

Clinical evaluation of a new extraction method for intentional replantation

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Intentional replantation (IR) is a suitable treatment option when nonsurgical retreatment and periradicular surgery are unfeasible. For successful IR, fracture-free safe extraction is crucial step. Recently, a new extraction method of atraumatic safe extraction (ASE) for IR has been introduced.

Patients and Methods: Ninety-six patients with the following conditions who underwent IR at the Department of Conservative Dentistry, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, in 2010 were enrolled in this study: failed nonsurgical retreatment and periradicular surgery not recommended because of anatomical limitations or when rejected by the patient. Preoperative orthodontic extrusive force was applied for 2-3 weeks to increase mobility and periodontal ligament volume. A Physics Forceps was used for extraction and the success rate of ASE was assessed.

Results: Ninety-six premolars and molars were treated by IR. The complete success rate (no crown and root fracture) was 93% ($n = 89$); the limited success rates because of partial root tip fracture and partial osteotomy were 2% ($n = 2$) and 5% ($n = 5$), respectively. The clinical and overall success rates of ASE were 95% and 100%, respectively; no failure was observed.

Conclusions: ASE can be regarded as a reproducible, predictable method of extraction for IR. (J Kor Acad Cons Dent 2011;36(3):211-218.)

Key words: Atraumatic safe extraction; Intentional replantation; Orthodontic extrusion; Physics forceps

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INTRODUCTION

Intentional replantation (IR) is the final treatment option to save teeth when the conventional or non-surgical root canal treatment fail and periradicular surgery is unfeasible. In IR, a safely extracted tooth is treated outside the oral cavity in a controlled environment and is replaced into its original alveolar socket.¹ Studies revealed that IR has a relatively high success rate, although differing according to the

researcher, and is a predictable and reliable treatment option.²⁻⁴

Many authors emphasize that safe extraction without crown or root fracture is the primary prerequisite for successful IR.^{1,2,4,6} However, many teeth indicated for IR are weakened by repetitive root canal treatments and root canal post, etc.^{6,7} Moreover, molar teeth require a significant amount of load during extraction due to broad root surface; curved and divergent roots also make fracture-free safe extrac-

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tion difficult.⁸ Nonetheless, little is known about the practical extraction methods for IR, except that an elevator should not be used and the beak of the conventional extraction forceps should be placed on the crown above the cementoenamel junction.⁵ Many clinicians regard IR difficult because of the scant information on specific extraction methods.

Atraumatic safe extraction (ASE) for IR using the newly developed Physics Forceps⁹ along with preoperative orthodontic treatment has been introduced recently.¹⁰ The aim of this study was to evaluate the clinical reliability of ASE for IR.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

This retrospective study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (IRB No. B-1011-115-103).

Patients

Ninety-six patients who underwent IR at the Department of Conservative Dentistry of the Seoul National University Hospital in 2010 were enrolled. Their average age was 41.5 ± 13.7 years (range, 14–75 years). There were 42 male patients and 54 female patients. Some had visited the hospital for periradicular disease treatment; the others were referred by private dental clinics for nonsurgical retreatment, periradicular surgery, or IR. None of the patients had a noticeable medical history, and all were in relatively good health. Patients with severe periodontal disease were excluded. Periradicular surgery was unfeasible in 79 patients in whom nonsurgical retreatment was ineffective and retrieval or bypass was impossible because of the presence of a fractured root canal instrument or calcified root canal. Periradicular surgery was not recommended in cases of proximity to anatomical structures such as the inferior alveolar nerve and maxillary sinus, the presence of thick cortical bone, or a combination of these two conditions. Some teeth had root perforation or cracks; in other cases, the patients rejected nonsurgical retreatment and periradicular surgery, whereas some wanted dental implants after extrac-

tion. The patients were informed about the IR procedure and gave their written consent.

The entire IR procedure, from extraction to periapical treatment and replantation, was performed by one endodontist with experience in surgical root canal treatment using conventional local anesthesia and the appropriate sterilized surgical environment.

ASE procedure

Orthodontic procedure

An orthodontic bracket was attached slightly toward the gingival side of the buccal surface of the tooth requiring IR. A .014 Ni-Ti round wire was then ligated, and 50 g of orthodontic extrusive force was applied onto the tooth for 2–3 weeks (Figure 1a). Occlusal reduction was needed to ensure adequate space for extrusion. In general, no ankylosis was noted; increased mobility in addition to 1–2 mm extrusion could be observed (Figure 1b). For the most posterior teeth, such as the second molars, a $.016 \times .022$ TMA wire was applied by using the cantilever method to apply extrusive force. If necessary, an orthodontic micro-implant could be used (Figures 2a and 2b).

