



## Comparative evaluation of quality of obturation using Endoflas, Metapex and ZOE in primary molars

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### ABSTRACT

**AIM:** The objective was to assess the Quality of Obturation in Decayed primary molars using 3 different obturating materials namely Endoflas, Zinc oxide eugenol and Metapex

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** 45 infectious Deciduous mandibular posterior teeth which requires pulpectomy were separated into 3 subgroups ( 15 molars in each group) depending on the chosen obturation material : Group A (ZOE), Group B (Metapex), and Group C (Endoflas). Postoperative period, all the molars were examined clinically and radiographically by a different researcher who was unaware of the restorative material used on each molar. Mann-Whitney test, Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test, Kruskal-Wallis test were subjected into statistical analysis

**RESULTS :** During Evaluation of Obturation Standards, 78% of primary deciduous molars had the ideal filling, while the other cases had underfilling (9%) and overfilling (13%). In cases where some root resorption had occurred, the prevalence of overfilling was greater.

**CONCLUSION:** ZOE had the lowest success rate among the obturating materials, Metapex had the highest probability of success. Endoflas has a lesser amount of degradation of the material both inside and outside the pulpal space when assessed using Coll and Sadrian Method.

**Keywords:** Endoflass, Metapex, Zinc oxide eugenol and Quality of Obturation

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Estimated prevalence that can reach 46.2%, caries in the deciduous molars were common in pediatric dental patients, mostly developing countries. Countries like China, children between the ages 5 years had a frequency of carious lesions of 71.9%, and the standard (dmft) index was 4.24; both of these numbers were substantially greater than some of those from 10 years ago (66.0%, dmft = 3.5). In Deciduous molars, dental caries advance quickly and frequently impact the pulp within the same relatively short period of time (1). In the primary dentition, dental caries advance quickly and frequently impact the pulp within the same relatively short period of time. Pulp therapy's primary objective is to keep teeth and the ligaments that support them strong and healthy (2). A pulpectomy is an efficient treatment choice for primary dentition with irreversible pulpitis that can be repaired and aims to remove all of the affected, necrotic and inflamed dental pulp (3). Therefore, the purpose in the treating the root canal is to biomechanically clean the root canal, whether infected or not, and to fill the canal with a material that is suited for the root canal and resorbs at a comparable rate as the primary root, eliminating it quickly upon inadvertent extrusion through the apex. Primary molars have complicated root canal morphology, making perfect scavenging the infectious root canal system challenging. As a result, for pulpectomy to be as successful as possible, some researchers proposed using root canal filler materials having antimicrobial qualities (4). Only materials that are radiopaque, disappear very quickly with the root, don't irritate the periapical tissues, and gradually resorb if they protrude past the apex should be used for endodontic treatment of primary teeth. It should not discolor teeth and, if required, be injected rapidly into the root canal (5). According to Sweet's 1930 report, the first root canal filling material for mandibular molars was zinc oxide and eugenol (ZOE) paste. The extruded ZOE will slowly deteriorate over time, its replacement permanent molar will follow a different path, the periapical tissue will become irritated, and bone necrosis will occur. A Silicone oil-based solution [Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>] was developed by Hermann, which has been widely utilized in recent times.

In recognition of its antibacterial effects, therapeutic benefits, and capacity to be resorbed following apical extrusion, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> were incorporated with iodoform. The mixed Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> mixed along with iodoform paste has a success percentage between 84% and 100%. Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and iodoform paste has the major drawback. Root canal disintegration, which causes a hollow-tube effect, is a danger that is always present (6). Endoflas is a well-known bioabsorbable substance with ZOE and properties similar to those of Vitapex. Endoflas has the ability to phagocytose extruded material without causing intracanal material resorption. It has antimicrobial properties and promotes healing and periapical bone development because of its high pH. Despite having excellent rates of radiographic and clinical effectiveness, none of the obturating materials currently on the market satisfy the specifications for the optimal root canal internally generated. This is due to their shortcomings and dissimilarity to the mandibular teeth's natural root resorption. Due to its beneficial features, the current systematic review's goal was to assess Endoflas's clinical and radiographic success. Even though ZOE and Metapex are frequently used, they fall short of meeting all the criteria for the perfect obturation materials (7).

