Endodontic re-treatment or implants?

Endodontic treatment is a growing field of dentistry but it is not an infallible science. What to do when endodontic treatment fails...

Why does endodontic treatment fail?
There are a number of factors that could result in endodontic failure, including:

- An unexpected number of or unusually shaped root canals with branches or forks that are difficult to detect and therefore overlooked during treatment
- Undetected cracks in the root of the tooth
- Defective or inadequate dental restoration allowing bacteria to cause re-contamination
- Unstable tooth structure, which may break as a result of the treatment and require restorative work
- New tooth decay or gum disease

Implants – the way forward?
A natural reaction to endodontic failure is extraction, which often leads to the use of implants.

Implants have been available for years and are commonly used with high success rates. However, they are not immune to complications or even failure; for example, success rates have been seen to be notably lower in smokers, patients with diabetes or type IV bones.

Furthermore, successful implants can still present the patient with problems such as pain, paraesthesia, hematomas or even loose/fractured screws. It is therefore important to consider endodontic re-treatment as well as implants.

What about endodontic re-treatment?
Endodontic treatment is naturally more complicated when being carried out on already treated teeth. This is because the treatment was never meant to be reversed; not only do you need to remove the solid root material from the root canal but you may also be faced with additional obstacles such as posts or crowns. However, although implants may be a worthy alternative, preserving the original tooth is often the best option for your patient.

A new MSc in Endodontics
The University of Warwick will launch a new MSc in Endodontics in January 2010. The programme will be delivered by leading professionals, academics and researchers in the field of endodontic dentistry, and supported by respected academics from the field of continuing professional development.

As a part-time course, it has been designed to offer a flexible training pathway tailored to individual requirements and circumstances. The programme will allow students to improve and increase the scope of endodontic treatment in their practices through the study of a wide range of topics, such as tooth morphology, mechanical shaping, chemical disinfection and pain management in endodontics.

Learning will take place through traditional seminars and practical work, performed in labs and at regional training centres. Students will gain a thorough understanding of modern technologies, using materials and instruments such as surgical microscopes and cone beam CT.

Applications are being accepted now and further information about the course can be found at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/dentistry.

Endodontic treatment is one of the most technically demanding procedures in general dental practice. Growing demand from patients for teeth to be saved rather than extracted has presented a need for further training in this area. The Postgraduate Dental Education Unit at Warwick Medical School has developed a new MSc in Endodontics to deliver comprehensive and flexible endodontic education.

New Course
MSc in Endodontics

Endodontic treatment will develop your knowledge and confidence in this complex discipline, enabling you to deliver a high quality service.

As a part-time course spread over 3-5 years, it offers you the flexibility to continue working in clinical practice while studying. You will study a wide range of topics from sterilisation and disinfection procedures to tissue regeneration and preventing cross infections.

Applicants should be registered with the General Dental Council and have full professional indemnity insurance.

Contact us for further information, quoting reference code CD911F5

- +44 (0) 24 7657 4640
- dentists@warwick.ac.uk
- www.warwick.ac.uk/go/dentistry

Also available: MSc Orthodontics, MSc Lingual Orthodontics, MSc implant Dentistry and a range of short courses.