

Use of an intra-radicular post in conjunction with MTA for the treatment of Horizontal root fracture: A Case Report

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Abstract

An injury can be defined as an interruption in the continuity of tissues and healing as the reestablishment of that continuity. Radicular fractures in permanent teeth are uncommon injuries and account for only 0.5–7% of dental traumas. These fractures commonly result from a horizontal impact and are transverse to oblique in direction. Their incidence is more in the middle third of the root than at the apical and cervical thirds The objective of this case report is to reinforce the fractured segments using fiber post as an intra-radicular splint. A one-year follow-up revealed patient is asymptomatic and a well stabilized assembly of the root fragments and the post.

Keywords: Mid root fracture, Intraradicular splint, Fiber post, Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA).

Introduction

Among all dental traumatic injuries, root fractures account for only 0.5–7%¹, could be defined as “fracture involving dentin, cement and pulp”². Horizontal root fracture most commonly occurs in the middle third of the root and very rarely in the coronal and apical third³. Maxillary central incisors are more prone to traumatic injuries (approximately 68%) probably due to their position in the dental arch. The next in line are the maxillary lateral incisors (27%) followed by mandibular incisors (5%)⁴.

The initial treatment consists of repositioning of the displaced segments, followed by stabilizing of the tooth to allow the healing of periodontal ligament supporting the segments. The amount of dislocation and the degree of mobility of the coronal segment affects the prognosis outcome. Achieving stable fracture reduction is inversely proportional to the severity of dislocation, mobility, and pulpal injury⁵. It had been noted that if the displacement between the fragments in minimal, intracanal stabilization can improve the prognosis of the treatment⁶.

Case Report

A patient of 42 years male was reported to the department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics in Sri Guru Ram Das Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Sri Amritsar with the chief complaint of extruded maxillary central incisors, 2 hours ago, due to injury while playing a sport. The medical history was non-contributory.

On clinical examination, extrusion of maxillary central incisor was noticed (Figure 1) because of that, no posterior occlusal contacts were present. Periapical radiographs revealed fracture at the middle third of root of tooth # 11 (Federation Dentaire Internationale) separating the coronal and apical root fragments from each other by about 2-3 mm (Figure 2). There was no significant bone loss.

The treatment plan comprised of reduction and splinting of the coronal fragment of tooth; followed by an endodontic treatment and placement of fiber post as an intraradicular splint. Patient was informed about the treatment and informed consent was taken. Splinting was carried out from tooth # 12 to 21 with co-axial wire and light cure composite resin [Figure 3(a) and 3 (b)].

After rubber dam application, access opening was achieved under local anesthesia and working length was estimated with a size 15 K-file (Figure 4). The 10 K-file was precurved so as to engage both the fragments of the fractured root. Pulp tissue was extirpated and the canal

was irrigated with saline. Cleaning and shaping of the canal was done by conventional method using 2% K-files in a step back manner to an apical file size of #45. An intracanal Ca(OH)₂ dressing was given and cavity was sealed with zinc oxide eugenol cement.

During the next appointment, an apical barrier of approximate 4mm was made with the MTA (Figure 5). Appropriate glass fiber posts were tried into the canal, adjusted to the desired length until they just passively touched the apical barrier of MTA. The fiber post was luted into the canal with dual cure resin cement and access cavity was restored with composite resin cement (Figure 6).

After one year of recall, the patient presented with aesthetically pleasing results and sound periodontium and the fractured root fragments were well retained with the aid of a post (Figure 7).

Discussion

Root fracture can be a consequence of dental trauma causing a complex injury to the cementum, dentin, pulp, and the periodontal tissues. Such injuries can occur due to road accidents, violence, sport injuries, and so forth. Maintaining “the physiological and functional integrity” is the main goal while treating traumatized teeth.

