



 ALL I WANT  
FOR XMAS...

DEC  
2013

The percentage of mandibular anterior teeth with two canals is approximately 20%. The second canal is often hidden under the gingulum so the access should be extended lingually to facilitate its discovery. It is not easy finding the lingual canal and once found it is technically challenging to instrument and obturate effectively. To aid in the instrumentation and obturation of the two canals the access should be extended towards the incisal edge.

The first case (A & B) is of a microsurgery I performed on a 42 earlier this year. The 36 year-old gentleman was keen to keep the bridge intact and desired a speedy resolution to the pain and swelling. Angled radiographs helped confirm the presence or absence of a second canal. Microsurgery was preferred over retreatment for the following reasons: 1) In order to retreat the canal, extensive deconstruction would be necessary and this could result in loosening of the bridge, 2) The likelihood of a second canal was low to nil. Although, the crown/root ratio is not ideal the tooth responded well to surgery with the bridge remaining aesthetic and functional. The endodontic treatment of 31 may not win 'Endo of the Year Award' but has remained asymptomatic and functional for over ten years. In the right circumstances endodontic microsurgery is conservative, predictable, and the ideal treatment option.

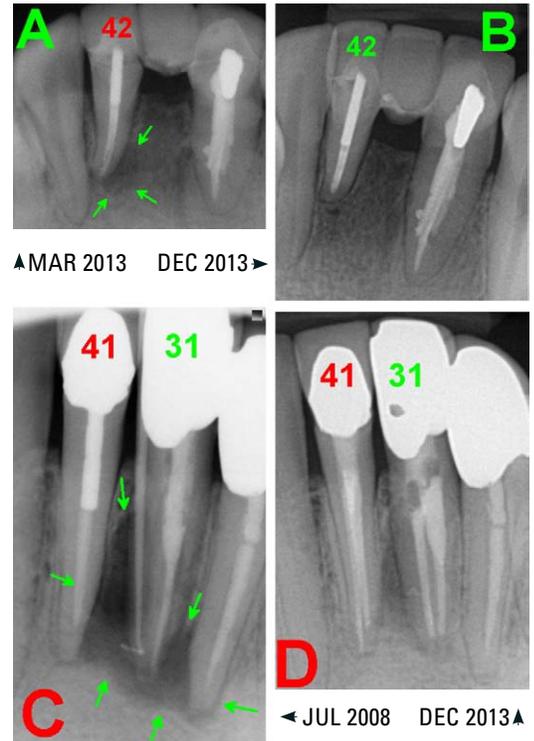
The second case (C & D) demonstrates a five year recall of two mandibular anteriors I treated. There is a GP cone tracing the sinus tract to the apex of the 31. The forty year-old gentleman had been frustrated that swelling and pain bothered his mandibular anterior teeth for a number of years. A few dentists had suggested extraction as they suspected one or more teeth were fractured. However, the infection was due to untreated lingual canals. Both 41 and 31 are now asymptomatic and functional with excellent evidence of healing on the radiographs. The mid-root radiolucency continues show evidence of slow but methodical healing.

Mandibular anterior are small teeth with their own unique challenges. Sometimes all you want for Christmas is your two front teeth... to be saved!

Regards,



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Happy Holidays!

FROM THE  
*Richmond Endodontic Centre*



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8am to 5pm - Monday to Friday  
Extended hours are also available

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