More than 20 years ago, Torabinejad et al. first described a new root-end filling material called mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA). MTA showed in vitro better sealing ability than amalgam or Super EBA when used as a root-end filling material. Later, several in vivo and in vitro studies demonstrated more applications for MTA. Pulp capping, apexification, repair of root perforations and root-end filling are commonly described clinical procedures to seal the pathway of communication between the root canal system and the external surface of the tooth. The application of MTA was first described as being achieved with aid of plastic or metal spatulas. Unfortunately, proper placement was not possible in this manner.

Figs. 1a–e: (a) Deep carious lesion. (b) Partial pulpotomy. (c) MTA application with the MAP System and PD MTA White. (d) Filling. (e) Post-op radiograph showing the pulp capping with MTA.
Therefore, Produits Dentaires introduced a universal carrier system for clinical and surgical MTA placement. Its Micro-Apical Placement (MAP) System offers different application points for every clinical situation. The Intro Kit and the Universal Kit are for orthograde obturation and the Surgical Kit for retrograde obturation. New NiTi Memory Shape tips can be manually shaped to any required curvature. After autoclave sterilisation, the needle returns to its initial shape. With the use of the MAP System, proper placement of MTA has become an easy task for every dentist.

In combination with the MAP System, Produits Dentaires offers a white MTA specially developed for placement with the MAP System. The optimised practical size means economical application for each treatment. There are many indications for the PD MTA White, and with the MAP System, proper placement is easy in every situation.

**Pulp capping**

Vital pulp therapy has become more popular in recent years. Calcium hydroxide has been the most common material for pulp capping, but MTA has
shown even better results in biocompatibility and outcome.\textsuperscript{3} Cases with large carious pulp exposure can be treated successfully with partial pulpotomy and MTA as a capping agent, keeping teeth vital (Figs. 1a–e).

Apexification

In order to prevent extrusion of root canal filling material in immature teeth with open apices, MTA is used as an apical plug. The results of many studies have shown that MTA induced apical hard tissue formation more often and its use was associated with less inflammation than with other test materials (Figs. 2a–g).\textsuperscript{4}

Repair of root perforations

Accidental perforation of the pulp chamber or of the root canal significantly changes the prognosis of the tooth. Perforation repair with a biocompatible sealing material such as MTA may save compromised teeth (Figs. 3a–e).\textsuperscript{5}

Apical surgery

MTA is the material with the most favourable outcome as a root-end filling material for apical surgery. MTA has been associated with significantly less inflammation, cementum formation over MTA and regeneration of the periradicular tissue (Figs. 4a–f).\textsuperscript{2}

Editorial note: A list of references can be obtained from the publisher.

contact

Dr Mauro Amato is a lecturer and researcher at the department of periodontics, endodontics and cariology of the University of Basel in Switzerland. Amato is a committee member of the Swiss Society for Endodontology. He can be contacted at mauro.amato@unibas.ch.