**“COMPARISON OF INSTRUMENTATION TIME AND CLEANING EFFICACY OF MANUAL K-FILE, ROTARY PROTAPER UNIVERSAL AND ROTARY PROTAPER NEXT IN PRIMARY ANTERIOR TEETH: AN IN-VITRO STUDY”**

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<th>Dental Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashish Rao</td>
<td>MDS (Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry), Jabalpur, M.P, India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divya Pandya*</td>
<td>MDS (Oral Medicine and Radiology), Senior Lecturer, Kusum Devi Sunderlal Dugar Jain Dental College and Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. *Corresponding Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soumik Roy</td>
<td>MDS (Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry), Kolkata, India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanchi Upadhyay</td>
<td>MDS (Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry), Kolkata, India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shilpi Gupta</td>
<td>MDS (Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry), Professor, Hitkarini Dental College and Hospital, Jabalpur, M.P, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amrita Pal</td>
<td>MDS (Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry), Kolkata, India.</td>
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**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Pulpectomy of primary teeth with severe pulpal involvement is one of the most important concerns in Pediatric Dentistry. Root canal instrumentation is performed with files, reamers, sonic instruments and recently with rotary instruments. Although manual instrumentation is widely used in primary teeth, but they have limitations. The development of nickel titanium alloys and the possibility of changing the traditional design and taper have allowed use of rotary instruments in endodontic treatment. A new generation of NiTi rotary files has been introduced as the Protaper Next.

**Aim:** The present study aimed to compare the instrumentation time and cleaning efficacy of Protaper Next with rotary Protaper Universal system and manual K file in pediatric endodontics.

**Materials and Methods:** An in-vitro experimental study was conducted by injecting Indian ink in a total sample of 60 human single rooted primary anterior teeth. The teeth were randomly divided into three experimental groups, including K-file, ProTaper Universal, Protaper Next and one control group. The root canals were prepared using one of the three file system followed by clearing the teeth with different demineralising solutions. A chronometer was used to calculate the instrumentation time in each root canal and scores were analysed by a stereomicroscope. Data analyses were performed using version 21.0 of Statistical Package for Social Sciences.

**Results:** In the coronal third of root canals cleaning efficacy of K Files and ProTaper Next showed almost similar score. In the middle third of root canals cleaning efficacy scores in two file systems were significantly lower than K files. In the apical third Protaper Next showed better cleaning efficacy compared to K files and ProTaper Universal files. System differences between the different groups was statistically significant P=0.000(<0.001).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that the use of Ni-Ti rotary instruments in the pulpectomy of primary anterior teeth represents a promising technique in pediatric patients, thus instrumentation is feasible, offering time-saving advantages in root canal preparation.

**KEYWORDS**

Ni-Ti, Protaper Next, Protaper Universal, Pulpectomy, Rotary Endodontics

**Introduction**

One of the most important concerns in paediatric dentistry is the early loss of primary teeth leading to space loss. Hence pulpectomy of primary teeth with severe pulpal involvement should be considered as a treatment of choice. Pulpectomy technique should be fast and simple of short duration with minimal number of appointments including the effective debridement of the root canals without weakening the tooth structure or endangering the underlying permanent teeth, avoiding procedural complications and most importantly restoring the tooth to maintain function.

Root canal instrumentation is performed with conventional instruments and recently with rotary system. Although manual instrumentation is widely used in primary teeth, with limitations regarding effective cleaning of root canals, possible ledge formation, perforations, dentine compaction and fracture.

The use of Nickel titanium (NiTi) rotary files in primary teeth was first described by Barr et al (2000). The development of NiTi alloys and the possibility of changing the traditional design and taper have allowed use of rotary instruments in endodontic treatment. Advantages of rotary instruments in pediatric patients includes, there rotation on own axes in root canal thus avoiding damage to original anatomy, no precuring required due to elastic memory, quicker as operated by an endomotor, avoidance of root canal deformation due to its elastic memory and radial land that maintains the file in root canal center, thus favouring the patient’s cooperation by shortening the treatment time for cleaning canals.

