



Dr. Hagay Shemesh

Dr. Hagay Shemesh is Head of the Section of Endodontontology at ACTA (Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam). Since 2021, he has served as Associate Professor and has held several leadership positions within the department, including Chair of the Department of Endodontontology (2012–2019, and again since 2024) and Director of the postgraduate Endodontontology program (2010–2021).

After immigrating to the Netherlands in 2002, he completed his PhD at ACTA (2005–2009) on changes in root canal wall structure. Before that, he completed a postgraduate program in Endodontontology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1996–2000) and obtained his national specialty certification in Endodontontology in 2000.

Dr. Shemesh has authored over 100 scientific papers, including textbook chapters and editorial work in the dental literature. In addition to his academic work, he is co-owner of a private referral dental practice in Amsterdam and an active member of the Dutch Society of Endodontontology (NVE), the European Society of Endodontontology (ESE), and the American Association of Endodontists (AAE).

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OUTCOME STUDIES IN ENDODONTISTRY

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Outcome studies in Endodontology

- Chapter 1: Importance
- Chapter 2: Definitions- outcome measurements
- Chapter 3: Classical studies
- Chapter 4: CBCT
- Chapter 5: The elephant in the room
- Chapter 6: How to assess my root canal treatment ?
- Chapter 7: Scoping reviews and new evidence

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- Importance

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Which irrigation protocol?	To re-treat or not to re-treat?	CBCT before every treatment?
Which file should I use?	Ultrasonic irrigation necessary?	One or two sessions?
Which obturation ?	Use calcium hydroxide?	
Which sealer?	Which concentration of hypochloride?	
Microscope necessary?	Follow up period ?	
Pulpotomy or pulpectomy?		
Bleaching with which material ?		
Perforations- what to do?		
Full crown of composite ?		

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- The most extensively studied
- Surge of enthusiasm in the early '2000s

Example : ultrasonic irrigation

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Radiographic healing after a root canal treatment performed in single-rooted teeth with and without ultrasonic activation of the irrigant: a randomized controlled trial

Root canal treatments with and without additional ultrasonic activation of the irrigant contributed equally to periapical healing.

JOE 2013 : Liang et al.

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JOE 2019 : Căpută et al.

“ ...no strong clinical recommendations could be formulated”

BDJ 2019 : Silva et al.

“ ...there was no evidence of effective improvement on periapical healing ...that supports the use of ultrasonic irrigation...”

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Effectiveness of adjunct therapy for treatment of apical periodontitis (R3.6)

LAI, PIPS, Ultrasonic, Sonic...

PCO addressed by a SR	Evidence-based recommendation
R3.6	Grade of recommendation: W ^{1,2}
Quality of the evidence	Supporting literature (Metz et al., 2012)
Diagnostic pain: Low risk	Postoperative pain: 7 RCTs (n = 636 patients)
Radiographic evidence: unclear after treatment: Low risk	Radiographic healing 1 year after treatment: 9 RCTs (n = 1080 patients); 1 cohort (n = 48 patients)
Strength of consensus	Survival and outcome not consistently reported.
	Conclusion: 12.2% of the group abstained due to potential PCO

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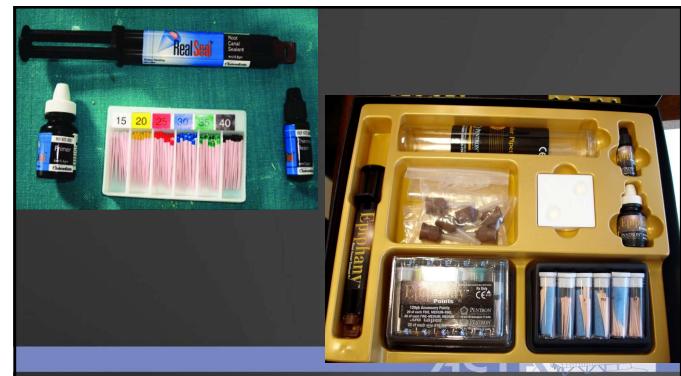
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Resilon-Epiphany

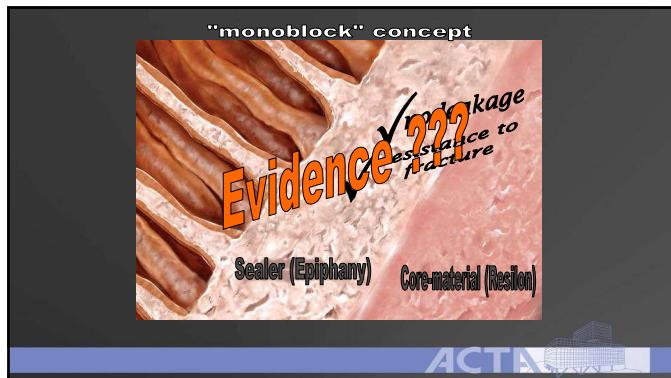
- New composite root canal filling material
- Introduced in 2004 (Shipper *et al.* JOE)



