

# Retreatment of failed regenerative endodontic of orthodontically treated immature permanent maxillary central incisor: a case report

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A revascularization procedure was shown to be the best alternative therapy for immature teeth with necrotic pulp and apical infection. A 12 year old female with a history of trauma to her upper central incisor and a sinus tract was referred for endodontic treatment. She was an active orthodontic patient and had undergone regenerative endodontic treatment for the past 2 years. Clinical examination revealed no response to sensibility, percussion, and palpation tests. The preoperative radiograph showed an open apex and apical rarefaction. The case was diagnosed as previously treated tooth with asymptomatic apical periodontitis. Regenerative endodontic retreatment was performed, and the case was followed for 3 years. Clinical, radiographic, and cone-beam computed tomography follow-up examination revealed an asymptomatic tooth, with evidence of periapical healing and root maturation. (*Restor Dent Endod* 2017;42(1):65-71)

**Key words:** Double antibiotic paste; Maxillary central incisor; Mineral trioxide aggregate; Open apex; Regenerative endodontics

## Introduction

Dental trauma is the most common cause of cessation of root development in permanent teeth.<sup>1</sup> The management of the immature teeth is one of the most challenging situations in endodontics. In such cases, chemomechanical debridement as well as placement of filling materials to seal the root apex cannot be performed due to weak roots. Calcium hydroxide multiple-visit apexification followed by a one-visit mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) apical plug used to be the treatment of choice.<sup>2-4</sup> Although the success rate was high,<sup>5,6</sup> the long-term use of calcium hydroxide was reported to increase the risk of root fracture.<sup>7</sup> In contrast, the use of MTA prevents dentin weakening.<sup>8</sup> Limited potential for further development of the root with the use of calcium hydroxide and MTA has been demonstrated.<sup>9</sup> Thus, regenerative endodontic treatment was proposed in which the infected root canal is disinfected, followed by induction of bleeding through irritation of periradicular tissue and a coronal seal.<sup>10-12</sup> It is recommended for patients between 8 and 16 years old.<sup>3</sup> This procedure promotes root development with a 100% survival rate.<sup>14</sup> However, failure of the therapy has been reported, with successful retreatment.<sup>15</sup>

Trauma to anterior teeth may cause pulpal necrosis and displacement of the teeth, requiring endodontic as well as orthodontic treatment. Andreasen *et al.*<sup>16</sup> reported that endodontic treatment should be performed prior to orthodontic treatment in

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traumatized teeth with necrotic pulp. This report presents a case of retreatment of failed revascularization of an orthodontically treated immature traumatized permanent maxillary incisor.

