu of having many distinct orifices, the pulp chamber is single and is ribbon shaped orifice with 180° arc or it can be more than 180⁰. C-shaped canal in manibular second molar start from the tip of the mesiolingual line angle and goes around buccally and usually terminate at the distal aspect of the pulp chamber. Wide range of root structure configuration can be seen below the orifice level.

Two types of variations can be seen in the configuration of cshaped canal is, that it can have single ribbon shaped canal along the whole length of root (orifice to apex) or more than 3 canals below the orifice (Cohen and Burns, 2002). The Hertwig epithelial root sheath is responsible for the determination of number and shape of the roots (Jerome, 1994; Manning, 1990; Fan et al., 2004; Orban and Mueller, 1929).Cshaped canal is formed because of the failure of the fusion of buccal and Lingual root surface or it can be due to fusion of buccal and lingual aspect of the mesial and distal roots. Various classification are given to simplify diagnosis and management of c-shaped canals. Melton et al. in 1991 gave classification on the basis of cross sectional shape. Fam in 2004 gave anatomic and radiographic classification of the cshaped canal. Vertucci type 1 canals were most frequently seen in these c-shaped molars (Cohen and Burns, 2002). Diagnosis of the c-shaped canal can be done with the help of the preoperative radiographs but may face difficult to locate cshaped as it with conventional radiopgraps as they are 2dimensional image of 3 d dimensional image same is supported by cooke and cox in their study which say it is difficult to diagnose the c-shaped canal with preoperative 2d radiographs (De Moor, 2002). But had (Haddad et al., 1999) different opinion. He stated that almost all preoperative radiographs show same characteristics so the R.V.G a 3 dimensional diagnostic tool can be used for the diagnosis of the c-shaped canal as it can manupilate the captured image. Another way in which c-shaped canal can be located is by additional radiograph from 20° mesial and diatal projection.

Once found, it is difficult for the clinician to deride, oburate the canal because of the vague anatomy as it is not clear whether the canal is continuous from floor of pulp chamber to apical third of the root. The purpose of this case report is to report the c shaped canal in single rooted mandibular second molar that required endodontic therapy.

CASE REPORT

A 47 year old female reported to the Department of Prosthodontics, crown and bridge in Himachal dental college Sundernager with pain in relation to her mandibular left second molar, with non contributing medical history. The tooth on clinical examination revealed a deep carious lesion. It was revealed that tooth responded positively to percussion but not on palpation. Intraoral periapical radiograph showed radiolucency in the crown involving the pulp suggesting of a pulpal involvement but no periapical infection. The root canal morphology confirmed the presence of a single root with a linear canal, constricting toward the apex with slight interradicular changes that were appreciable. A detailed examination of the radiograph revealed the presence of a single root with a wide canal. Therefore, C-shaped canal configuration was anticipated as seen in figure 1. Clinical and radio graphical examination revealed irreversible pulpitis due to dental caries. After the administration of local anesthesia, the access cavity was prepared. The pulp chamber was irrigated with 5% sodium hypochlorite to debride the chamber fully and to identify the nature of the canal system present. In the present case, a single round orifice was located in the middle portion of the floor of the pulp chamber. Working length was determined using a profile (densply) and confirmed by the radiographs (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Preoperative radiograph



Figure 2. Radiograph with BMP

Cleaning and shaping was done by crown down technique using pro-taper gold files in between the instrumentation, thorough irrigation with sodium hypochlorite and saline was done throughout the procedure. Gutta percha (GP) Pro –Taper was selected as a master apical cone to obtain apical tug back. The canal was then obturated with AH-Plus sealer. A post obturation radiograph showed a well-obturated canal (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Radiograph With Gutta Percha

DISCUSSION

C-shaped configuration shows an indigenous predilection and most commonly seen in Asian continent. Predilection of cshaped canal in East Asian population is more than south Asian countries. In East Asian population occurrence rate in Chinese is 0.6-41.2% and Koreans is 31.3-45.5% (Haddad et al., 1999; Yang et al., 1988; Seo et al., 2004; Jin et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2011; Zheng et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2012; Yu et al., 2012; Kuzekanani et al., 2012). whereas in south Asian countries such as Burmese showed 22.4% occurrence which is much higher than Indian, Thai or Sri Lankan population (Gulabivala et al., 2001 & 2002; Peiris et al., 2007 & 2008; Neelakantan et al., 2010; Velmurugan et al., 2009; Weine et al., 1988). Out of the west Asian population groups Iranian, Jordanian, Saudi Arabian and Lebanese. The Lebanese has documented higher incidence rate around 19.1%.lowest occurrence rate of c-shaped canal is seen in Sudanese population (10%). C-canal configuration have high incidence rate in mandibular second molars (2.7%-45.5%) then in mandibular premolars (29.7%)seen in Chinese, Iranian population. less incidence rate of c-shape canal is seen in maxillary first molars (0.12%), maxillary third molars (4.7%), mandibular third molars(3.5%-4%) and mandibular second premolars (1%). There is no gender predilection and no correlation with tooth position and age of the occurrence of c shaped canal configuration. In literature bilateral c -shaped canals are reported in 70-81% cases. The diagnosis of the cshaped canal is difficult because it doesn't show any characteristic feature for identification, in some cases longitudinal groove on buccal and lingual surface may be present which may be the first indication of c-shaped canal. Presence of canal irregularities such as lateral canals, accessory canals, apical canals make it more difficult to debride the canal completely and additional wide fins and wide surface area can impede the Proper use of hand instruments for cleaning and shaping properly and can eventually lead to endodontic therapy failure. Thus it is very essential to diagnose and locate the canal through thorough understanding of the anatomy of the root canal. Endodontic surgical microscopes

are helpful supplemental tool which may disclose the c-shaped canal and help to manage c-shaped canal complexity.

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