# Apically extruded debris in filling removal of curved canals using 3 NiTi systems and hand files

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The aim of this study was to assess the amount of apically extruded debris during filling removal with WaveOne Gold (WOG), ProTaper Universal Retreatment (PTR), D-RaCe Retreatment (DRR) or hand files (HF), to compare the working time during filling removal, and to describe failures of NiTi instruments. Forty mesiobuccal roots of maxillary first molars were prepared with WOG Primary, obturated and divided into 4 groups (n=10), according to the instruments used: WOG, PTR, DRR or HF. Distilled water was used as irrigant and the extruded debris were collected in Eppendorf tubes and dried. The amount of extruded debris was determined by subtracting the final from the initial weight. The time of filling removal for each canal was recorded and the instruments used were analyzed pre and post-operatively by SEM. Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's test analyzed extruded debris data and ANOVA, followed by Tukey's test, compared the working time data ( $\alpha$ =0.05). Instrument deformation and fracture were described. WOG produced significantly less debris compared with HF and DRR (p<0.05), and similar to PTR (p>0.05). HF, PTR and DRR showed no significant difference (p>0.05). Working time in HF group was significantly higher than others (p<0.05). SEM analyses showed, from the 18 instruments evaluated, 3 fractures and 10 deformations. All instruments tested caused debris extrusion. WOG was associated with less extrusion than DRR and HF. Filling removal with HF was slower than with the other instruments. All NiTi systems presented fracture and deformation.

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#### Introduction

Cases of unresolved post-treatment periapical radiolucency are referred to as "endodontic failures" (1). Even when the highest standards of canal disinfection and filling are met, failures can occur because of the anatomical complexity of the root canal system (2). The majority of narrow root canals show some degree of curvature, which makes the retreatment procedures more challenging and may also cause procedural errors (3).

Endodontic retreatment requires total filling removal to enable the subsequent root canal instrumentation and disinfection (4). However, it is known that filling removal can lead to extrusion of debris and cause periapical inflammation, flare-ups or failure of apical healing (5). Different amounts of extruded debris have been reported, depending on the instrumentation technique and the design of instruments (5–12).

To quantify debris extrusion into periapical tissues during endodontic treatment, different laboratory experimental set-ups have been designed. The system that has been adopted by most studies was described by Myers and Montgomery (13), which consists of a rubber stopper, a glass vial and a flask made of glass. The assembly where the tooth is placed should be secured to prevent movement, and the flask should be shielded using a rubber dam so

that the operator is not able to see the debris, simulating a clinical working environment (14).

The WaveOne single-file reciprocating system (WO, Dentsply Maillefer) has been introduced with a special nickel-titanium (NiTi) alloy (M-wire) presenting advantages as increased flexibility, improved resistance to cyclic fatigue, and minimal canal transportation (15-17). When used to filling removal, it has been reported as more effective when compared to rotational and hand files (18). WaveOne Gold system (WOG, Dentsply Maillefer), which was released in recent years, uses the same reciprocation action of WO but has modified dimensions and geometry. The files are manufactured using a manual gold heat treatment by heating the file and cooling slowly, providing a gold color to the instrument and improvement of 80% in flexibility, 50% in the resistance to cyclic fatigue, and 23% in efficiency (19).

To date, some studies have evaluated apical debris extrusion when a single-file reciprocating system was used for filling removal (8,10-12,18,20,21). However, few studies have evaluated the debris extrusion during endodontic retreatment in curved canals (11), and there are no studies regarding the performance of WOG in filling removal, neither in debris extrusion during filling removal of well-filled curved canals.

Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the apically extruded debris, during filling removal, with WOG in comparison with ProTaper Universal Retreatment (PTR, Dentsply Maillefer), D-RaCe Retreatment (DRR, FKG Dentaire) and hand files (HF, Dentsply Maillefer), to compare the working time, and to describe failures of the NiTi instruments.

#### Material and Methods

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (CAAE 51687215.3.0000.5347).

#### Sample Selection

Forty human maxillary first molars with mature apex were selected, cleaned, disinfected and stored in distilled water at 4 °C until the experimental procedures. The mesiobuccal roots were isolated by sectioning the teeth twice, in buccal and proximal directions, maintaining a reference peak for instrumentation procedures. The mesial roots were mounted on a custom attachment and were pre-scanned by a micro-computed tomography system (Micro-CT; SkyScan 1174 v.2; Bruker-microCT, Kontich, Belgium) at 90-kv, 112-μA and 12.8-μm voxel. The images were reconstructed with NRecon Software version 1.6.9.3 (Bruker-microCT) and axial cross-sections were obtained. This initial scan provided an overview of the root canal anatomy. Only roots without canal calcification, immature apex, previous canal treatment, internal or external resorption, fracture or crack, and with only one root canal or two separate and distinct canals that were separate from the pulp chamber to the apex were included.