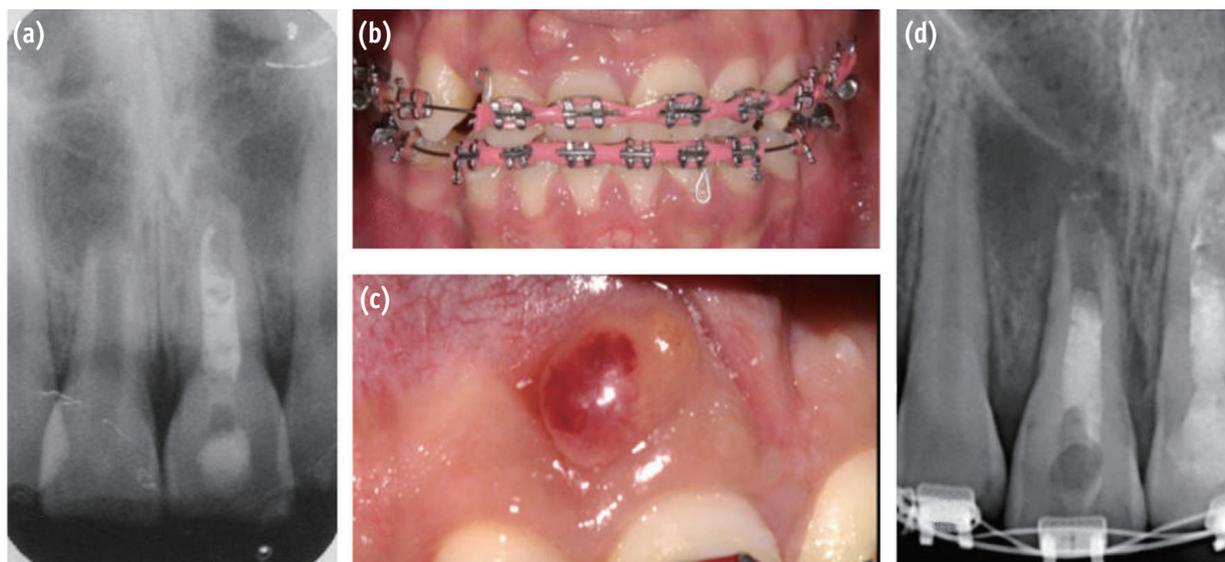
## Case Report

A 12 year old girl was referred from an orthodontic clinic to evaluate and treat the maxillary right central incisor (tooth #11). Her previous dental history was that the patient had trauma at age 9 years that affected her maxillary central incisors. She was referred by an orthodontist to a pedodontist in a private clinic to evaluate the traumatized teeth. An apexification was done for the maxillary left central incisor (tooth #21) using calcium hydroxide (Figure 1a) then she was referred back to her orthodontist who started the orthodontic treatment after one year. The patient developed buccal swelling one week after initiating the orthodontic treatment and the orthodontist sent the patient back to the pedodontist for the treatment on tooth #11. A regenerative endodontic retreatment was performed using MTA on tooth #11.

When this patient visited our clinic, she was an active orthodontic patient (Figure 1b). The tooth was asymptomatic and had a buccal sinus tract (Figure 1c). The medical history was unremarkable. Radiographic evaluation showed an immature open apex, with a large periradicular rarefaction and radiopaque material inside the root canal

(Figure 1d). The intra-oral exam revealed an asymptomatic tooth #11 with an associated draining sinus tract. Clinical examination revealed no response to percussion and palpation tests. The tooth showed no mobility, and periodontal probing was within normal limits. The clinical diagnosis was previously treated asymptomatic periapical periodontitis.

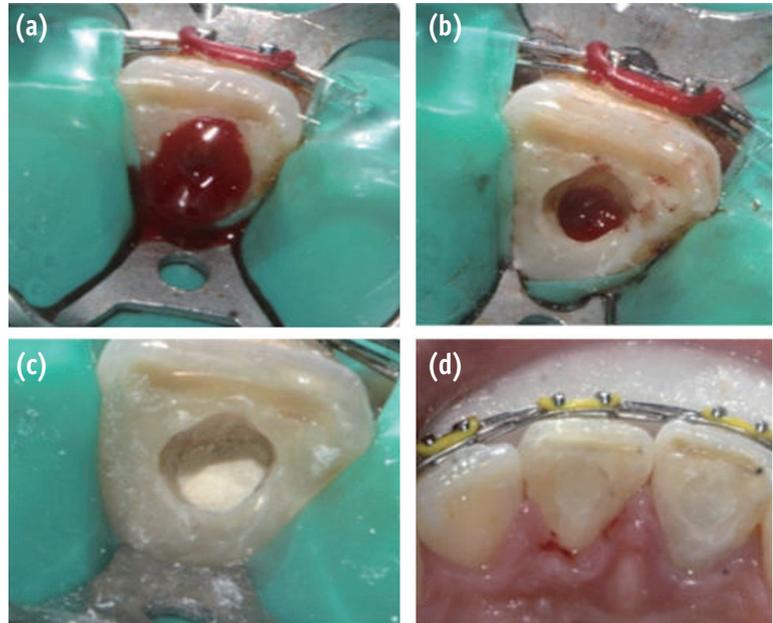
The treatment options were discussed with the patient's mother. It was decided that the patient would benefit from another revascularization procedure rather than regular apexification or an apical plug. A consent form was signed after approval of the proposed protocol to initiate revascularization treatment. A rubber dam was applied, and the tooth was accessed following local anesthesia (1.8 mL of 2% lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine) administration using a dental operating microscope (Global Surgical Corp., St. Louis, MO, USA). The MTA root canal filling was removed with CPR ultrasonic tips (Obtura Spartan Endodontics, Algonquin, IL, USA) set at low power. The vibration of the CPR ultrasonic tips caused the MTA filling materials to break up into pieces, and then the canal was flushed with saline to remove root canal filling debris, irrigated with 20 mL of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (Henry Schein, Melville, NY, USA), and then rinsed with sterile saline solution. The pulp chamber was carefully dried with paper points and filled with double antibiotic paste (DAP) consisting of a mixture of ciprofloxacin (Ciprobay, Bayer Pharma, Leverkusen, Germany) and metronidazole (Flagyl,



