

# Stereomicroscopic Dye Leakage Measurement of Six Different Root Canal Sealers

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Hermetic sealing of the root canal is the most desirable outcome of any root canal treatment, but almost always the filling of the root canal is defective, which is a multifactorial outcome. One such factor majorly influencing the obturation is the root canal sealer used.

**Aim:** The present study was done for evaluating microleakage in different root canal sealers.

**Materials and Methods:** Sixty extracted human single rooted teeth were used in this in-vitro study. Sealers tested for microleakage in this study were zinc oxide eugenol based sealer,

Sealapex, AH Plus, MTA Plus, EndoRez, Endosequence BC. All the specimens were examined under stereomicroscope for microleakage and the obtained data were statistically analysed using One-way ANOVA test and Tukey's multiple comparison tests using the software GraphPad Prism 7.02.

**Results:** The Endosequence BC group showed the least dye leakage and the highest leakage was seen in Zinc oxide Eugenol based sealer.

**Conclusion:** Bio ceramic sealers being hydrophilic show better sealing ability compared to resin based and eugenol based sealers.

**Keywords:** AH Plus, EndoRez, Endosequence BC, MTA Plus, Root canal obturation

## INTRODUCTION

The endodontic therapy consists of elimination of bacterial load in the pulpal canal and filling of the entire root canal system three dimensionally. The gutta-percha with the sealer should provide seal both apically and laterally, thus preventing contamination of the root canal [1,2].

Incomplete obturation of the root canal accounts for 58% of endodontic failures [3,4]. The incomplete obturation may be because of incomplete instrumentation or improper obturation technique [5]. The sealers used should fill the discrepancies between the canal wall and the gutta-percha; act as a lubricant and aid in seating the gutta-percha cones. The sealers should also fill the patent accessory and lateral canals, entomb the bacteria present within the dentinal tubule and allow for the repair of the periapical tissue [6,7].

Recently, there has been improvement in the formulation of root canal sealers. The traditional zinc oxide eugenol sealers have been replaced with resin-based, silicone based, MTA based and bioceramic based sealers. In particular, bioceramic-based sealers are gaining popularity because of their alkaline pH, chemical stability within the biological environment, lack of shrinkage and are more biocompatible [8,9].

Calcium hydroxide based sealers have been introduced to have both antibacterial action and to stimulate a sterile biological closure of apical region [10]. The limitation of these sealers is that on contact with moisture the setting time is decreased which would result in poor adaptation to canal walls [6].

MTA fillapex, MTA Obtura, Endo-CPM sealer and ProRoot Endo sealer are the most commonly available MTA based sealers. These sealers are reported to have good biocompatibility and sealing properties equivalent to epoxy-based root canal sealer or the pulp canal sealer. When in contact with simulated body fluids, MTA based sealers release calcium and encourage the deposition of apatite crystals [10,11].

EndoREZ (Ultradent Products Inc, South Jordan, UT) is a dual-cured radiopaque urethane dimethacrylate based sealer that is

used with resin coated gutta-percha. This system does not employ dentin adhesives and relies on penetration of hydrophilic resins into the dentin tubules after removal of smear layer. Recently, the bond strength and apical seal of the endorez sealer was improved using dual cured self-etching primer/adhesives [12]. The Endorez system has been shown to have satisfactory sealing ability and an easy delivery system [13].

Endosequence BC sealer and iRootSP root canal sealer are bioceramic based root canal sealers which are available as a pre-mixed white hydraulic cement paste and usually contain calcium silicate and/or calcium phosphate [14].

The most common technique for evaluating the sealing ability of the root canal sealer is the dye penetration technique which is based on the linear measurement of the dye penetration between the root filling and the canal wall. The study aimed at evaluating the sealing ability of zinc-oxide eugenol, Sealapex, AH plus, EndoRez, MTA Plus and Endosequence BC sealer using stereomicroscopic analysis of dye penetration.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Six root canal sealers were tested in vitro for their sealing ability using linear dye penetration method. Sixty freshly extracted single-rooted teeth were collected from the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, St. Joseph Dental College and Hospital, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India between October 2015 to March 2016. The extracted teeth with evidence of resorption, craze lines, severe curvatures and/or incomplete apex formation were excluded from the samples. The extracted teeth were cleaned of visible debris and calculus ultrasonically and placed in 2.5% hypochlorite for two hours and stored in normal saline until further use.

The crown of all the teeth were sectioned to obtain a standardized length of 15 mm. Access cavity was prepared with Endo access bur (Dentsply, malfiffer). On entering the pulp chamber, #10k file was introduced into canal to check for the canal patency. The working length was determined with #15 k file inserted into the canal until

the instrument tip was visible from the apex. The final working length was obtained after shortening 1 mm from the real root canal length.

