



Retreatment and healing of apical periodontitis



The goal of an endodontic treatment is the prevention and healing of apical periodontitis. Apical periodontitis is an inflammatory process, where microorganisms or their products are in contact with the human immune system, therefore mostly at the apical foramen. When apical periodontitis is diagnosed, removal of the biofilm from the root canal is a challenge, but the prevention of a new infection is also a challenge. We have still not found a filling technique that can completely block the root canal system from microorganisms. Knowing this, it is important to fill the root canal in such a way that an endodontic retreatment is a relatively easy procedure. Because we do not have any proof that one of the now available filling techniques is more effective, choosing filling

techniques that hamper the retreatment procedure does not seem to follow common sense.

Consequently, the search for new and better filling materials or techniques, and the evaluation of the retreatment and healing of apical periodontitis will continue, which can be seen in some of the articles for this issue. And then, it is always helpful to remain conscious of the fact that the root canal system is a beautiful complex creation of Mother Nature, with a unique blueprint for every creature.

Enjoy your reading and a beautiful summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luc van der Sluis".

Luc van der Sluis