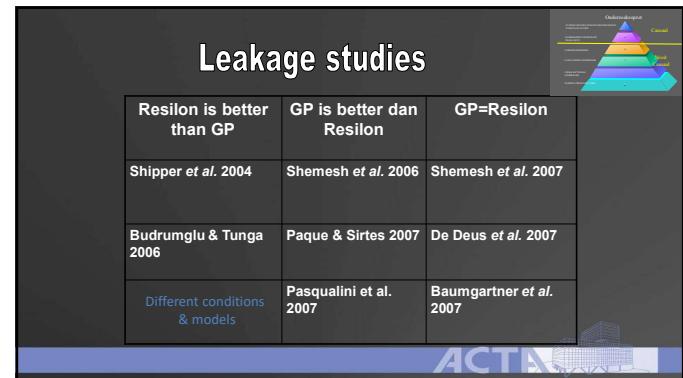
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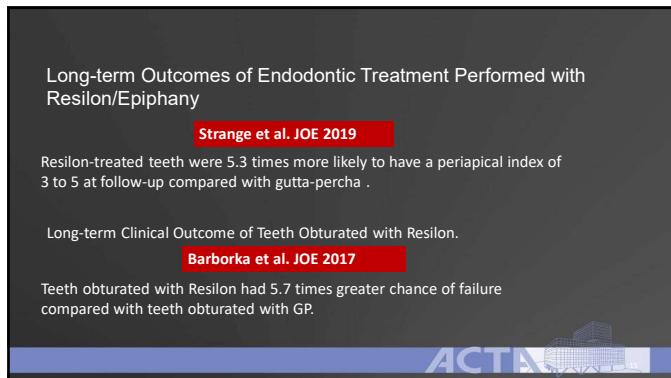
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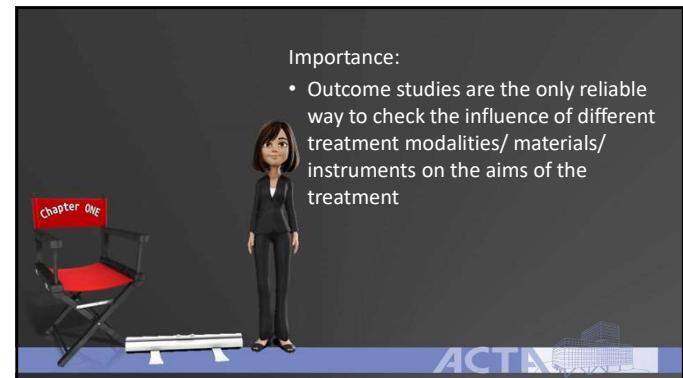
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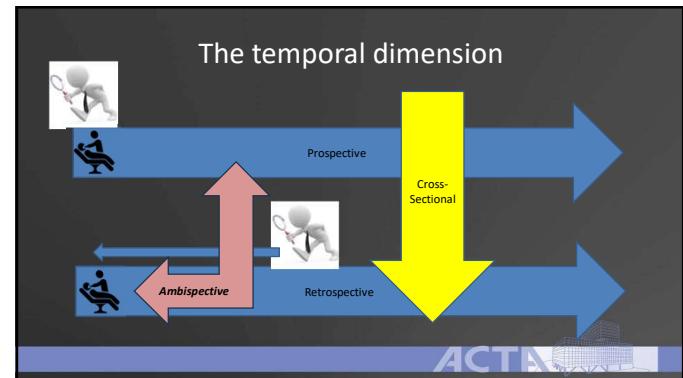
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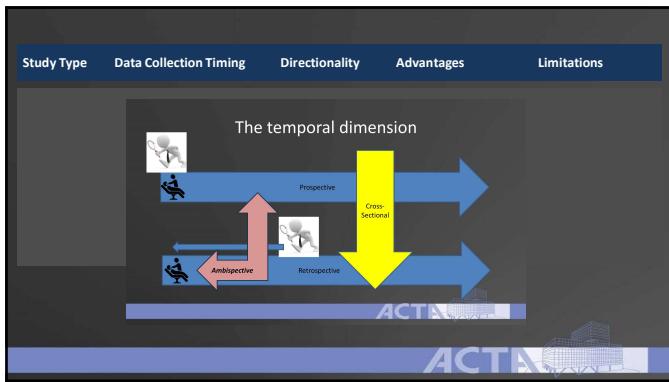
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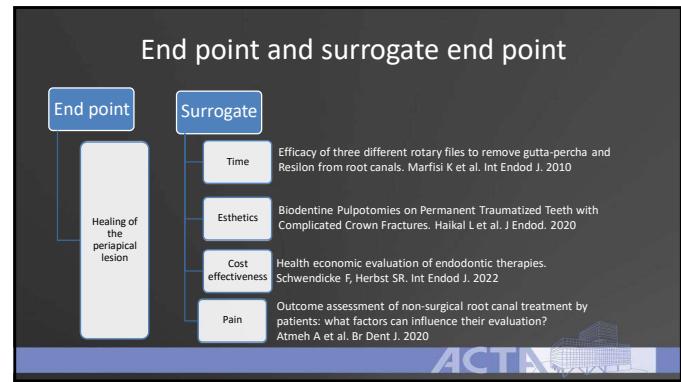
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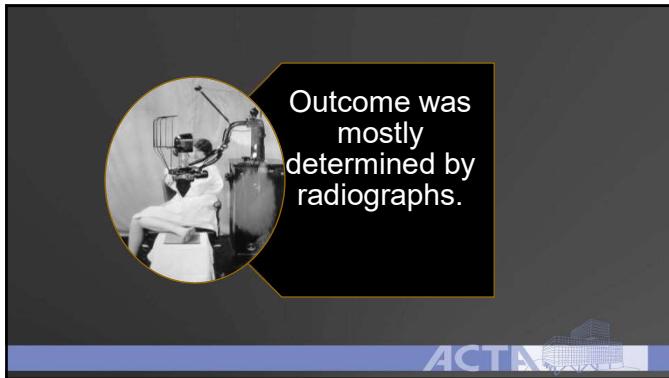
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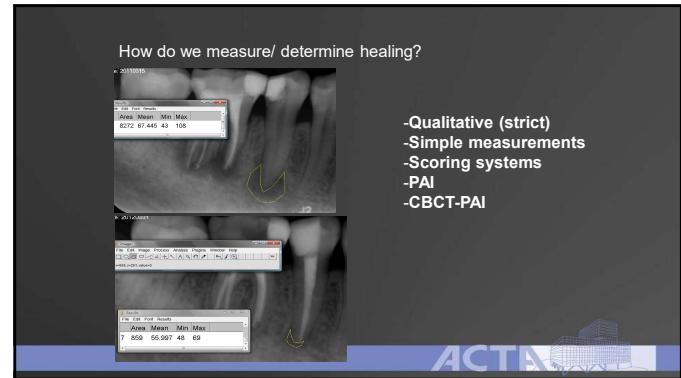
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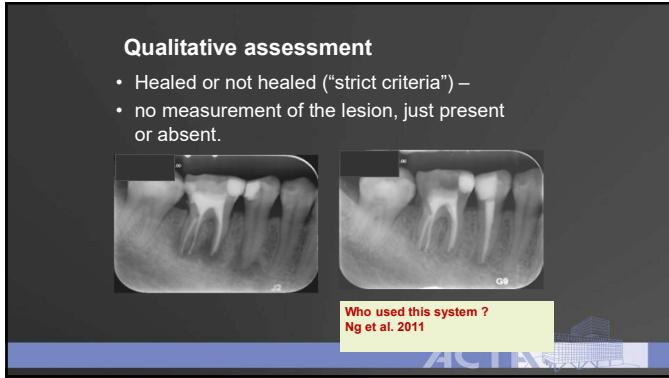
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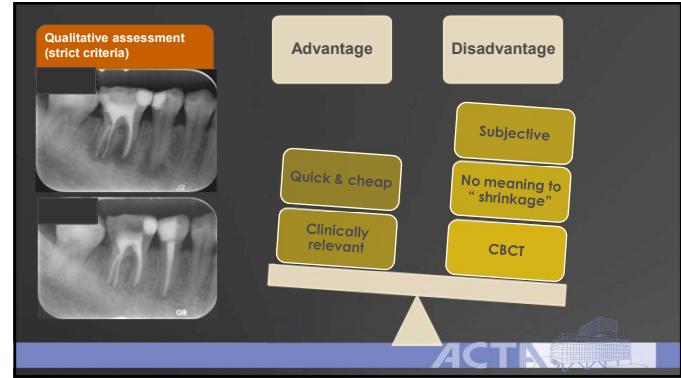