With robust bone regeneration, a 95.1% success rate, and no intraradicular washout, Ramar and Mungara describe Endoflas. According to Fuks et al., Endoflas had a 70% clinical chance of success and a 100% decrease in clinical and radiographic radiolucency. According to studies by Chawla et al., 54.8% of the bone regenerated completely, with 100% radiographic success. There is not a lot of research on the usage of Endoflas as a ZOE and Metapex-free efficient obturation material substitute. Even though ZOE and Metapex are frequently used, they fall short of meeting all the criteria for the perfect obturation materials. With robust bone regeneration, a 95.1% success rate, and no intraradicular washout, Ramar and Mungara describe Endoflas. According to Fuks et al., Endoflas had a 70% clinical chance of success and a 100% decrease in clinical and radiographic radiolucency. Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translated into high quality publications (8–17)

. According to studies by Chawla et al., 54.8% of the bone regenerated completely, with 100% radiographic success (18). There is not a lot of research on the usage of Endoflas as a ZOE and Metapex-free efficient obturation material substitute. This clinical study's objective was to assess the quality of obturation in pulpectomized primary dentition and its relationship to obturation utilizing ZOE, Metapex, and Endoflas.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The Ethical Committee of the Institute gave its approval for the current investigation, which was then designed and carried out. 35 healthy children, aged 3 to 7, clinical and radiographic diagnosis for 45 infected Deciduous molar teeth. All parents or guardians of participants provided written informed consent. Based on the preferred obturation material, 45 diseased deciduous mandibular molars were randomized and equally grouped into three groups (15 primary molars in each group). Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translated into high quality publications (19–28).

- In 1st Group (15 molars): Obturated Using ZOE
- In 2nd Group (15 molars): Obturated Using Metapex
- In 3rd Group (15 molars): Obturated Using Endoflas

The following were the inclusion prerequisites:

- 1) Clinical characteristics include the development of a deep wound infection with pulp exposure, excessive bleeding following coronal dental pulp removal, spontaneous distress or persistent apical infections, aberrant mobility irrelevant to normal exfoliation, pain on percussion, fistula, or abscess.
- 2) The coronal radiological features are defined by the radiological signs of a serious chronic wound with radiological irreversible pulpitis in the crown.
- 3) The root and supporting structure's radiographic appearances can be divided into the following categories:
  - a) No clinical or radiographic pathology
  - b) Loss or break in the lamina dura
  - c) Caries that extend till Furcation were excluded.

Exclusion Criteria:

- 1) Grossly decayed tooth
- 2) Internal resorption
- 3) Physiologic root resorption

Evaluation of success of pulpectomy in primary molars:

After explaining risks and rewards, consent was gained to expose the required radiographs. The effectiveness of the pulpectomy depended on the molar evaluation meeting each of the following requirements:

Clinical criteria:

- 1) No Sinus tract, Fistula or gingival inflammation.
- 2) There is no purulent discharge visible at the marginal gingiva.
- 3) No abnormal movement besides that driven on by exfoliation, which is usual.
- 4) A postoperative checkup revealed no soreness.

#### **RADIOGRAPHIC CRITERIA:**

- 1) There should be no pathological indicators of external root resorption or continuing resorption, before the dental procedure.
- 2) Hardly a periapical radiolucency developed after surgery.
- 3) Lack of change or increased irregularity in the dura mater
- 4) Radiolucent area's size has not changed.

The pulpectomized teeth' prior apical root resorption and the effectiveness of their endodontic fillings were evaluated. The following are the different kinds of preoperative root resorption: No root resorption is characterized as the apparent lack of preoperative apical root resorption indications; negligible level disintegration is characterized by the presence of newly emerging root resorption of 1 mm or less at the apex; and large amounts resorption is characterized as the appearance of observable apical root resorption of >1 mm in any root or fraction of a root. Modifications to Coll and Sadrian's criteria were used to characterize the root canal filling's quality.

Obturation quality was Assessed by Coll and Sadrian Method:

Underfilling: More than 2 mm of space was left in each canal after it was filled.

**Optimal filling:** At least one of the canals should always contain obturating material that ends somewhere at radiographic apex or up to 2 millimeters short of the apex.

**Over Filling:** any root canal with obturating material extruded outside the root apex

A molar's roots and those of adjacent and or contralateral molars were also taken into consideration when making these evaluations. The two writers evaluated five pulpectomies that weren't part of the study in order to standardize their analysis procedure before grading any of the pulpectomies (29). Each author investigated the patient's medical records, along with all the prior to and after the operation radiographs and pictures, as part of the assessment. Each group's molars were examined, and the findings were contrasted. More than 90% of respondents concurred. Issues were evaluated until an agreement was reached or the lower of the two scores was assigned, when evaluations did not concur. Block random sampling was used to assign the substances zinc oxide, eugenol, Metapex and Endoflas to their individual communities. The pulpectomy and stainless steel crown were finished by a single pediatric dentist in a single visit. When the clinical and radiographic requirements were met, the treatment was deemed successful. For statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test, Kruskal-Wallis test and Wilcoxon-Signed were used. The determination of statistical significance ratings used a P value of 0.05 or less.