**Figure 1.** (a) Diagnostic radiograph of the maxillary right central incisor (tooth #11) demonstrated incomplete root formation with diffuse periapical radiolucency and poor root canal filling; (b and c) Preoperative clinical photograph illustrates orthodontic treatment and the sinus tract related to tooth #11; (d) Periapical radiograph during orthodontic examination and before regenerative endodontic treatment that shows an open apex with apical rarefaction.



**Figure 2.** Periapical radiograph after placement of double antibiotic paste (DAP).



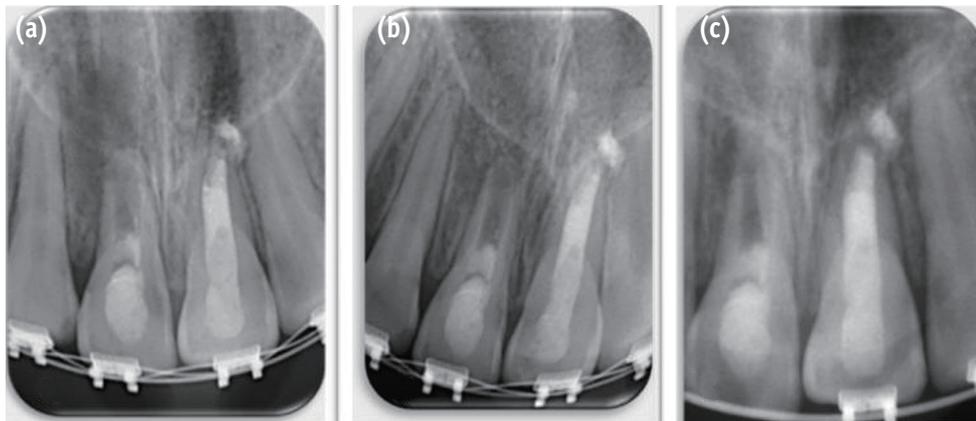
**Figure 3.** Second appointment. (a) Bleeding created by over-instrumentation; (b) Bleeding stopped 3 mm from CEJ; (c) Collagen membrane placed on top of the blood clot and placement of white MTA; (d) Access cavity restored with composite resin restoration. CEJ, cemento-enamel junction; MTA, mineral trioxide aggregate.

Sanofi Aventis, Frankfurt, Germany) in a 1:1 ratio prepared with saline (wt/vol 2.5:1) using a lentulo spiral (Dentsply, Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). Access was sealed with temporary filling material (Cavit, 3M ESPE, St. Paul, MN, USA), and a radiograph was taken (Figure 2).

