

## **SURVEY ON USE OF RADIOGRAPHS FOR ROOT CANAL TREATMENT IN GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICES IN SRI LANKA.**

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The objective of this study was to determine the radiographic practices of Sri Lankan general dental practitioners undertaking root canal treatment and to gather information regarding their use of preventive measures and knowledge on radiation side effects and preventive measures.

A questionnaire was sent to 1600 dental practitioners in Sri Lanka, which includes the general information of practitioner as well as specific information on radiographic practices.

The response was 20%. Most of the practitioners were between 31-50 years of age. 53.0% of them were males. 43.2% of the practitioners had only less than 5 years of experience in general dental practice. 80.4% of the respondents do practice endodontics. Most of them do less than 5 root canal treatment procedures per month. 97% of the respondents use dental radiographs for evaluation of the root canal procedure. 25.2% of them took only pre operative radiograph whereas 38.3% took both pre operative and post-operative radiographs. Less than 3% took only all four radiographs namely pre-operative, working length, post-operative and follow-up. 56.5% of them did not keep the radiographs with them. 35.2% of them did not use proper viewing facilities and 86.1% did not use magnification for viewing radiographs. 52.5% of the respondents who do endodontics did not use previous radiographs, which has been taken recently as pre-operative radiograph and they ask patients to retake them. Only 3.5% of them take radiographs themselves. Over 95% of the respondents were knowledgeable about the preventive measures and the side effects.

Majority of the general dental practitioners use radiographs for root canal treatment and still radiographs are the most important diagnostic aid in endodontics in Sri Lanka. Most of the dental surgeons took pre operative radiographs. Average number of radiographs was two for a root canal procedure, which is less than the acceptable level of three and follow up when necessary. Knowledge on side effects and preventive measures is at a higher level, but use of radiographs for root canal treatment and preventing side effects are to be improved further.

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