Surgical procedure

Under conventional local anesthesia, the beak of a Physics Forceps was placed against the lingual side or palatal root surface of the tooth. Thereafter, the buccal-side bumper of the forceps was placed at the mucogingival junction level of the buccal surface and firmly secured without squeezing the handle or movement. By using only the wrist, a steady, slow rotational force was applied (Figure 3a). If the tooth rotated or elevation was observed, the rotational action was stopped and complete extraction was performed by using the conventional forceps (Figures 3b and 3c).

The extraction time was measured in seconds from the moment of extraction force was applied until the tooth was completely removed from its socket. The extracted tooth was then observed under an operating microscope (OPMI Pico, Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) to detect problems of root including crack, fracture and perforation, etc.

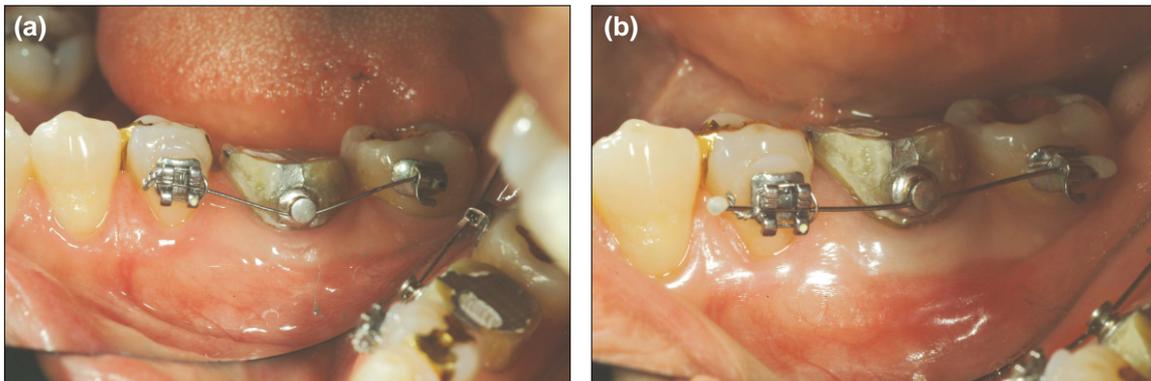


Figure 1. (a) Orthodontic brackets and wire attached to a left mandibular first molar requiring IR. In this case, a button was used; however, any devices can be used as long as an extrusive force is applied. (b) Twenty-two days after orthodontic extrusive force was applied. Given the straightening of the wire, tooth extrusion was assumed to have occurred; concurrently, mobility increased.

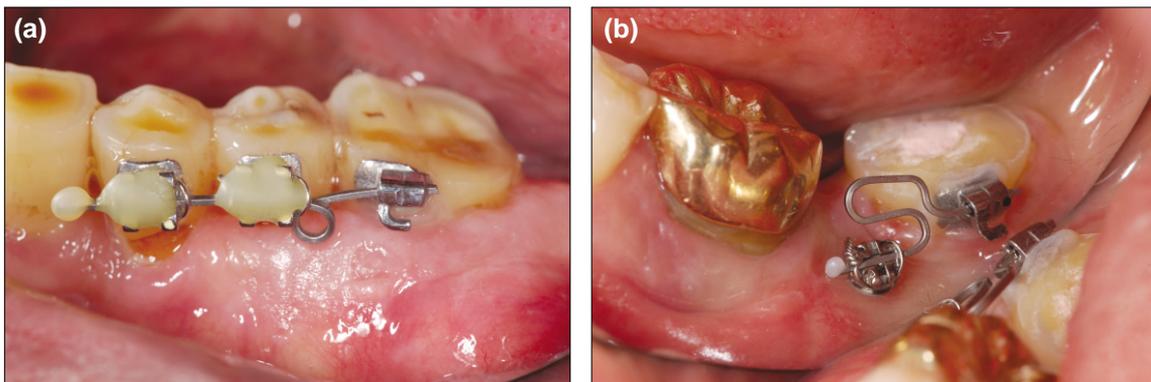


Figure 2. (a) Extrusive force was applied on the most posterior tooth, using a $.016 \times .022$ TMA wire as a coil spring. (b) If no appropriate anchor position is available, an orthodontic implant can be used for anchorage.