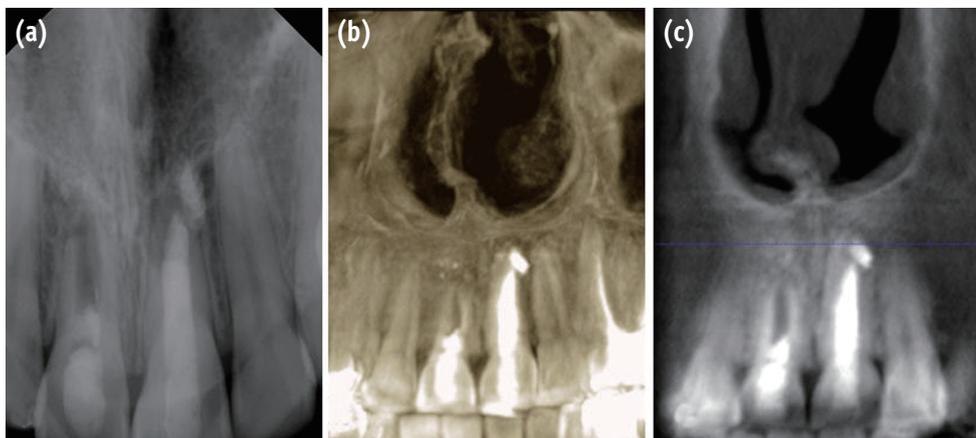
Two weeks later, the tooth was still asymptomatic, and the sinus tract had healed. The tooth was anesthetized with 3% mepivacaine hydrochloride without a vasoconstrictor (Polocaine dental, Dentsply Pharmaceutical, York, PA, USA). A rubber dam was placed, and the canal was irrigated with 20 mL of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite to remove the DAP and then rinsed with sterile saline solution and 10 mL of 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate (Vista Dental, Racine, WI, USA) for 5 minutes. The canal was dried with paper points, and bleeding was induced by gentle irritation of the canal apical tissue with a size 70 K-file (Dentsply Maillefer) (Figure 3a). A layer of 'CollaPlug' resorbable matrix (Zimmer Dental, Carlsbad, CA, USA) was coronally placed over the blood clot to act as a barrier (Figure 3b). A 3 mm thick layer of white MTA (MTA-Angelus, Angelus, Londrina, PR, Brazil) was gently condensed over the CollaPlug matrix to seal the canal system (Figure 3c). A moistened cotton pellet was placed over the MTA, and the

access cavity was temporized. The patient returned after 1 week for placement of the final restoration of bonded composite resin (Filtek Z250 XT, 3M ESPE) after removal of the wet cotton pellet and checking the setting of the MTA with an explorer (Figure 3d). The root canal of tooth #21 was cleaned and the apical third was plugged with MTA and the remaining canal was filled with gutta-percha and AH26 sealer (Dentsply De Trey GmbH, Konstanz, Germany). The coronal access was sealed with bonded composite resin.

At 3 and 6 months follow-up, the patient was asymptomatic, and slight healing of the apical radiolucency was noticed (Figures 4a and 4b). The orthodontist was advised to use no force on the tooth. At the 12 months follow-up appointment, the patient remained asymptomatic, and the orthodontic appliances were removed. Radiographic examination demonstrated evidence of periradicular bone healing (Figure 4c). At the 3 year recall appointment, the patient was asymptomatic, and a periapical radiograph showed disappearance of the apical radiolucency and closure of the root apex (Figure 5a). The treatment outcome was confirmed with cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) images (Figures 5b and 5c).



**Figure 4.** Follow-up radiographs of tooth #11 at (a) 3 months; (b) 6 months; (c) 12 months.



**Figure 5.** Three year follow-up confirming the healing process. (a) Conventional radiograph; (b) CBCT three-dimensional reconstruction; (c) CBCT buccal view. CBCT, cone beam computed tomography.