Biomechanical preparation was carried with crown-down approach using manual Mani k-files (MN, Mani). The coronal part of the canal was enlarged with gates glidden drills 3, 2, 1 used sequentially. Next, the apical part of the canal was enlarged up to the ISO size of 40 k file. At each change of file, canals were irrigated with 1.0 mL of 3% NaOCl. After instrumentation was completed, 3.0 mL of 17% EDTA were introduced and allowed to remain in canal for five minutes [15]. Next, a final flush with 1 ml of NaOCl followed by 5.0 mL of saline was performed.

### Grouping of the Samples

The 60 samples were randomly allocated to one of the group, each group consisting of 10 samples each. Group I- zinc oxide eugenol (ZOE) based sealer (Prime-Dent), Group II-Sealapex (SybronEndo), Group III-AH Plus (Dentsply), Group IV- MTA Plus (PREVEST DenPro), Group V- EndoRez (ULTRADENT PRODUCTS.INC.), Group VI- Endosequence BC (BRASSELER USA). The composition of each sealer is mentioned in [Table/Fig-1].

### Obturation of Root Canals

Obturation of the root canals was performed using lateral compaction technique. Briefly, the sealers were manipulated according to the manufacturer's instructions. The sealers were coated to the canal wall using lentulospirals. The master cone selected was coated with sealer and passively placed to the working length. The spreader was placed beside the gutta-percha to create sufficient space for the accessory cones. The obturation was continued till the spreader no longer penetrates beyond the CEJ. The protruding gutta-percha was seared at the orifice and vertical compaction of the gutta-percha was performed. The access cavity was sealed with glass-ionomer cement.

### Preparation of Specimen for Stereomicroscopic Analysis of Dye Penetration

The samples were dried for two minutes and two layers of nail varnish was applied on the external root surfaces except at the apical 2 mm to allow dye penetration into the accessory and lateral canals. The samples were immersed in freshly prepared 1% methylene blue dye for 72 hours. After three days, the nail varnish was scrapped off from the root surface, the roots were longitudinally sectioned for stereomicroscopic imaging of the vertical dye penetration at 30X magnification. Microleakage associated with different root canal sealers was evaluated and the measurement of dye penetration obtained in micrometers.

### Scoring of the Vertical Dye Penetration

For the convenience of explaining the vertical dye penetration, the samples were scored as follows: Score 1- 1-3 mm; Score 2- 3-5 mm; and Score 3- >5 mm.

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The results were analysed using One-way ANOVA analysis and Tukey's multiple comparison tests in Graph pad prism software at  $p < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS

Sixty percent samples of Group VI had a score of 1 and the rest score 2. Ninety percent of the ZOE sealer group, 70% of AH plus sealer group had scores of 3. All the samples of Sealapex and MTA Plus had scores of 2 and 90% of EndoRez samples had scores of 2 [Table/Fig-2].

Means and standard deviations of the tested groups are represented in [Table/Fig-3]. The highest mean dye penetration was seen in

Sealer	Composition
ZOE (Prime-Dent)	Powder: Zinc oxide, white rosin, zinc stearate, zinc acetate, magnesium oxide Liquid: Eugenol, olive oil
SEALAPEX (SybronEndo)	Base: Calcium oxide, bismuth trioxide, zinc oxide, sub-micron silica, zinc stearate, titanium dioxide, tricalcium phosphate Catalyst: Blend, ethyl toluene sulfonamide, poly (methylene methyl salicylate) resin, isobutyl salicylate
AH PLUS (DENTSPLY)	Epoxide paste: Diepoxide, calcium tungstate, zirconium oxide, aerosil, pigment Amine paste: 1-adamantane amine N,N'-dibenzyl-5-oxa-nonandiamine-1,9, TCD-Diamine, calcium tungstate, zirconium oxide, aerosil, silicone oil
MTA PLUS (PREVEST DenPro)	Powder: Mixture of calcium oxide, silicon oxide, bismuth oxide Gel: Hydrated polymer gel
EndoRez (ULTRADENT PRODUCTS.INC.)	A urethane dimethacrylate resin-based endodontic sealer
Endosequence BC (BRASSELER USA)	Zirconium oxide, calcium silicates, calcium phosphate monobasic, calcium hydroxide, filler and thickening agents.

[Table/Fig-1]: Composition of root canal sealers used in this study.

Groups	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3
Zinc oxide eugenol sealer	0	1	9
Sealapex	0	10	0
AH Plus	0	3	7
MTA Plus	0	10	0
EndoRez	1	9	0
Endosequence BC	6	4	0

[Table/Fig-2]: Distribution of all samples as per the dye leakage scoring criteria.