## **RESULTS :**

To Evaluate the quality of obturation, all of the samples were evaluated using the Coll and Sadrian method. The majority of the cases included in the study had grade 1 scores prior to surgery (Nil root resorption), with only a small proportion (Grade 2 [20%] and Grade 3 [2%]) displaying resorption indications. 78% cases had optimal filling when the integrity of the procedure was assessed, while the remaining cases had underfilling (9%), overfilling (13%) and other filling issues.. In cases where some root resorption was present, the prevalence of overfilling was greater. Canals obturated with metapex seemed to have optimal obturation when compared to the other materials when assessed using coll and sadrian criteria. Following metapex, Endo Flas Showed optimal obturation. ZOE material showed under Obturation in 50% of the canals, Followed by Endo Flas with 36% and Metapex 14% shown in Figure 1. Mann-Whitney test results revealed a statistically highly significant distinction between the groups when they were analyzed.

**Obturation using Metapex**



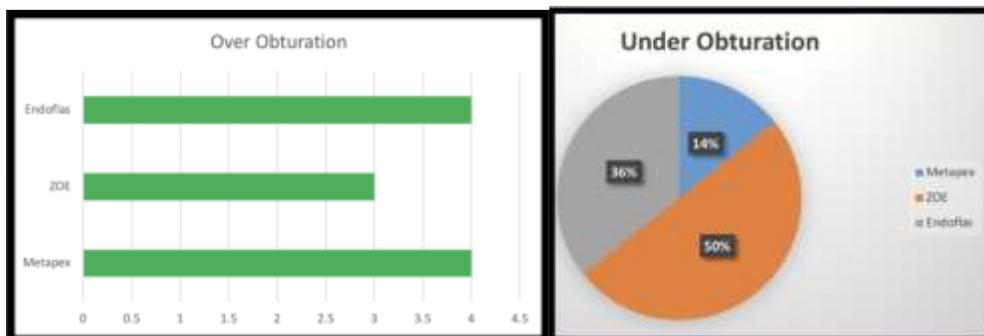
**Obturation using EndoFlas**

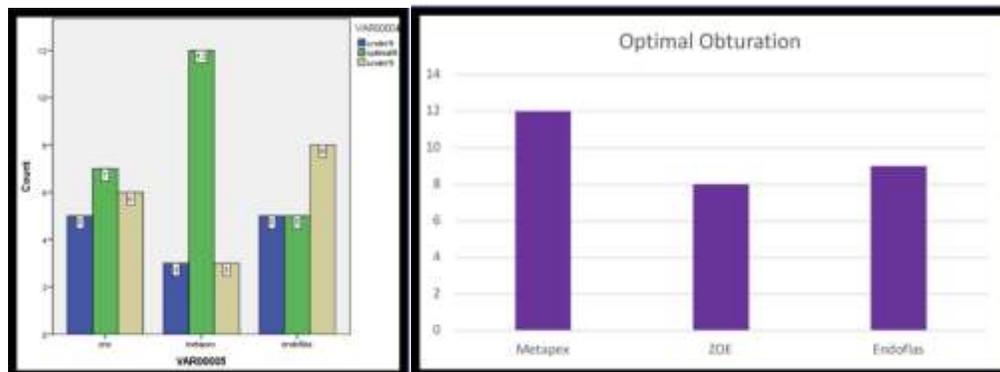


**Obturation using ZOE**



Figure 1: Quality of Obturation using different hospital material





## DISCUSSION:

Due to the tortuousness of a primary molar's canals, pulpectomy has long presented a conundrum to clinicians. The best materials for root canal filling must've been biodegradable and possess durable antibacterial qualities. A primary molars root canal preparation relies more on chemical modifications than manual debridement (29,30). Since its creation by Bonastre and development in dentistry by Chisholm, zinc oxide is still one of the most commonly utilized obturating products for primary molar pulpectomies among many of these already currently available. 39 diseased primary teeth filled with ZOE were the subject of the initial single-visit pulpectomy trial. 83% of those were considered effective after 16 months (31). After 40 months, Barr et al. reported an 82% success rate for ZOE pulpectomy using a single visit formocresol method. A clinical overall performance of more than 80% after 5 years was also reported by Coll et al. Compared to primary molars with extensive (>1 mm) resorption, those with little to no preoperative root resorption had considerably greater pulpectomy success rates. According to Coll and Sadrian, the amount of root resorption was used in the present investigation to assess the infection's intensity (32). All of the unsuccessful teeth in the existing research went into the category with the most extensive root resorption, but they found that this group had the lowest success rates. This might suggest that a pulpectomy treatment has a lower chance of effectively treating a serious underlying condition. Despite possessing excellent treatment outcomes, ZOE does not entirely satisfy all requirements for the perfect root canal filling substance (33). The biggest disadvantage of ZOE is the overabundance material that is left over after filling operations and may stay in the apical region for the duration of endogenous root resorption before even being resorbed, which may take months or years (34). Because ZOE is prone to abscess granulomatous resorption, cement pieces persisted in the clinical and radiographic region even after pulpectomized teeth were exfoliated. Following a ZOE pulpectomy, Coll and Sadrian noted anterior crossbite, palatal eruption, and aberrant eruption of the succedaneous tooth. Additionally, its antimicrobial effectiveness is restricted.

ZOE does not have the same resorbability or disinfection qualities as fast-resorbing materials (Iodoform pastes) (35). Nurko et al. also discovered that Metapex can be quickly diffused or eventually replaced by macrophages in conditions that are attached to or apical areas within as little as 1 or 2 weeks without inducing an external body reaction (36). The radiographic and clinical efficiency of pulpectomy in primary molars may be linked to Metapex's microbiological properties and its unique trait of rapid disintegration from periapical tissues (37). ZOE was overfilled by 18%. ZOE nanoparticles were partly resorbed at one tooth, but total retention was seen at eight teeth. An excellent primary dental root canal filling should really be able to dissolve at the identical amount as the root, among several other qualities (38).