## Discussion

The treatment outcome of regenerative endodontics is usually determined by the status of the pulp tissue and size of the apical opening.<sup>17,18</sup> Unfavorable outcomes, including poor or no root development and coronal discoloration, have been reported.<sup>10,19</sup>

In the case presented here, the radiographic and CBCT images demonstrated disappearance of periapical radiolucency and closure of the apical foramen without any significant increase in root length or root wall thickness. Similar findings have been reported previously.<sup>18-21</sup> The periapical radiolucency usually disappears within 1 year of successful pulp revascularization,<sup>11,22-24</sup> as was found in the present case. Healing of the periapical lesion after regenerative endodontic treatment has been demonstrated by Lenzi and Trope<sup>25</sup> regardless of the absence of vital tissue inside the canal space. They attributed this to the disinfection protocol used during regenerative endodontic

treatments. Closure of the apical foramen in immature teeth treated with regenerative endodontic procedures is achieved by growth of the periodontal ligament tissue as well as the deposition of cementum inside the canal space.<sup>26</sup> In addition, Lin *et al.*<sup>27</sup> and Shi *et al.*<sup>28</sup> reported that the survival of postnatal dental pulp stem cells is facilitated by a rich apical blood supply at the open apex. These cells reside in the tissue of the dental pulp regardless of the status of the periapical tissue. The failure of root development was likely related to the previous trauma, persistent apical pathosis, poor endodontic management, and force applied in orthodontic treatment. It is believed that this causes the Hertwig epithelial root sheath, which is associated with root development, to lose its vitality.<sup>18,19,26,29,30</sup> Chen *et al.*<sup>18</sup> evaluated root developmental patterns with conventional radiographs. They reported that five types of root development pattern can occur as a result of regenerative endodontic procedures, all of which are based on survival of the Hertwig epithelial root sheath.

The type 2 root development pattern, described as 'no significant continuation of root development with the root apex becoming blunt and closed', was seen radiographically and was confirmed with CBCT in the present case. This was achieved through good management of the failed treatment. Similar findings have been reported previously.<sup>19</sup>

The patient in the current case was under active orthodontic treatment. Such treatment does not interfere with root development if performed in immature vital teeth,<sup>31</sup> but it delays the healing of periapical lesions of endodontically treated teeth.<sup>32</sup> However, in cases of traumatized immature necrotic teeth with periapical pathosis requiring endodontic treatment, the applied orthodontic force exerts an additional inflammatory stimulus to the tooth that might prolong the destructive phase acting on the cementum.<sup>33</sup> This may interfere with root development, causing failure of the regenerative procedure. Therefore, orthodontic treatment should be delayed for at least 1 year to enable observation of periradicular healing as well as root development.<sup>33-35</sup>

In the present case, the root canal was irrigated with 5.25% sodium hypochlorite and medicated with DAP. Minocycline was not used, as it causes discoloration of the tooth.<sup>36</sup> Triple antibiotic paste (TAP) has been recommended by the American Association of Endodontists as a disinfectant for pulp revascularization.<sup>37</sup> Its high concentration was reported to be detrimental to dental stem cell survival.<sup>38,39</sup> In addition, TAP has a low pH compared to DAP,<sup>40</sup> and the presence of minocycline in TAP was suggested to chelate calcium and demineralize dental hard tissues.<sup>41</sup>

Chlorhexidine was used before initiating bleeding. It is an effective antimicrobial irrigant that is frequently used in nonsurgical root canal treatment.<sup>42</sup> However, it has been reported that its use in immature teeth might be detrimental to the survival of stem cells.<sup>43</sup> This might be one of the reasons for incomplete apical closure. Collagen matrix (CollaPlug) was reported to be useful for the controlled placement of MTA.<sup>10</sup> A double seal of MTA and composite resin restoration was placed over the CollaPlug material to provide a tight coronal seal against bacterial leakage. This is very important for the successful outcome of regenerative endodontics.<sup>21,44</sup> MTA releases calcium ions, which react with environmental phosphorus, leading to the formation of hydroxyapatite crystals on the surface of the MTA as well as the MTA-dentin interface.<sup>45,46</sup>

## Conclusions

In conclusion, retreatment of failed regenerative endodontics performed on an orthodontically active patient achieved healing of the periapical radiolucency and continuation of root development without thickening of the canal walls.

Conflict of Interest: No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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