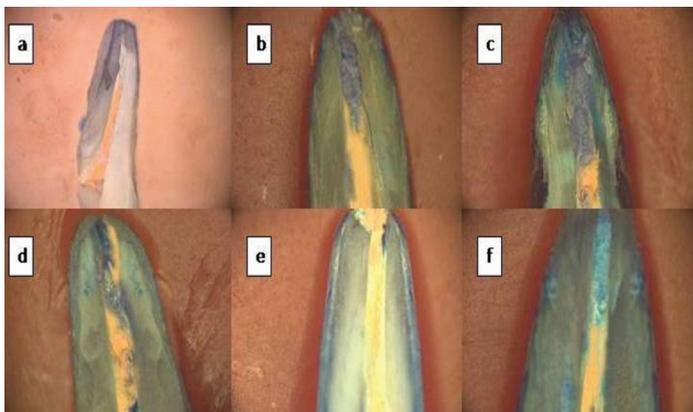
One-way anova analysis	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V	Group VI
F	84.84					
p	<0.001					
Mean	5.476	4.252	5.319	4.436	3.379	2.916
SD	0.314438	0.30206	0.583485	0.276976	0.302488	0.193689

[Table/Fig-3]: One-way ANOVA analysis showing mean and Standard Deviation (SD) for all groups.

Tukey's multiple comparisons test	Mean Diff.	95.00% CI of diff.	p-value
Group I vs. Group II	1.224	0.7611 to 1.687	<0.001****
Group I vs. Group III	0.157	-0.3059 to 0.6199	0.9152
Group I vs. Group IV	1.04	0.5771 to 1.503	<0.001****
Group I vs. Group V	2.097	1.634 to 2.56	<0.001****
Group I vs. Group VI	2.56	2.097 to 3.023	<0.001****
Group II vs. Group III	-1.067	-1.53 to -0.6041	<0.001****
Group II vs. Group IV	-0.184	-0.6469 to 0.2789	0.8469
Group II vs. Group V	0.873	0.4101 to 1.336	<0.001****
Group II vs. Group VI	1.336	0.8731 to 1.799	<0.001****
Group III vs. Group IV	0.883	0.4201 to 1.346	<0.001****
Group III vs. Group V	1.94	1.477 to 2.403	<0.001****
Group III vs. Group VI	2.403	1.94 to 2.866	<0.001****
Group IV vs. Group V	1.057	0.5941 to 1.52	<0.001****
Group IV vs. Group VI	1.52	1.057 to 1.983	<0.001****
Group V vs. Group VI	0.463	0.0001434 to 0.9259	0.0499*

[Table/Fig-4]: Tukey's multiple comparison between all the groups. \*Denotes the significant values. \*\*\*\* denotes the highly significant values.

Group I (ZOE), whereas the least microleakage was seen in Group VI (Endosequence BC). Also statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) was seen



**[Table/Fig-5a-f]:** Stereomicroscopic images of tested samples showing linear dye penetration: a) Endosequence BC; b) Sealapex; c) Zinc oxide eugenol; d) AH Plus; e) Endorez; f) MTA Plus.

in comparison between most of the groups except for Group I vs Group III and Group II vs Group IV [Table/Fig-4]. Stereomicroscopic images showing linear dye penetration are shown in [Table/Fig-5].

## DISCUSSION

The sealing of the root canal apically by the sealer is important to prevent communication of root canal contents with periapical tissue. The properties of sealers like flow, consistency, setting characteristics, solubility and adhesion to root canals are important in obtaining a hermetic seal of the root canal [16]. Though, hermetic seal is not always attainable by the currently used sealers, fluid tight seal is atleast desirable. The antimicrobial property of the sealers play a role in providing the sealing by limiting the proliferation of bacteria within the root canal and preventing the development of periapical pathology [17]. The incomplete obturation of root canal with poor apical sealing has been one of the major causes of endodontic failures. So this study was done to evaluate the sealing ability of six different sealers and hence both traditional and newer sealers were compared.

Lateral compaction technique of gutta-percha was used in this study as it has been used as a standard control for comparison [5]. Many studies have found no significant differences in the filling technique used [18-20]. Different methods are used to evaluate the apical sealing ability of root canal sealers. Linear measurement of dye penetration is the one such method which is most common, relatively easy and fast to gauge the microleakage of the sealers [21]. Different dyes are used like Methylene Blue (MB), India ink, eosin, Procion, brilliant blue, 50% silver nitrate and pelican ink. Of all, the Methylene Blue is widely used dye and the concentrations of MB used are 0.25, 1 and 2%. In our study, we used 1% MB as it was most commonly used concentration [22,23]. Ahlberg KM et al., studied the linear leakage patterns of two dyes, MB and India ink [24]. It was concluded that MB is superior in terms of penetration and has low molecular weight similar to that of bacterial toxins.