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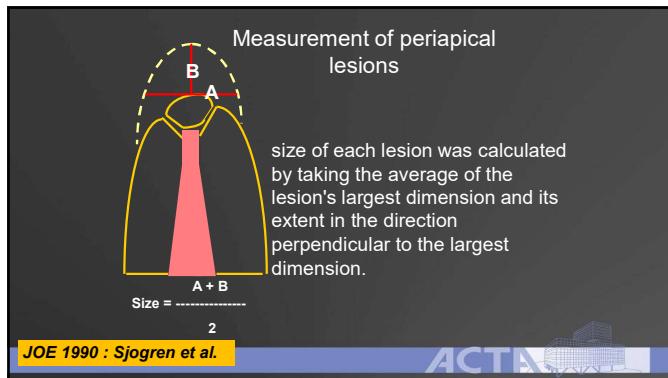
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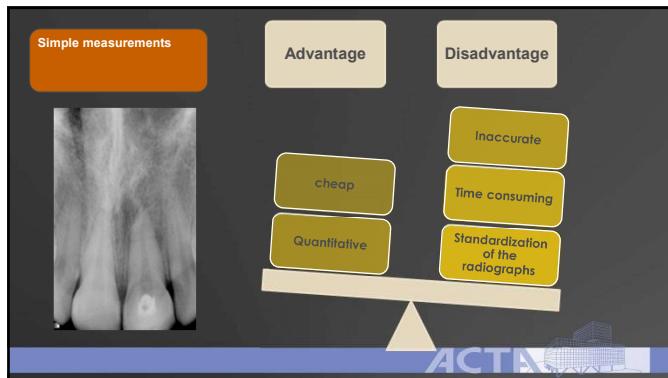
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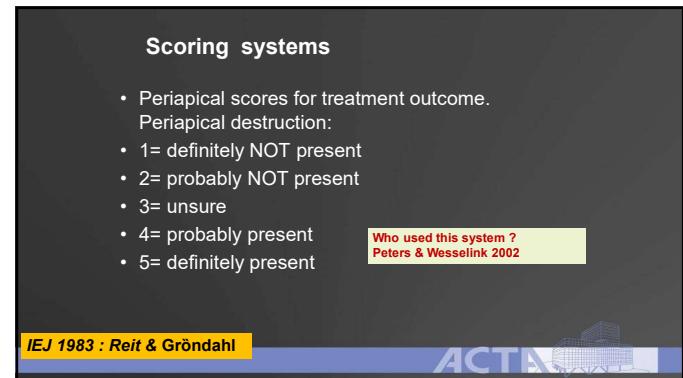
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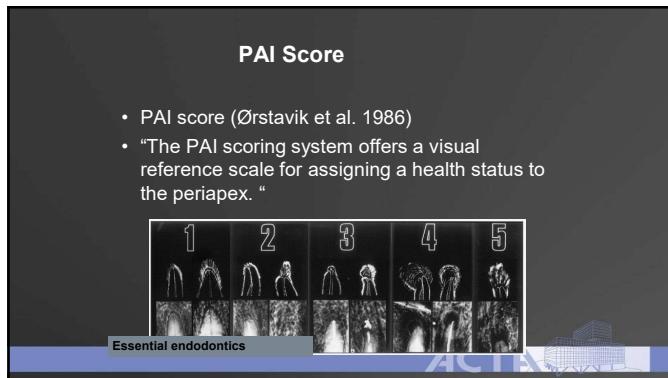
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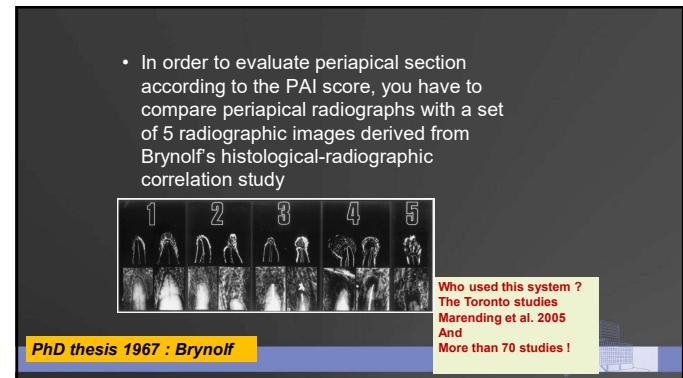
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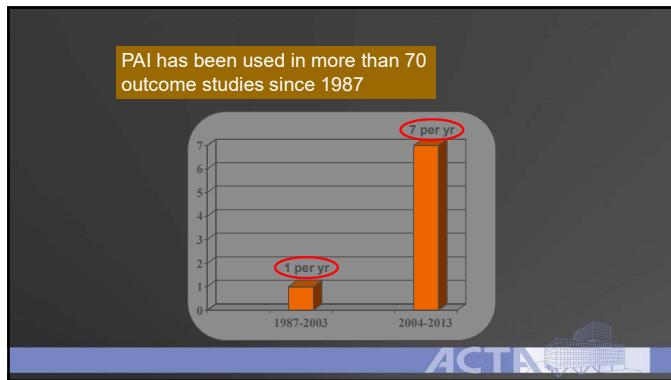
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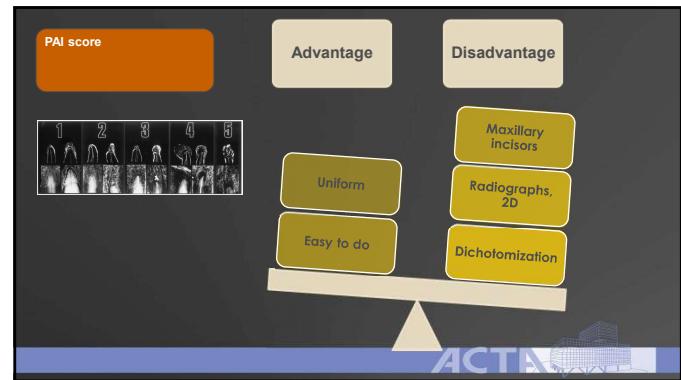
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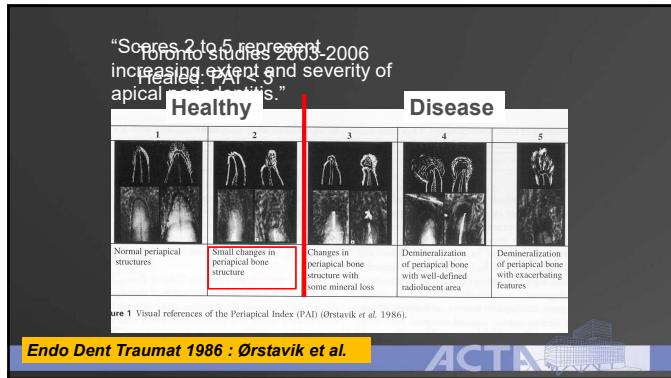
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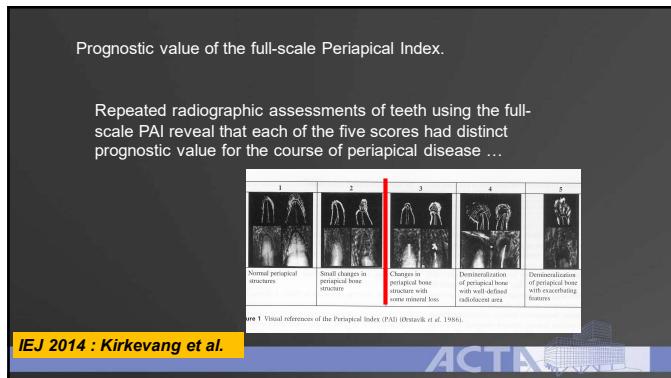
Success= PAI 1+2 PAI 1