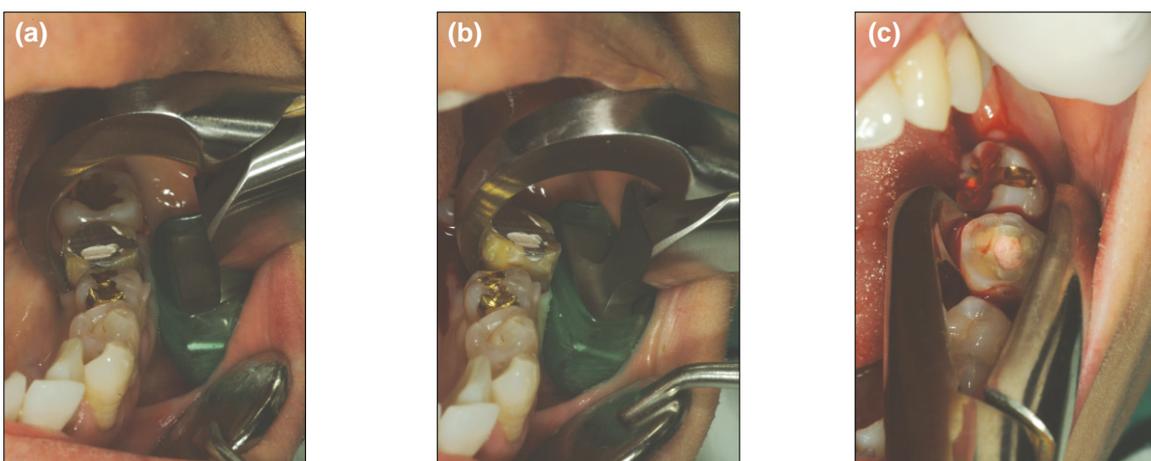


Figure 3. (a) Positioning of the Physics Forceps. Ensure that the beak is placed only on the lingual root surface to significantly reduce the possibility of crown or root fracture. (b) Extraction procedure. A weak but consistent force was applied for extraction. The mandibular left 1st molar was extracted with rotational force. (c) Once the tooth rotated, then conventional forceps was used to extract completely. The extraction time in this case was 1 minute 17 seconds. (photograph of another patient)

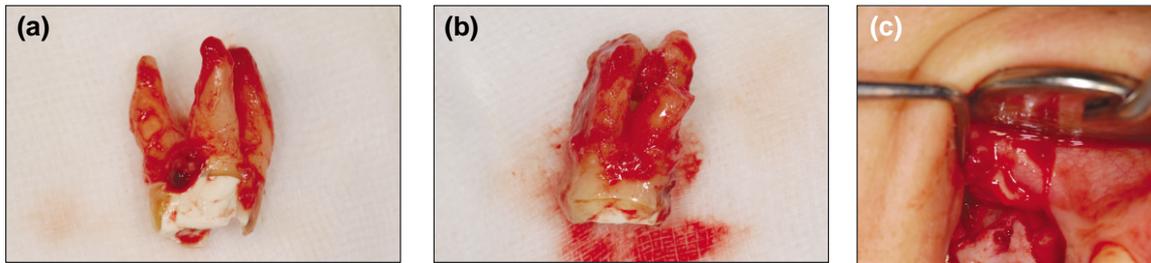


Figure 4. (a) The maxillary first molar was successfully extracted by ASE. The extraction time was 5 minutes 17 seconds. (b) Limited success with root tip fracture. The curved distolingual root tip of the mandibular left molar fractured during extraction. The extraction time was 4 minutes. (c) Limited success with osteotomy. The maxillary first molar showed no increased mobility after orthodontic extrusion; its divergent buccal and palatal roots and particularly thick buccal cortical bone were possibly responsible. The extraction time including osteotomy was 10 minutes 31 seconds.

Assessment

The success of extraction was based on the following criteria:

1. Complete success: extraction without crown and root fracture (Figure 4a)
2. Limited success with root tip fracture: extraction involving partial root tip fracture that did not hamper IR (Figure 4b)
3. Limited success with osteotomy: fracture-free extraction and partial osteotomy in case of divergent roots and thick cortical bone was present (Figure 4c)
4. Failure: extraction with crown or root fracture making IR impossible

Furthermore, the presence of a postoperative sensory disorder (paresthesia or hyperesthesia) was noted.