The root canal images and foramen images were obtained in Data Viewer software version 1.4.32 (BrukermicroCT) and the captured images were digitally processed by the software Adobe Photoshop CS3 (Adobe System Incorporated, USA). Root canal curvature was determined according to the degree (22) and radius (23) of canal curvature. To measure degree of curvature, a line was drawn parallel to the long axis of the canal. The point where the canal deviated from this line to begin canal curvature was marked as "point A". Then, a second line was drawn from the apical foramen (point B) to intersect with the "point A". The acute angle thus formed was measured (22). The line formed between points A and B is a chord of the hypothetical circle that defines the curved part of the canal. The curved part of the root canal between points A and B is the circular arc of the hypothetical circle, which is specified by its radius (23). Only root canals with curvatures between 20° and 40° and radius of curvature shorter than 10mm were included. The foramen perimeter was also delimited. Considering the mean values of the curvatures and foramen perimeter, the roots were distributed in 4 groups (n=10) by stratified randomization (www. random.org).

#### Root Canal Treatment

The working length (WL) was established at 1mm short of the length of a size 15 K-file (Dentsply, Maillefer) that was visible at the foramen. LA Axxess #2 (Sybron Endo) prepared the cervical portions of all canals, which were then prepared with WOG Primary #25.07 (Dentsply, Maillefer) up to the WL, using a reciprocating slow in-and-out pecking motion. The apical canals patency was kept with #15-K file. Irrigation was performed with 1% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCI) and, at the end, with 2 mL of 17% EDTA. The canals were dried and filled with AH Plus (Dentsply, Maillefer) and gutta-percha (master cone #25.02 and accessory cones, Dentsply Maillefer) using cold lateral condensation technique.

The teeth were temporarily restored and radiographs were taken in bucco-palatal and proximal directions to confirm the filling quality. The specimens were stored in an incubator at 37 °C and 100% humidity for 4 weeks to allow sealer setting (24).

## Debris Extrusion Collection and Filling Removal Procedures

The method for debris collection was adapted from previous studies (8,13,21). Briefly, Eppendorf tubes (1,5 mL) were pre-weighted 3 times in a 10<sup>-5</sup>g precision analytical microbalance (Sartorius AG), and the mean values were recorded. The teeth were mounted in the tubes with rubber stoppers and a 27-G needle was placed through the stoppers. The tubes were covered with black tapes to blind the operator (Fig. 1).

Irrigation was performed with distilled water and no solvent was used. LA Axxess #2 removed the cervical filling and the remaining material was removed according to the experimental groups, until the WL was reached. XSmart Plus (Dentsply Maillefer) was used for filling removal in WOG, PTR and DRR groups:



Figure 1. Apparatus used for debris extrusion collection.

HF: K-Files #40, #35, #30 and #25 were used in circumferential, quarter turn, push-pull movement.

WOG: Primary instrument (#25.07) was used in the "WaveOne Gold" mode of XSmart Plus.

PTR: D1 (#30.09), D2 (#25.08), and D3 (#20.07) were used (600-rpm; 2-Ncm) with gentle in-and-out motion.

DRR: DR1 (#30.10 - 1000-rpm; 1.5-Ncm) was used at the cervical and beginning of the middle thirds and DR2 (#25.04 - 600-rpm; 1-Ncm) at the middle and apical thirds with gentle in-and-out motion.

After filling removal procedures, the Eppendorfs were removed from the vials, and the apex was washed with 1 mL distilled water to collect the adhered debris. The Eppendorfs were stored in an incubator at 70°C for 5 days, allowing water evaporation. Then, three weight measurements were taken for each collection assembly and the means were recorded. The weight of extruded debris was determined by subtracting the mean weight of the empty Eppendorf from the final mean weight of the collection assembly.

A single operator performed all endodontic procedures to avoid interoperate variability.

#### Working time

The time needed to complete filling removal was recorded using a digital timer (SportLine, Elmsford, USA) that was started when the first instrument was introduced into the canal and turned off when the last instrument of the sequence or the WOG instrument reached the WL.

#### NiTi Instrument Deformation or Fracture

All NiTi instruments were unpacked and submitted to scanning electron microscope (SEM) (JEOL, JSM 5600 LV, Tokyo, Japan) analysis. Two observers analyzed the instrument circumference and one image from the tip up to 5 mm at ×40 magnification was recorded. Then, the instruments were numbered and re-packaged.

Each instrument used acted in 4 specimens, simulating a molar with 4 canals. As each group had 10 specimens, 2 additional filled root canals, with the same anatomical characteristics, were instrumented to complete the 4 uses for all NiTi instruments. After filling removal procedures, the instruments were cleaned by scrubbing and sonication in a biocleaner tray (Schuster, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil) containing Riozyme II enzyme

detergent (Rioquímica, São Paulo, Brazil) for 20 min. Then, each instrument was re-analyzed by SEM, as described above. One calibrated (ICC=0.98) and blinded examiner classified the images according to fracture and deformation (spiral distortion).