ALL	90	58
NO Pre-op PA	94	70
Pre-op PA	79	26

Eur J Oral Sci 2004 : Ørstavik et al.

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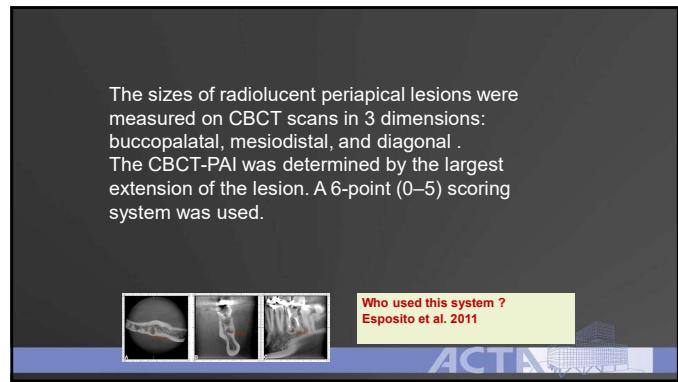
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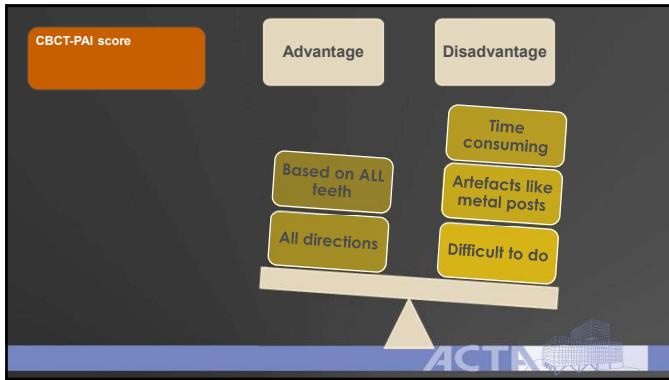
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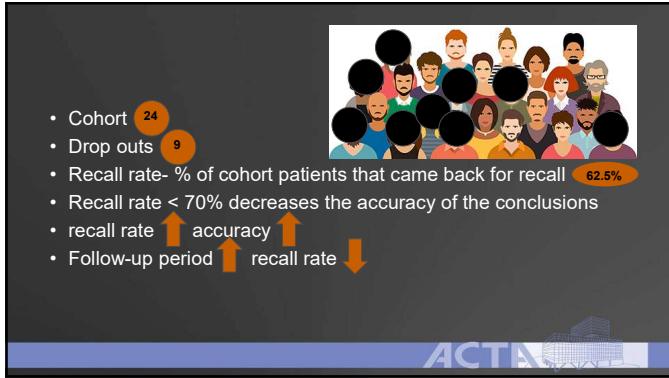
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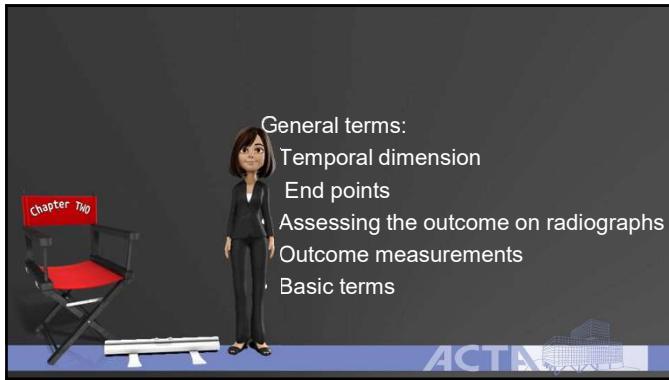
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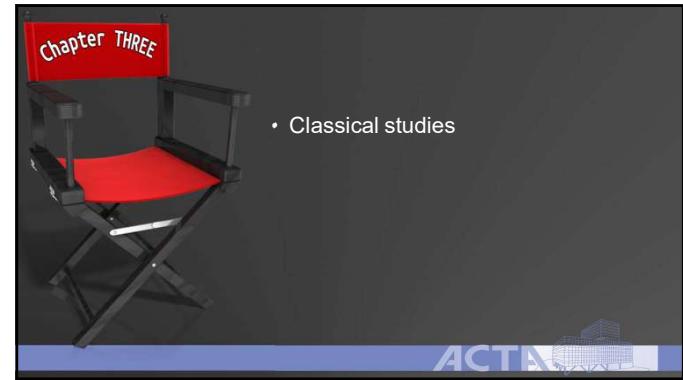
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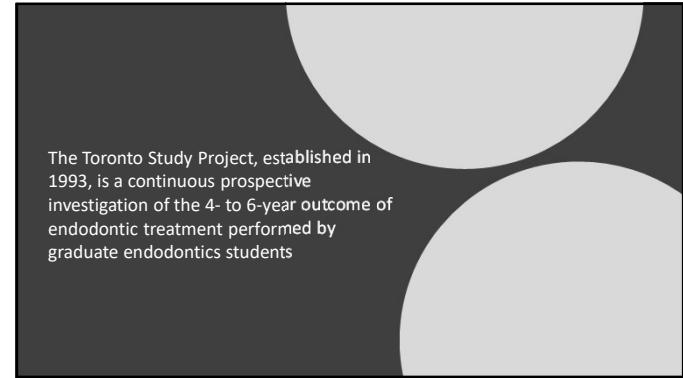
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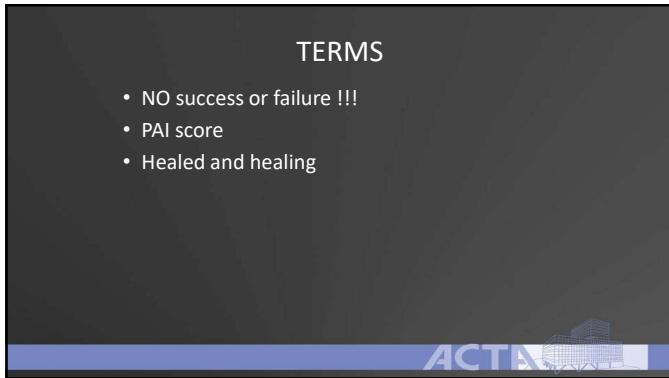
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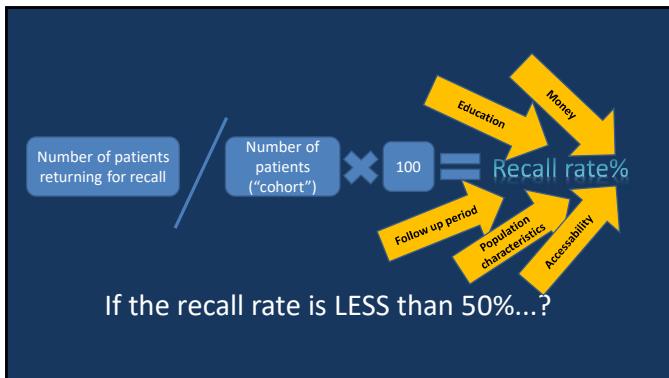
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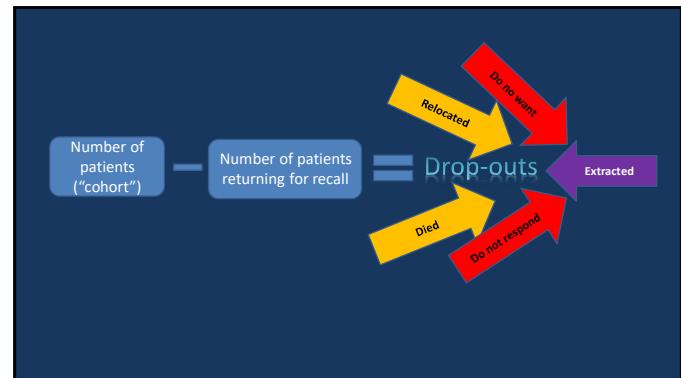
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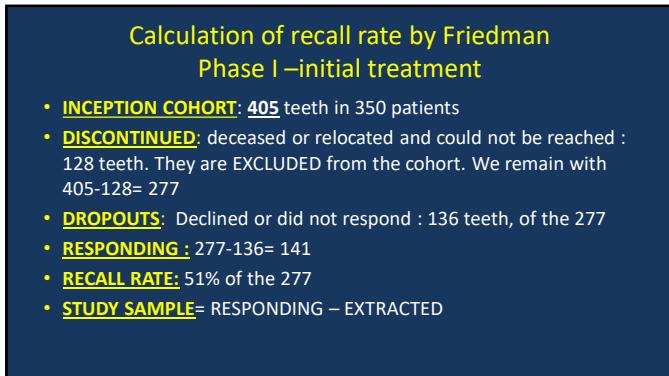
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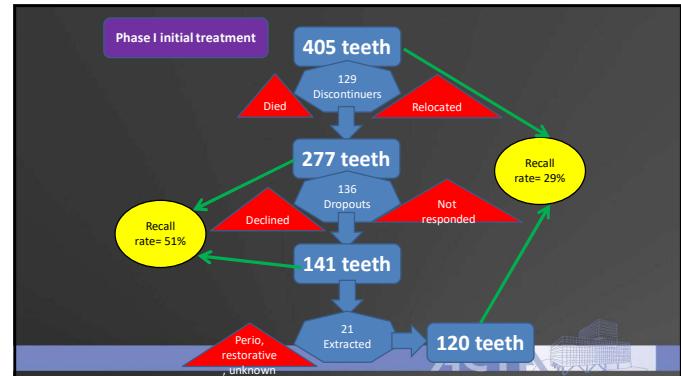
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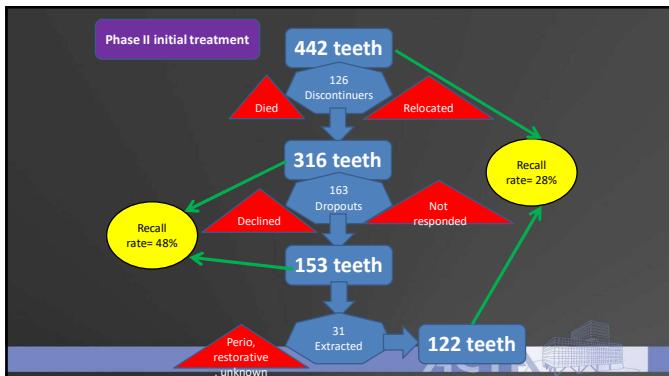
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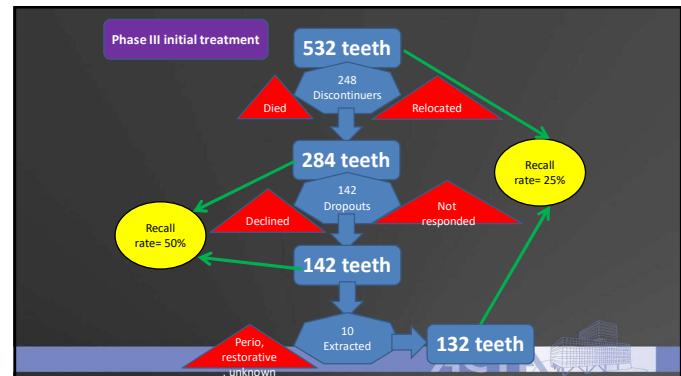
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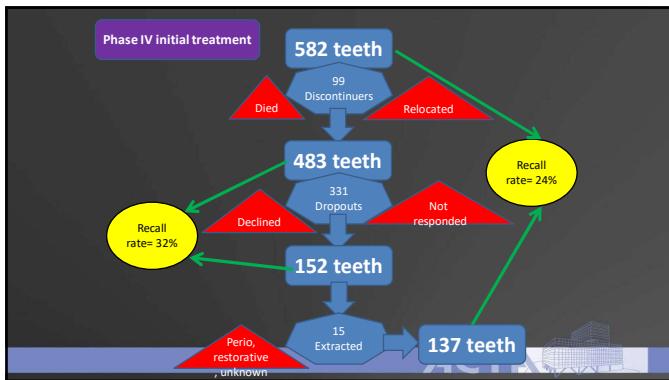
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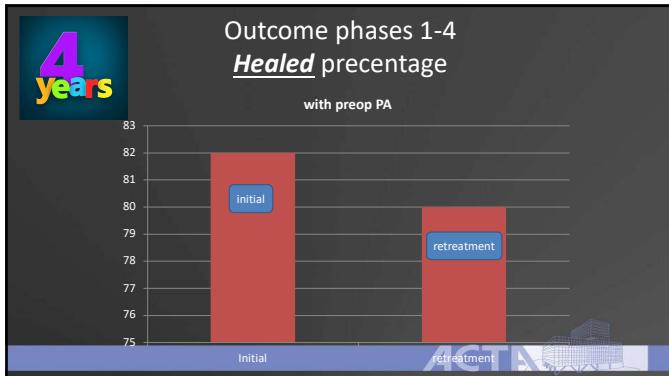