RESULTS

Table 1 presents the distribution of the teeth requiring IR. In most cases, the patients did not feel pain during orthodontic extrusion. When a patient complained of pain, the application of an excessive extrusive load was checked. The average extraction time was 4 minutes 8 seconds (range, 40 seconds-22 minutes 12 seconds). After orthodontic extrusion, increased mobility led to easier and faster extraction;

the partial osteotomy cases required a relatively long time for extraction.

Table 2 presents the success rates of all the extracted teeth. With regard to limited success, root

Table 1. Tooth distribution for IR

Jaw	First premolar	Second premolar	First molar	Second molar	Total
Upper	6	6	25	9	46
Lower		3	27	20	50
Total	6	9	52	29	96

IR, Intentional replantation.

Table 2. Scale for evaluating the clinical and overall success rates of ASE

Score	Category	n	Success rate (%)
1	Complete success	89	93
	Limited success		
2	Root tip fracture	2	2
3	Osteotomy	5	5
4	Failure	0	0
	Total	96	100

Clinical success rate = 1 + 2 (95%); overall success rate = 1 + 2 + 3 (100%)

ASE, Atraumatic safe extraction.

tip fracture occurred in two cases (mandibular second premolar and mandibular first molar: Figure 4b) and osteotomy was performed on four maxillary first molars and one mandibular first molar (Figure 4c). During extraction, greenstick fractures on the buccal side of the alveolar bone occurred in two mandibular first molars; although soft tissue suturing and post-operative finger compression were necessary in such cases, no concerns such as alveolar bone resorption occurred and healing was uneventful. Concurrent extraction and removal of the septal bone were per-

formed on two mandibular second molars (Figure 5). In most cases except those with osteotomy, almost no damage to the teeth and peripheral soft tissue was observed (Figures 6a and 6b).

No patient complained of paresthesia or hyperesthesia. In addition, no cases of severe edema or systemic infection were observed. All the extracted teeth were replaced after apicoectomy outside the oral cavity. Currently, they are under observation to check their prognosis.



Figure 5. The mandibular second molar was extracted concurrently with the septal bone. The extraction time was 15 minutes 46 seconds.



Figure 7. An extracted right maxillary second premolar. The elongated periodontal ligament attached to the root area can be seen, helping the replanted tooth to heal uneventfully.

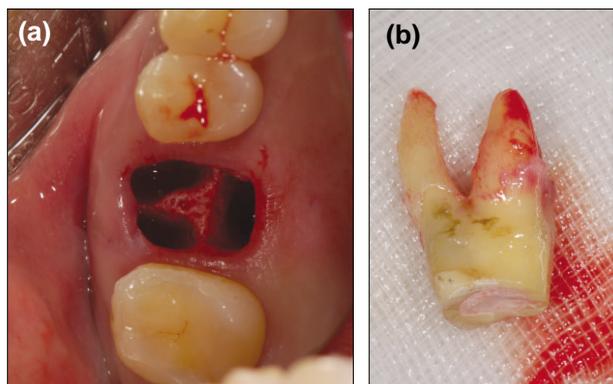


Figure 6. (a) Extraction socket of a right maxillary first molar. No soft tissue damage is observable, and the alveolar bone is well preserved. (b) The extracted tooth. The extraction time was 3 minutes 30 seconds.



Figure 8. A maxillary premolar extracted for orthodontic treatment. The beak of the forceps is located in the subgingival area, damaging the periodontal ligament, gingiva, and alveolar bone. The greater is the damage to the marginal tissue, the less likely is primary closure.

DISCUSSION

Some authors have reported high success rates after long-term observation of the prognosis of IR and low rates of adverse effects such as root resorption and alveolar bone loss. Moreover, they assert that IR should be considered as a treatment option that can be regarded concurrently with other treatment rather than as the final treatment.^{2,6} Despite the many positive studies on IR, however, there is hesitation to apply the method clinically, because a safe, repeatable extraction is unpredictable in most cases.⁵ Posterior teeth for which IR is required, most cases are multi-rooted teeth. Furthermore, repetitive root canal treatments weakened the physical strength of the tooth, posing inevitable difficulty in safe extraction without fracture.¹¹ Choi *et al.*¹⁰ introduced ASE for IR. In this method, preoperative orthodontic extrusion increase periodontal ligament volume and tooth mobility; and then, extraction using the Physics Forceps, even multirooted molars can be extracted safely without fracture.

