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## ABSTRACT

## OTHER COUNTRIES FIND ENDODONTICS DIFFICULT AS WELL

Quality Evaluation of Process of Root Canal Treatments Performed on Young Adults in Finnish Public Oral Health Service. S.E. Helminen, M. Vehkalahti, E. Kerosuo and H. Murtomaa. *Journal of Dentistry* 2000; **28**: 227-232. The quality of endodontic treatment carried out in the United Kingdom has frequently been called into question. This paper presents the results of a complex. Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop 1987; 91: 305-311.

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survey carried out in Finland, with disturbingly similar conclusions.

The records relating to 148 root canal treatments carried out in general dental practice were examined. In 60% of the cases no reason was given for carrying out the endodontic treatment, and almost a quarter contained little clinical information regarding canal lengths, sizing, etc. Only 34% had a pre-operative radiograph, and only 52% had a postoperative film, in both of which almost one-fifth were not of a diagnostic quality. It was thus impossible to assess the quality of the treatment in over one half

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of the cases. In those where it was possible, 48% showed an unacceptable result. The authors had a list of criteria for optimal treatment, and not one case achieved a full score.

No reasons are postulated for the differences found between actual practice and clinical guidelines, but the authors conclude with the profound understatement that *the solution for how to overcome this gap would appear to be the master key to good quality root canal treatments*.

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