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Results- Toronto studies



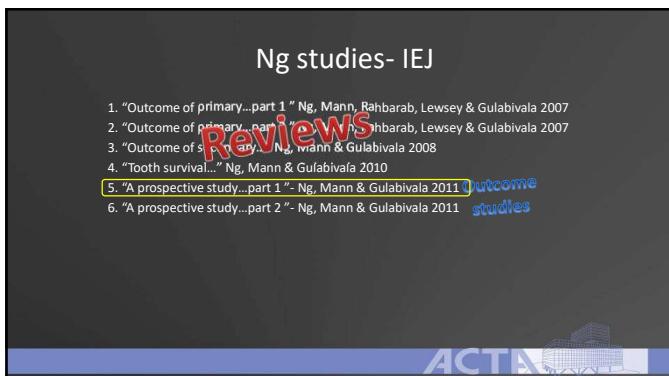
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A prospective study of the factors affecting outcomes of nonsurgical root canal treatment: part 1: periapical health.

- The goal was to identify the prognostic factors for root canal (re) treatment.
- Observational design : factors cannot be controlled but only accounted for.
- All patients undergoing RCT of retreatment from 1st October 1997 until June 2005. By residents in Eastman. (Toronto : 1993-2001)
- Excluded from the study: perio or if the apex was not discernible on the x-ray
- Excluded from the analysis: follow-up less than 2 years, extracted, not enough data

IEJ 2011 : Ng et al.

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Classification

- Preoperative: 1. intact PDL 2. Widened PDL, 3. Lesion
- Diameter of the lesion measured with a ruler
- Diameter of widened PDL 0.5 mm

IEJ 2011 : Ng et al. ACTA

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Outcome measurements

- Ng does not agree with Friedman and constantly uses the term "success rate".
- Primary: Clinical and radiographic : absence or healing of lesion for each root
- Secondary: survival
- Success:

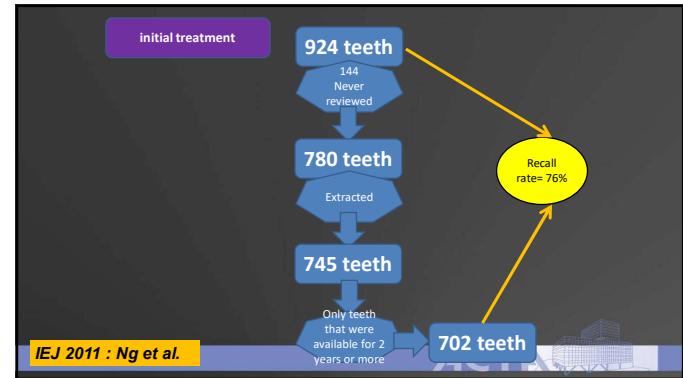
 - 1. **strict criteria** : no pain, symptoms and complete healing
 - 2. **Loose criteria** : healing lesion.