The "hollow tube" appearance of well-obtured root canal system is caused by the metapex, which has been demonstrated in the current study to resorb at a significantly quicker rate than that of the root after the follow-up of 6-12 months (39). Despite having antibacterial and osteogenic differentiation properties, the success of the entire calcium hydroxide tends to disappear from the channels before the roots begin to deteriorate physiologically (40). Out of all the materials, Metapex revealed the most root canals that were optimally filled, followed by EndoFlas (41). These findings are consistent with Ramar and Mungara's observations regarding the root canals' potential to mend, the features of bone tissue regeneration, and the resorption of excessive Endoflas (42). Endoflas paste's creators assert that it is highly effective against a variety of bacteria (43). It can be utilized in canals with a little humidity because the material is hydrophilic (44). This technique is preferable to mechanical techniques for cleaning and disinfecting dentinal tubules and hard-to-reach accessory canals (45). Furthermore, the substance is resorbable since the ingredients can be taken out by phagocytosis. Fuks et al. (2002) noted that one benefit of using Endoflas paste is that resorption is only occurring in the extruded excess material (46). Inside the canal, the substance does not resorb. Because of this, although neither hollow tube impact nor the material's susceptibility to dissolution are evident.

The findings from this study fully agreed with those of previous research, suggesting that, in some circumstances, more definitive evaluations could be made at longer follow-up periods, despite this same American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's possible contender following four components that the combined with the overarching infectious procedure of pulpectomized tooth surfaces must assist in resolving in 6 months . It's important to highlight that the sample for the study was selected using more stringent criteria. To prevent permanent tooth buds from contacting the primary molars' roots and furcations, as well as to make it easier for the scientist to examine the radiography pathology and recovery, only lower molars were used. In other studies, both the mandibular and maxillary first teeth have been utilized. This may be the cause of why our overall performance was lower than that of other trials.

However, there hasn't been any extensive research on how early Metapex resorption affected the success or the correct emergence of succedaneous teeth. For the long-term impacts to be

determined, more research is necessary. The investigation's methodology suffered from the usual limitations of a longitudinal study. Different readings may result from the evaluation of root resorption, the length of follow-up, the sequence of tooth exfoliation, and the evaluation of trauma.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The Obturation Quality was significantly correlated with the success rate of pulpectomies. The success rate was much higher for those who filled to or just below the apex than for those who overfilled. In cases where some root resorption had occurred, the prevalence of overfilling was greater. Metapex had the greatest success rate of all the materials, followed by Endoflas. The degree of pretreatment root resorption was correlated with pulpectomy success. The rate of success of molars with extensive pretreatment root resorption was considerably lower than that of teeth with no or minimal preoperative root resorption.

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