

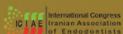


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Pain before Endodontic Treatment: Correct Diagnosis

Diagnosis is the science of recognizing disease by means of signs, symptoms and tests. An effective treatment depends on an accurate diagnosis. Before root canal treatment, accurate diagnosis is mandatory. Many diseases can mimic endodontic pain. An astute dentist should be familiar with this conditions. Most important and obvious complaint which causes the patient attend the office is pain. Pain may result from numerous causes other than specific inflammatory conditions or other myogenous, vascular, or neuropathic phenomena. Pain may occur spontaneously with no identifiable cause of any kind. It may constitute an integral part of pathologic and pathophysiological conditions of all types. Alterations in the endogenous autonomic mechanisms may occur. A degree or so of elevation in body temperature may induce pain in many structures. The general response to abnormal endocrine, metabolic, emotional, allergic, or toxic conditions may include a component of pain. Direct noxious stimulation by various mechanical, thermal, and chemical inputs may induce pain. Cutaneous structures when hurt are sensitive to all such stimuli. In inflammation, the periosteum is especially reactive to compressive force, ligaments and fascia respond to distortion, strain, and traction, tendons and muscle tissue are particularly sensitive to torque and stretching. Headache is perhaps the most frequent of all regional pain complaints. Most intermittent head pains are heterotopic manifestations. Psychologic intensification of pain is a normal modulation phenomenon. If pain is intensified until it continues in the absence of significant peripheral input, a state of pain chronicity becomes evident. The psychogenic component of chronic pain syndromes of all types becomes a significant management problem. Pains may

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