IEJ 2011 : Ng et al. ACTA

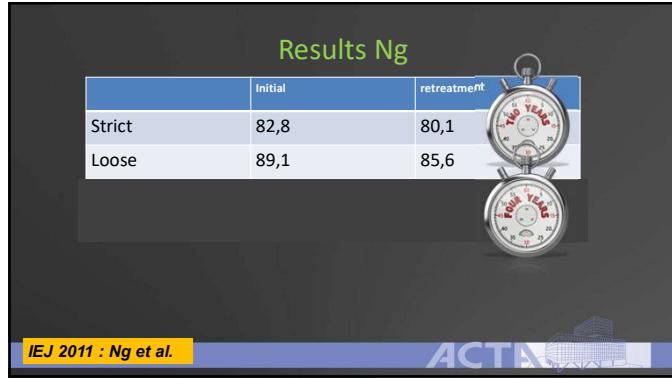
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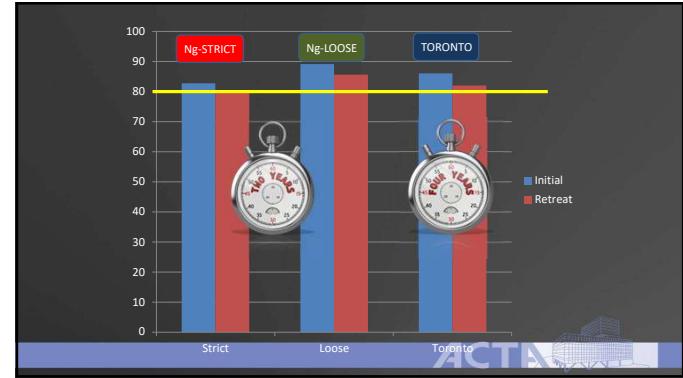
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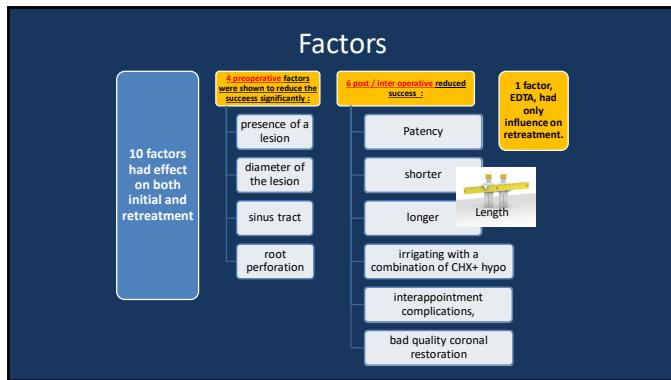
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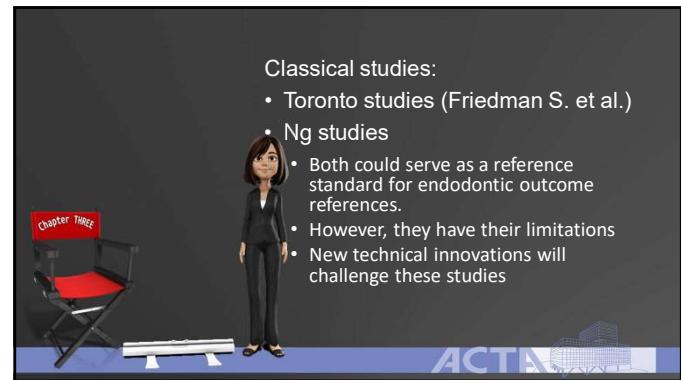
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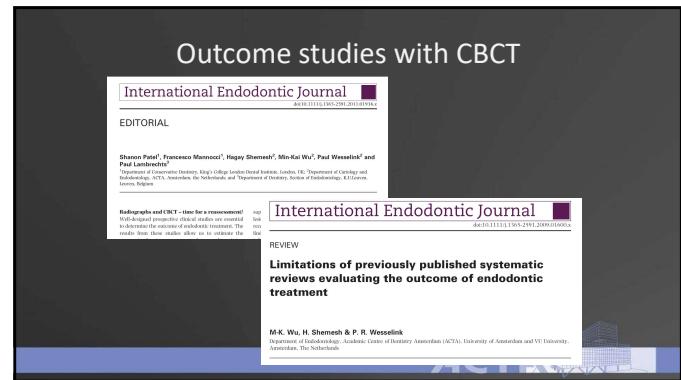
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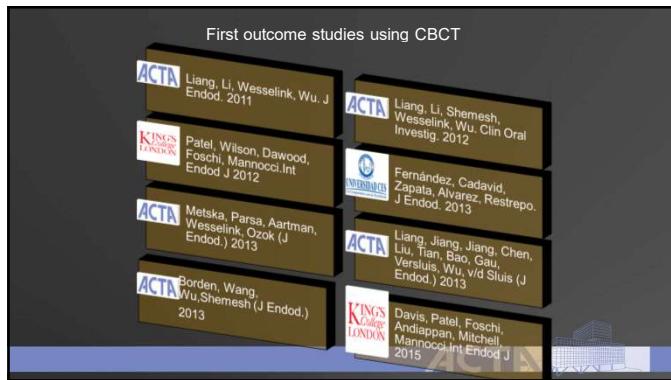
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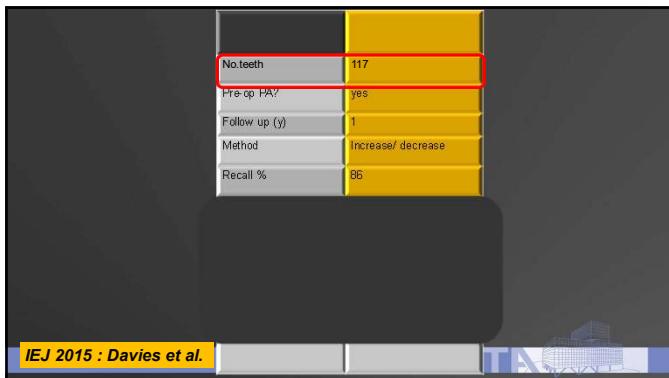
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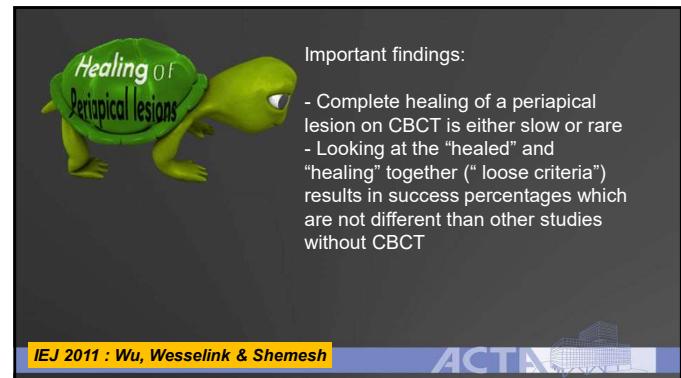
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IEJ 2011 : Wu, Wesselink & Shemesh



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CBCT reveals lower success rates under strict criteria compared to loose criteria (36% vs 88%). While CBCT offers greater diagnostic accuracy, its routine use for outcome evaluation may not be necessary, as it yields results similar to periapical radiograph under loose criteria.

JOE 2025 : Brochado Martins et al



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- Selective retreatment



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Outcome of Selective Root Canal Retreatment - a retrospective study

JOÃO FILIPE BROCHADO MARTINS

J. Brochado Martins, P. Diogo, O. Guerreiro Viegas, R. Cristescu, H. Shemesh

IEJ 2022 : Brochado-Martins et al.