Hayashi¹² revealed that the use of orthodontic extrusion in autotransplantation of teeth facilitates extraction and increases periodontal ligament volume, ultimately promoting new or reattachment after transplantation (Figure 7). In particular, the periodontal ligament on the root surface is crucial for the healing process: the bigger is its volume, the better is the prognosis.¹³ In this study, most of the teeth with an extrusive load for 2-3 weeks showed increased mobility, which in turn enabled easier extraction. If the mobility does not increase, additional partial osteotomy can be used; the clinician can assess the level of difficulty of extraction in advance (Figure 4c). Kany¹⁴ reported successful prognosis after IR with accompanying osteotomy to protect the periodontal ligament.

Although an elevator should not be used and the forceps should be placed on the crown above the cemento-enamel junction during extraction for IR. Therefore, damage to the periodontal ligament attached to the root is avoidable procedure, causing following damage to the marginal periodontal tissue (Figure 8).⁵ By gripping the root surface below the cemento-enamel junction, however, fracture-free

extraction is possible, although this damages the periodontal ligament.¹⁴

Misch and Perez⁹ developed the Physics Forceps for dental implant placement immediately after extraction to minimize damage to the root and especially marginal periodontal tissue. The bumper of the forceps acts as a fulcrum and prevents fracture of the buccal alveolar bone (Figures 3a and 3b). In addition, by using the principle of a type 1 lever, force can be loaded vertically, facilitating safe extraction. The beak contacts only the lingual side, minimizing damage to the gingiva and alveolar bone, and significantly lowering the possibility of crown or root fracture. Actually, no case of tooth fracture occurred in this study.

The two cases of root tip fracture during extraction were caused by hypercementosis and a curved root tip (Figure 4b). However, the broken root tip length was insignificant considering the amount resected during apicoectomy, eventually causing no impact on IR. Partial osteotomy was performed for extraction when mobility did not increase after preoperative orthodontic extrusion; lack of extraction despite weak, consistent force applied for a long time; and particularly, for cases with thick buccal bone. However, the osteotomy did not significantly affect the hard and soft tissue healing process.

In this retrospective study, a complete success rate of 93% was achieved, or 95% when limited success with root tip fracture was included. When cases of concurrent osteotomy with ASE were considered, the overall extraction success rate reached 100%. In conclusion, the ASE method should be considered as reliable extraction method for safe and successful IR: it is expected to contribute greatly to save natural teeth. However, long-term observation of its prognosis is required.

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국문초록

의도적 재식술을 위한 새로운 발치법의 임상 평가

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연구목적: 의도적 재식술은 재근관치료와 치근단 수술이 곤란하거나 실패한 경우 치아를 유지하기 위한 치료 방법이다. 성공적인 의도적 재식술을 위해서 파절 없는 안전한 발치는 필수적인 과정이다. 이를 위해 최근 의도적 재식술을 위한 비외상성 안전 발치법이 소개되었다.

환자 및 방법: 분당서울대학교 병원 치과 보존과에서 의도적 재식술을 시행한 96명의 환자를 대상으로 하였다. 재근관 치료가 실패하였거나 해부학적 접근의 어려움 등으로 치근단 수술이 곤란한 경우나 환자가 거부한 경우를 대상으로 하였다. 술전 교정적 정출술을 약 2-3주간 시행하여 치아의 동요도를 증가시키고 동시에 치주인대의 양을 증가시켰다. 이후 Physics Forceps를 이용하여 발치하였으며 결과에 대해 분석하였다.

결과: 96개의 치아는 상,하악 소구치 또는 대구치였다. 완전한 발치 성공은 93% ($n = 89$)였으며 제한적인 성공(치근의 일부가 부러짐)은 2% ($n = 2$), 골절제술을 동반하여 발치한 경우가 5% ($n = 5$)였다. 임상적인 성공률은 95%였으며 전체적인 발치 성공률은 100% 였다.

결론: 비외상성 안전 발치법은 의도적 재식술을 위해 재현성 있고 예측가능한 발치방법으로 볼 수 있다.

주요단어: 교정적 정출술; 안전 발치; 의도적 재식술