Endosequence BC sealer is a premixed calcium phosphate silicate based sealer dispersed in non-aqueous but water-miscible carriers which hardens on exposure to moisture in root dentin. In our study, Endosequence BC sealer demonstrated lower leakage values compared to all other sealers. Hegde V and Arora S in a study demonstrated lower apical leakage values in the hydrophilic sealers, similarly Pawar SS et al., in his study demonstrated lower vertical dye penetration values in Endosequence BC and Real Seal SE sealers. Also, Ersahan S and Aydin C in his study demonstrated lower apical leakage values in iRootSP (hydrophilic sealer) and AH Plus, results of these studies are in agreement with our study [25-27]. Candeiro GT et al., demonstrated acceptable flow values which correlated with ISO 6786/2001 recommendations [8]. Though, the solubility of Endosequence BC sealer was comparable to the other sealers tested it didn't show any influence on the dimensional

stability and sealing ability of this sealer [15]. Al-Haddad A et al., demonstrated marginal gaps in the Endosequence BC sealer group when the canal was irrigated with EDTA [28]. EDTA has been shown to decrease the wetting ability of sealer to dentin.

Endorez is an UDMA resin based sealer which has been shown to have hydrophilic characteristics and easy delivery system [12,13]. The Endorez sealer showed significantly less leakage compared to AH Plus sealer. The hydrophilic nature of the sealer along with ability of Endorez to form long resin tags with thin hybrid layer may account for their superior sealing ability [29]. On other hand, AH Plus sealer does not bond to gutta-percha and has been shown to lack hybrid layer. The disadvantage noted was that there may be significant amount of polymerization shrinkage when sealer and gutta-percha was passively placed without compaction. Gillespie et al., showed that the sealing ability of Endorez can be improved by using adhesive-modified Endorez filling technique [31]. De-Deus G et al., reported less bacterial leakage at nine weeks for Endorez when used in thin layers compared with AH Plus and Sealapex, but the same was not seen when used in thicker layers [32]. Our result is in agreement with Zmener O et al., who demonstrated better apical sealing when sealer was used on moist root canal dentin [32]. Sevimay S and Kalayci A found AH Plus to have better sealing ability than Endorez [13]. SEM examination in their study revealed poor penetration and adaptation of sealer to dentin in apical third for Endorez compared to AH Plus. Adanir N et al., found no significant difference in apical sealing of Endorez, AH 26 and Diaket [1]. When long term sealing ability was studied, AH Plus has shown less leakage. This may be attributed to its consistent continuous expansion of 1.2% [33-35]. In our study, we have used second generation Endorez which would have provided better result though we have used non resin coated gutta-percha.

Sealapex is a paste-paste sealer which contains calcium hydroxide in a polymeric matrix. Sealapex sealer is formulated to promote rapid healing and hard tissue formation [9]. In this study, sealapex showed less leakage compared to AH Plus, MTA plus and ZOE sealers though it was not statistically significant with MTA Plus sealer. It has been shown that the sealer being porous permits marked ingress of water and thus promoting continued reaction between powder and binder. This continued reaction during setting under humidity results in volumetric expansion and may result in decreased leakage. Cobankara FK et al., studied the apical seal of four sealers using computerized fluid filtration method. Sealapex demonstrated significantly less leakage compared to AH Plus, polymeric based and ZOE based sealers. Few other studies found no significant differences in apical leakage between sealapex and AH Plus [37].

MTA based sealers have been reported to deposit calcium phosphates in form of apatite and carbonated apatite when in contact with simulated body fluid [10,38]. These materials had similar sealing properties to epoxy based sealer [39] and pulp canal sealer [10] when evaluated using the fluid filtration system. Though, these MTA based sealers have excellent biological properties, the sealer does not bond to either dentin or gutta-percha [40,41] which may be the reason for increased leakage. Because of the short working time, MTA Plus sealer resulted in improper coating of canal during subsequent lateral compaction.

In our study, ZOE based sealers exhibited highest dye penetration compared to other sealers which is in agreement with other studies [2,20,30,31,42]. The ZOE based sealers have shown to have poor sealing and adhesion properties to dentin. Moreover, in aqueous environment, the solubility is more resulting in dissociation of zinc eugenolate in to zinc hydroxide and eugenol [43]. It was shown that when ZOE based sealer was placed in a totally dried canal, the leakage exhibited by the sealer was less [44].

## LIMITATION

This is an invasive study in which the samples were sectioned longitudinally and during the sectioning there is a chance of gutta percha being withdrawn from the samples altering the results of this study.

## CONCLUSION

Sealing of the canal with the use of gutta percha core and the sealer remains the main stay for the obturation of the root canal. Traditional, zinc oxide eugenol based sealers have been surpassed by the Bioceramic based sealers which have better sealing ability, chemical bonding with dentin, ease of placement and osseointegrative property all of which enhances the sealing of the root canal. With these favourable properties, the Endosequence BC sealer can be recommended as a sealer for endodontic grafting.

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