The literature on rotary root canal preparation techniques is limited and there are not many studies available for use in primary teeth. The comparison between the various rotary endodontic systems is limited in primary teeth. The most common rotary system used in pedodontics is Protaper Universal system and no study have been advocated till now regarding the use of Protaper Next (PTN) rotary system in pediatric dentistry. Hence this study was carried out to compare the instrumentation time and cleaning efficacy of Protaper Next with rotary Protaper Universal system and manual K file in pediatric endodontics.

**Materials and Methods**

The present in-vitro study was carried out in the Department of Paedodontics and Preventive Dentistry, Hitkarini Dental College and Hospital, Jabalpur (M.P), in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology, Nanaji Deshmukh University of Veterinary Science, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh with the objectives to assess instrumentati on time and compare the cleaning efficacy of manual K-file, rotary Protaper Universal, and Protaper Next in the cleaning of root canals in primary anterior teeth. Ethical approval was obtained from the ethical committee of Hitkarini Dental College and Hospital, Jabalpur, India. 60 extracted human deciduous single rooted teeth with two-thirds of intact root with or without moderate root angulation were selected. The teeth with pathological root resorption, perforation in furcation area, severe root angulation and with root length less than two third were excluded from the study.

Freshly extracted teeth were washed under running water to remove all the soft tissue from root surface. Teeth were subjected to ultrasonic scaling to remove stains and calculus. Disinfection of teeth were performed by immersion in 3% sodium hypochlorite for 1 week for and then stored in distilled water till they were ready for study.

The coronal access was achieved with BR 031 diamond round bur (Mani, Japan) at high speed, under cooling with distilled water. The
The obtained scores were tabulated and statistical analysis was done using version 21.0 of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM Corporation, Armonk, New York, USA). One Way ANOVA and Kruskal Wallis test. Mann Whitney U test were applied.

Results
In the coronal third of root canals cleaning efficacy of K Files and ProTaper Next showed almost similar scores (Graph 1). In the middle third of root canals cleaning efficacy scores in two file systems were significantly lower than K files. Difference between the different groups was statistically significant P=0.000(<.001). The pair wise comparison showed that there was no significant difference between ProTaper Universal and ProTaper Next for cleaning efficacy scores (Graph 2). In the apical third ProTaper Next showed better cleaning efficacy compared to K files and ProTaper Universal files systems. Difference found between the different groups was statistically significant P=0.000(<0.001). However the pair wise comparison showed no difference between K File and ProTaper Universal for cleaning efficacy scores. (Graph 3) The overall cleaning efficacy score suggested that cleaning efficacy of ProTaper Next was better than ProTaper Universal and K files. (Graph 4)

K File Group (Group I) showed highest instrumentation time among all experimental groups while ProTaper Universal (Group II) and ProTaper Next (Group II) showed almost similar instrumentation time. Statistically significant difference was observed between experimental groups P=0.000(<0.001). However the pair wise comparison with Mann-Whitney U test showed no difference between ProTaper Universal and ProTaper Next for instrumentation time. (Graph 5)
In the present study, instrumentation time was significantly lesser with rotary systems as compared to manual K file as the rotary files are lesser in number and are engine driven with higher cutting efficiency. Preparing a canal with PTN requires the use of two files, i.e. X1 and X2 similarly in ProTaper Universal group only SX and S2 files are used, therefore the working time is lesser as compared to many other multiple rotary file system and manual K file. Mechanical preparation of primary teeth utilizing Ni–Ti rotary files was first done by Barr et al. (2000) concluding that the use of Ni–Ti rotary files for root canal preparation in primary teeth was cost effective, faster, and resulted in reduced chair time. The positive results of our study emphasize the need for further clinical in vivo investigation. Such studies should be continued in consistently uniform and predictable fillings. Silva et al. reported that Ni–Ti rotary preparation for extracted teeth was faster than hand preparation. Shashikiran et al. also compared the Ni–Ti rotary PROFILE and K files hand instrumentation for root canal preparation of primary and permanent molars for their efficacy in preparation time, instrumentation failure, and shaping the canals and concluded that PROFILE 0.04 taper 29 series prepared canal rapidly than conventional K files.

