

Italian Endodontic Society (SIE)

POSITION STATEMENT ON ASEPSIS IN ENDODONTICS

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Meaning of Position Statement

The Position Statement is a guide to help all members of the Italian Endodontic Society to better understand their role in dealing with problems that could arise during endodontic treatment in daily practice.

The position statement is produced by Expert members which study clinical problems and review the international scientific literature in order to reach their conclusion. The position statement is a view of the Society and can be discussed, modified and revised at any point. These statements are not guidelines in the strict sense but only recommendations, to help those clinicians who want to improve their clinical results and follow some protocols suggested by the Italian Endodontic Society.

ASEPSIS

The purpose of Italian Endodontic Society is to promote and show excellence in endodontic knowledge, and to help all members to improve their endodontic treatment for the benefit of patient safety and increase the success of their treatment.

Endodontic success depends on many factors, the most important of which is prevention and management of problems that could lead to unfavourable results during orthograde endodontic treatment.

ASepsis is one of the most important factors faced during endodontic treatment: the operator needs to follow some precautions to minimize the risk of infection (or reinfection) of the root canal system.

Italian Endodontic Society suggests the procedures that the operator should follow during the endodontic treatment to minimize risks of contamination of the root canal system.

These suggestions are made on the base of scientific evidence that show how endodontic failures are caused by microorganisms from the oral cavity.

Preparing the operative field

-To eliminate or decrease the bacterial concentration, the patient should rinse the mouth with clorexidine 0,2% for 1 minute. Calculus and plaque present on the tooth should be removed with a scaler or an ultrasonic device.

-All the instruments and tools should be sterile and should be discarded in case of contamination. The gloves should be also be changed if contaminated by touching non sterile objects or surfaces.

Access cavity and endodontic treatment

-The access to the endodontic cavity should be performed after isolating the tooth with rubber dam. All the carious tissues should be removed completely.

-After removing the carious tissues it is recommended to disinfect the tooth and the operative field with hypochlorite 5%, Ethanol 80% for 2 minutes.

-Single use gloves and aspirator tips should be changed before accessing the endodontic space.

-The tip of any Endodontic files (hand or rotary) should not come into contact with any surface potentially contaminated by external bacteria (Gloves or Rubber Dam).

Root Canal Obturation

-Root canals should be dried using sterile paper points.

-Gutta percha used for obturation of root canal system should be disinfected (leaving it in hypochlorite 5% for at least 1 minutes).

-Spatula, flat plastic and any mixing pad should be sterile.

Coronal Seal

- To prevent reinfection of the root canal system, after endodontic the filling it is strongly recommended to seal the orifice using adhesive restorative materials or glass ionomer cements.

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