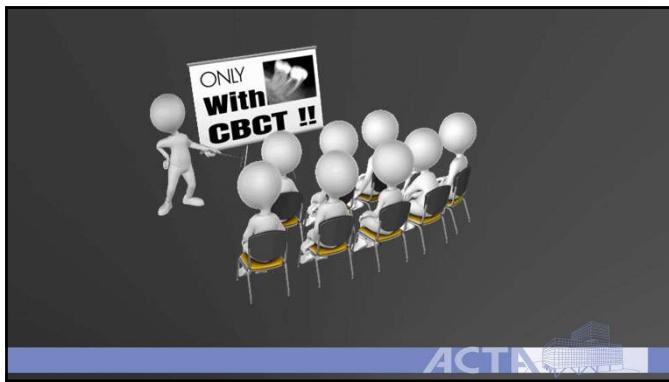
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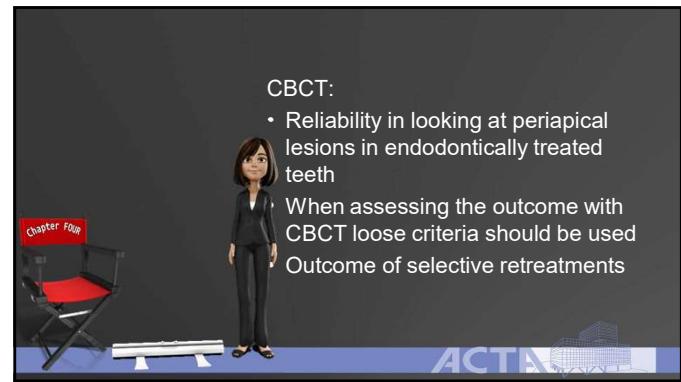
IEJ 2022 : Brochado-Martins et al.



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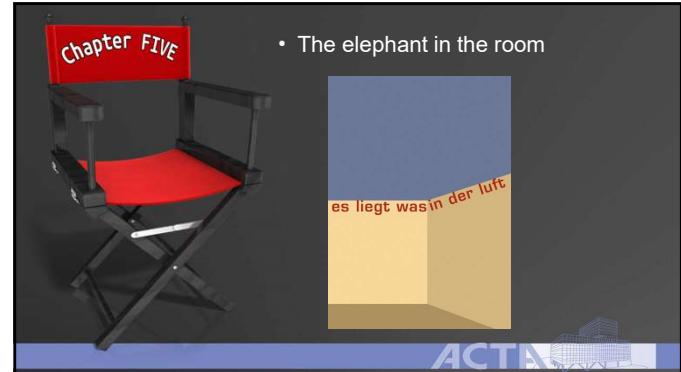
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The “elephant” is:

- “ the question whether asymptomatic apical periodontitis is an important disease, and whether persistent radiolucencies identified on CBCT images are associated with significant risks of local flare-up or systemic consequences, and if so, whether particular patient groups are at risk. These uncertainties become increasingly relevant as populations age ...”



IEJ 2020 : Patel et al. ACTA DENTAL

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Apical Periodontitis Is Associated with Elevated Concentrations of Inflammatory Mediators in Peripheral Blood: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.



Conclusions: The existing literature indicates that AP adds on to systemic inflammation by elevating C-reactive protein, interleukin 6, asymmetric dimethylarginine, and C3 levels.

JOE 2019 : Georgiou et al. ACTA DENTAL

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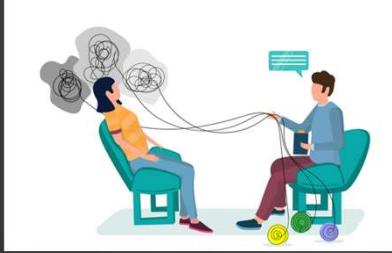
The influence of apical periodontitis on circulatory inflammatory mediators in peripheral blood: A prospective case-control study.

Conclusions: The immunologic profile of chronic AP in one tooth and its healing profile reveals a systemic low-grade inflammation through compensatory immunosuppression. A larger lesion or multiple lesions could disrupt the balance that the system is trying to maintain, resulting in loss of homeostasis.

Tomorrow 11:15 Prof. E. Cotti

IEJ 2022 : Georgiou et al. ACTA DENTAL

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Individually designed treatments

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Patient-centered outcome:
Quality of Life
Costs/ pain
Functionality



Disease-centered outcome:
Healing of the periapical lesion



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The elephant in the room:

- How important is an asymptomatic periapical lesion and should we treat it ?