#### Statistical Analysis

Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by the Dunn's test, compared apically extruded debris between groups. One-way ANOVA, followed by Tukey's test, compared the working time data. All statistical analysis was performed on SPSS 20.0 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL, USA) and significance was set at p<0.05.

#### Results

#### Debris Extrusion

WOG extruded significantly less debris than HF and DRR (p<0.05) and the other groups were not statistically different (p>0.05) (Table 1).

#### Working Time

The working time for filling removal was similar for all NiTi instruments (p>0.05) and higher in the HF group (p<0.05) (Table 2).

#### NiTi Instrument Deformation or Fracture

Figure 2 illustrates SEM analysis. From the three WOG instruments evaluated, one fractured and two presented distortion of two or more spirals. In PTR, the three D1 were intact, with no fracture or deformation and the three D2 presented distortion of two or more spirals. Two D3 presented distortion of two or more spirals and one fractured. From DRR, one of the three DR1 was intact, with no fracture or deformation, and two presented distortion of one spiral. One DR2 fractured and two showed distortion of one spiral.

#### Discussion

Several studies showed that root canal instrumentation produces apical extrusion of debris (7,10-13,20,21,25-

Table 1. Median,  $25^{th}$  and  $75^{th}$  percentiles weight of apically extruded debris  $(10^{-5}g)$ 

Instrument		HF	WOG	PTR	DRR
Median		985 b	770 a	905 ab	977 b
Percentiles	25	908	697	837	920
referencies	75	1044	891	1116	1038

Values with different letters indicate statically significant difference (p<0.05).

Table 2. Working time with the different instruments

Instrument	HF	WOG	PTR	DRR
Mean ± SD	2.73±1.06a	111.90 <u>±</u> 33.62b	120.70±53.15b	88.29±32.84b

Values with different letters indicate statically significant difference (p<0.05).

27). However, few investigations have aimed to evaluate extruded debris during filling removal of curved canals using recent NiTi files (11). Moreover, the behavior of WOG regarding debris extrusion during filling removal is yet unknown.

As apical extrusion containing gutta-percha, sealer, organic and inorganic remnants and irrigants can lead to a negative outcome (28,29), the amount of debris extruded during retreatment needs to be investigated. Therefore, the present study aimed to evaluate the apically extruded debris during filling removal of curved canals with WOG, DRR, PTR and HF.

Tanalp (14) reviewed the literature about apical extrusion and pointed out concerns regarding experimental designs used. Considering that more debris is extruded with an increase in the apical diameter (30), specimens in the present study were scanned by micro-CT, allowing delimitation of the foramen perimeters. Then, each specimen was randomly stratified in specific software for that purpose, reducing the influence of this bias.

Generally, endodontic failures are associated with treatments not properly conducted. However, complete bone healing may not occur even in a well-done endodontic treatment (1). In these cases, as simulated in the present investigation, removing the well-condensed filling material

is more laborious and instrument deformation or fracture may occur. SEM analysis confirmed this assertion for all NiTi instruments tested, except for D1 (PTR) and DR1 (DRR).

The use of a solvent has been suggested to reduce the sealer microhardness, facilitating NiTi instrument insertion into filling material (31), shortening the retreatment time (32). Although the use of solvent is recommended (33), the chemically softened gutta-percha can be forced into root canal walls and into its complex anatomy that is not touched by the instruments, increasing the challenges for filling removal and possibly increasing the instrumentation time (34,35). Considering these ideas and the aim to assess the performance of instruments by itself, no solvents were used herein.

In the present study, WOG extruded less debris than DRR and HF. Probably, differences in number of files and in instruments configuration, cross-section, cutting blade design, taper, tip type, alloy, flexibility, kinematics, and cutting efficacy influenced this outcome (26,30). Dincer et al (10) also found more apical debris extrusion when HF were used in comparison with reciprocating NiTi instruments, which might be explained by differences in instruments action (9): the push-pull action performed with HF to advance in apical direction may have increased the risk of pumping the debris through the foramen, while

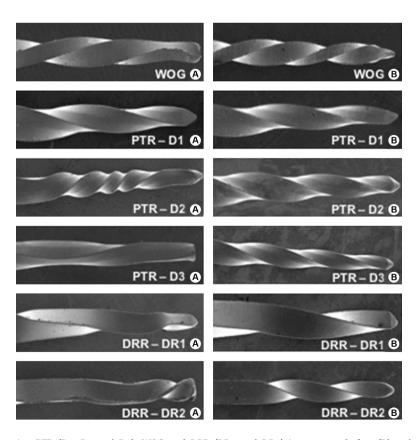


Figure 2. SEM images showing PTR (D1, D2 and D3), WOG and DRR (DR1 and DR2) instruments before (B) and after (A) instrumentation (accelerating Voltage 10.0 kV, magnification ×40).

