Author's response to reviews

Title: Outcome of Root Canal Therapy in a General Dental Centre

Authors:

Ezekiel T Adebayo (taiwo_adebayo@yahoo.com)
Lilian E Ahaji (lilyiboko@yahoo.com)
Rita N Nnachetta (nnekarn@yahoo.co.uk)
Olaitan Nwankwo (ola_nwan@yahoo.com)
Nonye Akabogu-Okpeseyi (nonyumez@yahoo.com)
Morufu O Yaya (yolasun@yahoo.com)
Nurudeen A Hussain (naahussain@yahoo.co.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
REVISION OF MS: 1869630940740517
The authors have considered the reviewers’ comments and the following revisions have been made:

Response to Comments 1772809997747171 by: Juan Jose Segura-Egea

Many thanks for your insightful comments.

1. The authors have clarified the question posed by the research. The term ‘endodontics’ has been removed. The term ‘Root canal therapy’ is used instead.

   The title of the work has been changed to better reflect the purpose of the study. The new title is “Technical Quality of Root Canal Fillings done in a Nigerian General Dental Clinic”.

2. The Cohen Kappa statistic for intra-observer reliability of 0.82 has been included in the Patients and Methods.

5. The sentence “The technical outcome of root canal fillings is important for the overall health of the dentition” has been deleted. The Conclusions have been modified to reflect the findings of this study.

6. The influence of coronal restorations in the outcome of root canal restorations and vice versa has been included. The limitation in analyzing the possible association between the quality of root canal treatment and the treatment outcome due to variations in health, teeth, biological, psychological characteristics of patients was also stated in the Discussion.
8. The title has been changed to the more informative and adequate.

9. The expression ‘root-filled teeth’ has been used in relation to the teeth in the study. The abbreviations are also explained.

b. **Response to Comments 1779921332752831 by: Flavio Alves**

Many thanks for your insightful comments.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

**Title**

The title has been changed to reflect the quality aspect of the study. It is now titled “Technical Quality of Root Canal Fillings done in a Nigerian General Dental Clinic”.

**Patients and Methods**

The criteria for assessment of root filling length and homogeneity have been clarified as Unal et al., (2011).

**Discussion P.10**

The term “technical quality” has been substituted for “technical outcome”. The observation on the need to survey many general dental clinics is well taken. The authors recommend larger size studies in future to make more deductions on the technical quality of the root canal fillings. However, in the light of existing literature, our recommendation for improvements in quality remains appropriate.

**Conclusion P.10**

The substitution has been done. The values earlier placed in this paragraph have been deleted and the entire paragraph rephrased.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

**Abstract P.2**

The sentence “Retrospective study of case notes and periapical radiographs of patients seen between 2008 and 2011 for patients with completed root canal fillings” has been clarified. It is now “Retrospective study of case notes and
periapical radiographs of patients with completed root canal fillings seen between 2008 and 2011”.

Background P.4
Reference 4 has been replaced with reference 6.

Conclusion P.11
The values for GQEW and acceptable length of root canal fillings have been deleted on the recommendation of another reviewer. The Conclusions have been rephrased.

References
The References have been edited to conform to the style of BMC Oral Health with name of Journal in italics and title and volume in bold lettering.

Figure 1
Figure 1 has been deleted. The data are now part of Table 2 as suggested.

c. Response to Comments 1834434017571480 by: Mohammed Ahmad M Al-Omari

Many thanks for your insightful comments.
1) The sample size was limited by the subjects that met the inclusion criteria.

2) One surgeon out of the seven researchers did the radiographic assessment as the others were not available for reliability testing. The test-retest method was used to determine intra-observer reliability.

3) The result of the Kappa test on intra-examiner reliability was 0.82. It has been added to the text.

4) An assessment of the taper of GP used for root canal fillings could be useful in determining technical quality. However, the authors followed the criteria used by Unal et al., (2011). Also, during the study, the authors had no criteria for assessing the taper of GP.