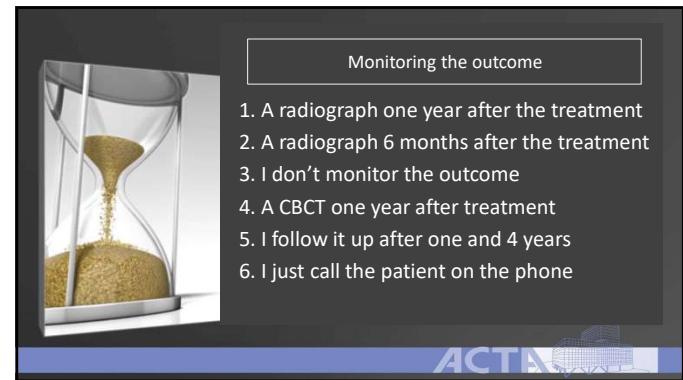
Chapter FIVE

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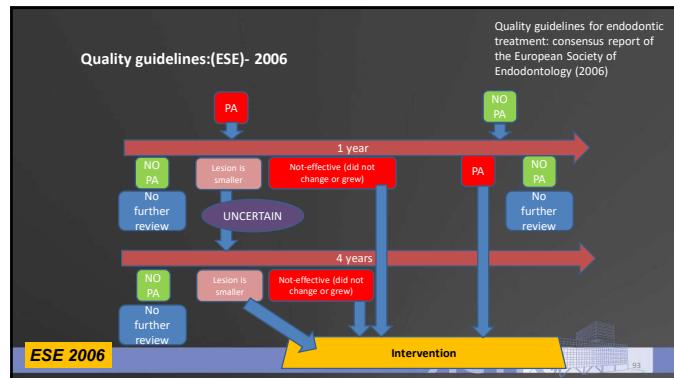
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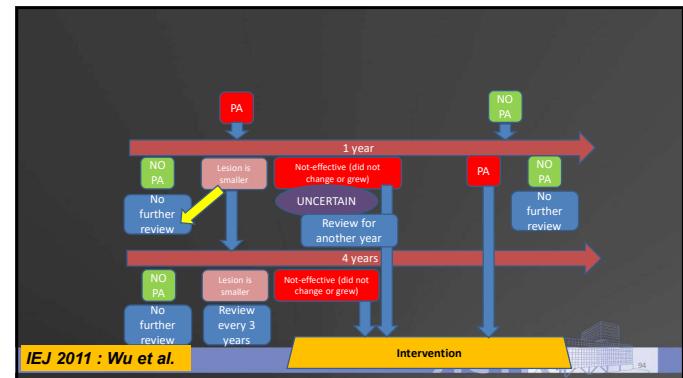
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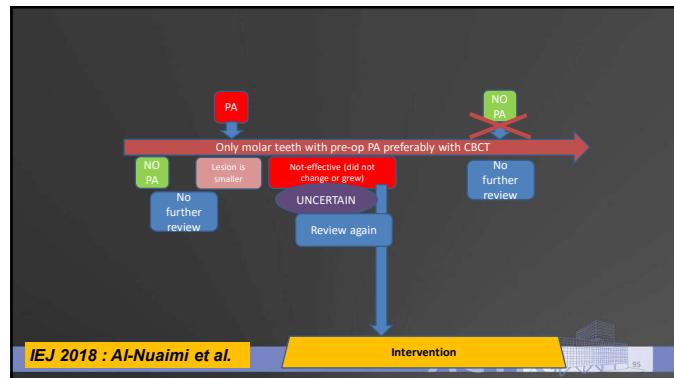
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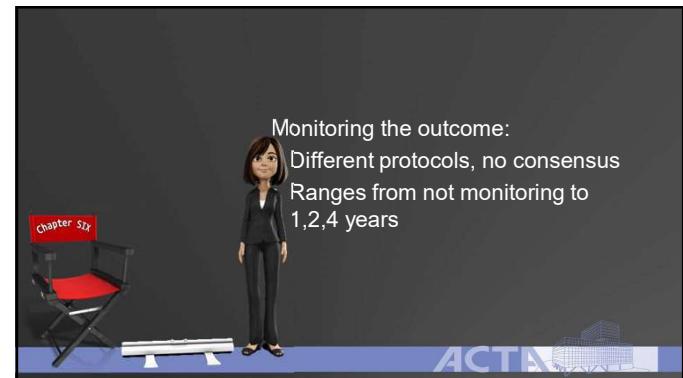
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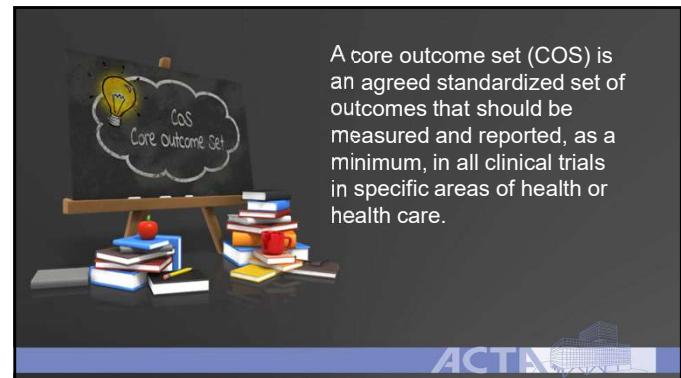
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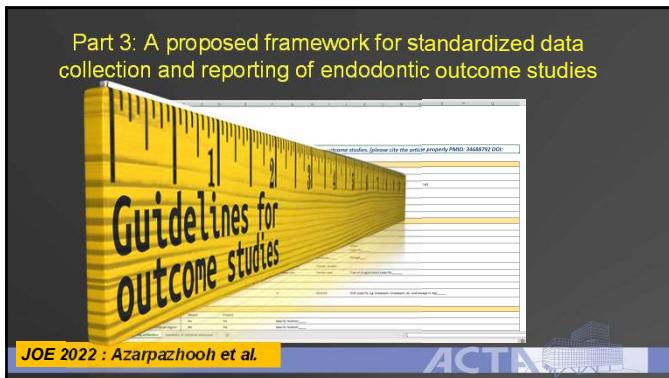
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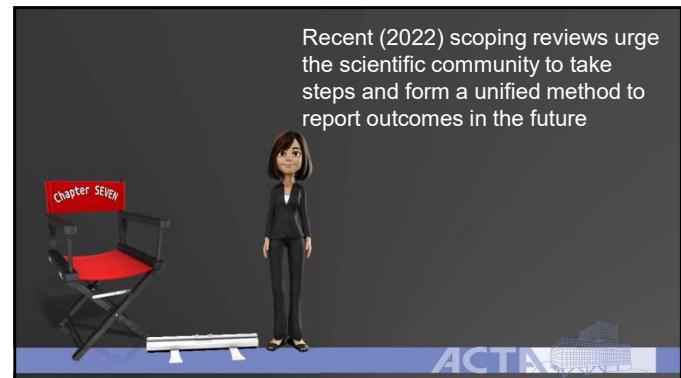
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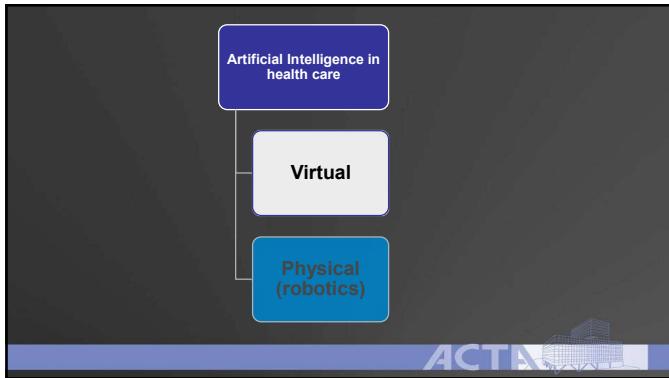
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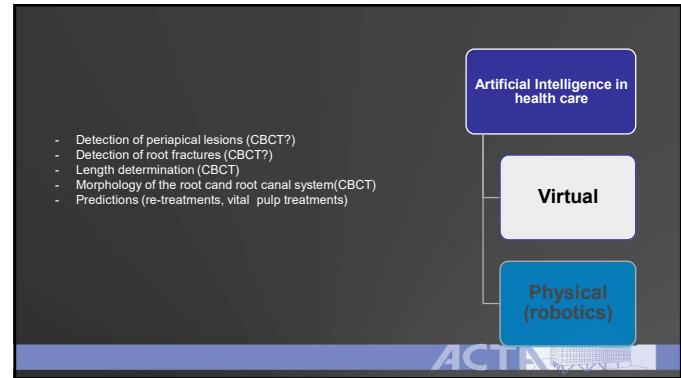
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Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to replicate human intelligence to make predictions and complex decision making in the health care systems

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graph TD
    A[Artificial Intelligence] --> B[Asymptomatic endodontically treated tooth]
    B --> C[Computer-aided diagnosis]
    C --> D[Treatment planning]
    D --> E[Root canal preparation]
    E --> F[Final restoration]
    F --> G[Final outcome]
    G --> H[Retreatment]
    H --> I[Computer-aided diagnosis]
    I --> C
    
```

Final restoration

JOE 2021 : Aminoshariae et al. ACTA DENTAL

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Development and evaluation of a deep learning segmentation model for assessing non-surgical endodontic treatment outcomes on periapical radiographs: A retrospective study

Plos One 2024: Dennis et al. ACTA DENTAL

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Association between patient-, tooth- and treatment-level factors and root canal treatment failure: A retrospective longitudinal and machine learning study.

Predicting failure was only limitedly possible, also with more complex Machine Learning.

J Dent 2022 : Herbst et al. ACTA DENTAL

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Artificial Intelligence in health care

Virtual

Physical (robotics)

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First experiences with patient-centered training in virtual reality.

J Dent Educ 2020: Serrano, Wesselink, Vervoorn ACTA DENTAL

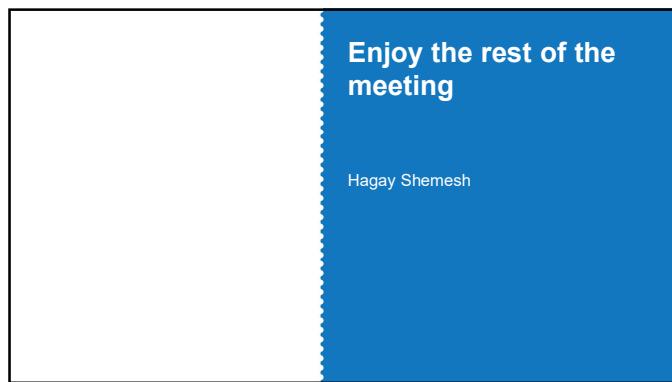
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Take Home MESSAGE

- Outcome studies are the essence of clinical studies in endodontontology because they can give answers to most clinical questions
- Healing of the periapical lesion on radiograph is mostly used to assess the outcome
- Patient centered outcomes are also being used (*and should be used more often!*)
- CBCT as a new tool to assess outcome (limited!)
- The importance of persistent asymptomatic periapical lesions is still unknown
- Hopefully more uniform outcome studies will be conducted (COS)
- AI will be able to predict the outcome in the near future

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