CONCLUSION

Our study substantiated that the use of rotary instruments in the pulpectomy of primary anterior teeth represents a promising technique being advantageous for the pediatric patients with significantly reduced chair time. The positive results of our study emphasize the need for further clinical in vivo investigation. Such studies should be randomized, blinded clinical assays, so that the clinical and radiographic effects of rotary instrumentation used in pulpectomy of primary anterior teeth can be compared and they should have adequate follow-up.

REFERENCES


Graph 4: Comparison of overall cleaning efficacy in different experimental groups

Graph 5: Comparison of instrumentation time in different experimental groups

Discussion

The pulpectomy procedure for restorable primary teeth is the preferred treatment for infected pulpal tissue in single rooted teeth and in molars with signs of furcal radicular involvement. Conventional endodontic technique for primary teeth remains manual instrumentation which is time consuming and often causes fatigue to the operator and child. In the present study comparison was made between the stainless steel K-file, rotary ProTaper Universal and rotary ProTaper Next regarding their cleaning efficacy and instrumentation time in deciduous teeth. The SS K-file was chosen as these files are traditionally used for cleaning and shaping of root canal in primary teeth. The second file system was ProTaper Universal system as it was used nowadays for biomechanical preparation of primary teeth. The ProTaper Next is the successor of the ProTaper Universal system and till date no study was performed regarding cleaning efficacy of ProTaper Next in primary teeth, so this study compared the cleaning efficacy of PTN with ProTaper Universal system and K-file in primary root canals.

Previous studies compared different rotary systems other than the ProTaper Universal and ProTaper Next systems. Different approaches have been used to evaluate the cleaning ability of instruments, in many studies debris removal was the focus of studies, and other used scanning electron microscopy to examine smear layer removal.

Present study showed significant differences in the cleaning efficacy between manual and rotary techniques (P<0.00). The Rotary instruments showed better cleaning efficacy than Manual K-File. In agreement with present study, Katge et al. concluded from their study on primary molarpulpectomy that the reciprocating system (Wave One) and the rotary system (ProTaper) showed better cleaning efficiency compared to manual instrumentation especially in the coronal and middle one third of root canals. Guelzow et al. compared various parameters of root canal preparation using a manual technique and six different rotary Ni–Ti instruments in primary teeth and concluded that all Ni–Ti systems maintained the canal curvature and were more rapid than a standardized manual technique. Makarem et al. conducted a randomized controlled clinical trial by performingpulpectomy of primary second molar teeth. They achieved superior radiographic findings and less chair time with Flex-Master system. Musale et al. evaluated the efficacy of rotary PROFILE, ProTaper, Hero Shaper, and K file in shaping ability, cleaning efficacy, preparation time and instrumentation distortion in primary molars and concluded that rotary files prepared more conical canals in primary teeth than manual instruments.

In contrast to present study, several studies showed no difference between rotary and manual root canal file systems.Bahrollooomiet al. evaluated and compared the cleaning ability and instrumentation time of manual and rotary methods used for preparation of primary anterior teeth and found no significant difference in cleaning capacity between the two techniques. Silva et al. and Schäfer and Zapke reported that the manual and rotary instruments yielded similar degree of cleanliness. According to Ramezanali et al. the cleaning efficacy of rotary instruments was same as hand K files in apical, middle and cervical thirds of primary molars root canals. Reza et al. found Manual K-files and the Mtwo and ProTaper rotary systems showed equally acceptable cleaning ability in primary molar root canals. Some studies noted the benefits of hand instrumentation over rotary files with regard to root canal wall preparation. Kiumarsetal found superior cleaning efficacy of K file in coronal third of root canals compared to Flex Master rotary system in primary molars.

In all three experimental groups, cleaning capacity was apparently better in the coronal and middle thirds of the canal than in the apical third. Foschiet al. also reported that none of the manual or rotary systems could clean the apical part of root canals completely. In present study PTN showed better cleaning efficacy than ProTaper Universal and K file in apical third of root canals, because of unique new swaggering motion property of PTN system. The apical taper of PTN S2 file is .06 and apical taper of ProTaper Universal S2 file is .04 which may be the reason of superior cleaning efficacy of PTN in apical third of root canal.