the combined reciprocating motion with crown-down pressure performed with NiTi instruments could have reduced the risk of extrusion. Another possible explanation to the less extrusion of WOG could be the compaction of filling material in the apical region, as suggested by Monguilhott Crozeta et al. (36). Theoretically, the smaller the chip space of an instrument, the smaller its escape area and consequently its debris removal capacity (7). Although WOG has not been developed specifically for endodontic retreatment procedures, the present results indicate that this instrument is an alternative for root canal filling removal.

No differences were found between WOG and PTR, and between PTR and DRR. Topçuoglu et al. (9) also found no difference between PTR and DRR, and associated this fact to the similar designs in the apical third of these instruments. In contrast with the present findings, Çanakçi et al. (20), comparing a reciprocating system to rotary retreatment systems, found that the reciprocating (Reciproc) produced more debris than DRR. The authors attributed their results to differences in instruments motion. These controversial results may be explained by the differences in root canal preparation protocols. In this investigation no final preparation was performed, aiming to assess only the extruded debris caused by filling material removal. Instead, Çanakçi et al. (20) performed final root canal preparation with Reciproc #40.06.

Regarding the working time, all NiTi systems evaluated were faster than HF and no differences were found between them. Similarly, Canakçi et al. (20) reported no differences between DRR and PTR and, otherwise, Huang et al. (5) observed that the reciprocating instruments (Reciproc and WO) were faster than the rotary systems. These findings may be explained because root canal preparation with reciprocating systems requires only one instrument, while with the rotary system two or more files are necessary. These findings are controversial with the present results. Maybe the similarity in the working time of WOG and the rotary systems observed herein could be explained by WOG manufactory process, including repeated heating and cooling, which increases its flexibility. This may have hindered its penetration into the filling material, increasing the working time. Moreover, the fact that WOG has not been developed specifically for retreatment has to be considered.

Considering the limitations of in vitro investigations, caution should be taken when extrapolating the results to clinical situations (17). The collection assembly used had the apex suspended in the air without resistance. In clinical situations, the apex would be surrounded by granulomatous or periradicular tissues, which could restrict apical extrusion (37). To simulate the resistance of periapical tissue, the use of floral foam has been suggested; however, it can absorb

irrigant solution and debris extruded apically while acting as a barrier (37). Considering that physical backpressure was absent in all experimental groups, this bias was controlled.

In curved root canals, all instruments evaluated caused apical debris extrusion. WOG was associated with less extrusion than DRR and HF and can be considered an alternative for filling removal during root canal retreatment. Filling removal with HF was slower than with the other instruments. All NiTi systems presented fracture and deformation.

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#### Resumo

O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar a extrusão apical de debris durante a desobturação com WaveOne Gold (WOG), ProTaper Universal Retratamento (PTR), D-RaCe (DRR) ou limas manuais (HF), comparar o tempo de trabalho durante a desobturação, e descrever as falhas dos instrumentos de NiTi. Quarenta canais de raízes mésio-vestibulares de primeiros molars superiores foram preparados com WOG Primary, obturados e divididos em 4 grupos (n = 10), de acordo com os instrumentos a serem utilizados: WOG, PTR, DRR ou HF. Água destilada foi utilizada como irrigante, e os debris extruídos foram coletados em tubos Eppendorf e secos. A quantidade de debris extruídos foi determinada subtraindo-se o peso inicial do peso final. O tempo de cada desobturação foi anotado e os instrumentos utilizados foram analisados no pré e pós-operatório em MEV. Os testes Kruskal-Wallis e Dunn foram utilizados para analisar os dados da extrusão de debris, e os testes ANOVA e Tukey para comparar os dados do tempo de trabalho ( $\alpha$ =0.05). As deformações e fraturas dos instrumentos foram descritas. O grupo WOG produziu significativamente menos debris quando comparado aos grupos HF e DRR (p<0.05), e foi similar ao grupo PTR (p>0.05). Os grupos HF, PTR e DRR não apresentaram diferença estatisticamente significante (p>0.05). O tempo de trabalho no grupo HF foi significativamente maior do que nos outros grupos (p<0.05). A análise em MEV mostrou que, dos 18 instrumentos avaliados, 3 fraturaram e em 10 foi observado deformação. Todos os sistemas testados causaram extrusão apical de debris. WOG foi associado com menor extrusão do que DRR e HF. A desobturação com HF foi mais lenta do que com os demais instrumentos. Todos os sistemas de NITI apresentaram fratura e deformação.

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