Four types of conservative endodontic treatment that have been commonly described are (i) cleansing and gutta percha (GP) filling of the root canal of the coronal fragment only; (ii) cleansing and filling of the root canal in both fragments; (iii) cleansing and GP filling of the root canal of the coronal fragment and surgical removal of the apical fragment; and (iv) treatment of the root canal with calcium hydroxide followed by filling with GP⁷.

Recently, different types of post materials have been introduced into the dental practice such as carbon fiber, quartz, and glass fiber. The fiber posts offer several advantages such as a suitable elastic modulus, aesthetics,

good bonding between post and cement, lower chair side time, and minimal tissue removal⁸. According to Gurtu and Singhal⁹, the use of a post ensures support and stability to the tooth. It also helps to retain the root fragments by radicular anchoring thereby strengthening the restoration complex which is subjected to tangential stresses. Post placement, in addition to bonding, provides retention via a friction bond and assists in preventing dislodgement to nonaxial forces.¹⁰

In the present case report, MTA was used as an apical barrier. With the availability of MTATM, it is possible to induce regenerative tissue formation at the fracture line. MTA has been widely used in the recent years for pulp capping, partial pulpotomy, perforation repair, resorption repair, repair of fracture, root end filling, apical barrier for tooth with necrotic pulp and open apex, coronal barrier for regenerative endodontics, root canal sealer.¹¹

Midroot fractures can heal by different mechanisms. Andreasen and Hjörting-Hansen described four types of healing sequelae: (1) healing with calcified tissue, (2) healing with interproximal connective tissue, (3) healing with interproximal bone and connective tissue and (4) interproximal inflammatory tissue without healing¹².

Incidence of complications after traumatic dental injuries were studied by Kallal I et al¹, as: external root resorption was present in 70% of cases, surface resorption was observed in 10% of cases, and replacement resorption in 10%, ankylosis in 10%. About pulpal complications, pulp necrosis was found after 4 weeks of follow-up, as well as the internal root resorption after one year. In present case report, after one year, surface resorption had been seen at fracture site. It had been reported that this appears to be self-limiting and does not threaten the retention of tooth¹³.

A long-term follow-up is required to check for any possible pathological alterations. Follow-up of this case after one year showed promising results with clinically

pleasing aesthetics and radiographic healing with calcified tissue, the fractured line was discernible but fragments were well stabilized.

Conclusion

“Preservation of natural dentition and restoration of the oral cavity to a normal functional state” is the primary goal in dentistry. The main aim of treating fractured elements is to keep the tooth steady and maintain its position in the dental arch whenever possible. Intraradicular splinting using fiber posts can be a good alternative for managing midroot fractures and reestablishing the aesthetics and functional needs of the patients.

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Legend Figures



Figure 1: pre-operative photograph



Figure 2: pre-operative radiograph



Figure 3(a) and 3(b): splinting done

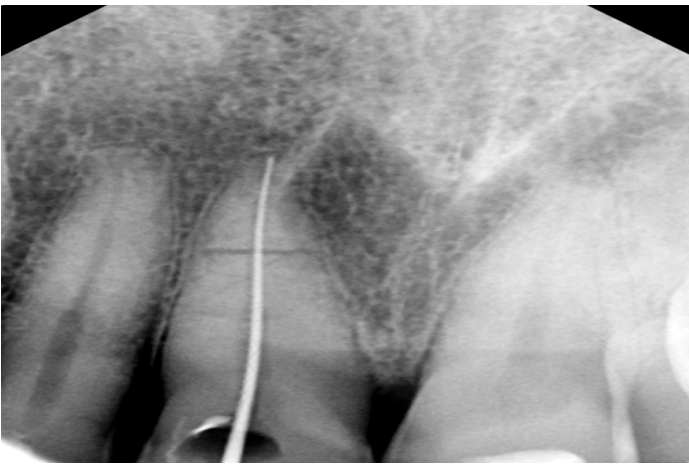


Figure 4: Working length determination



Figure 7: immediate post operative IOPA



Figure 5: MTA as a barrier

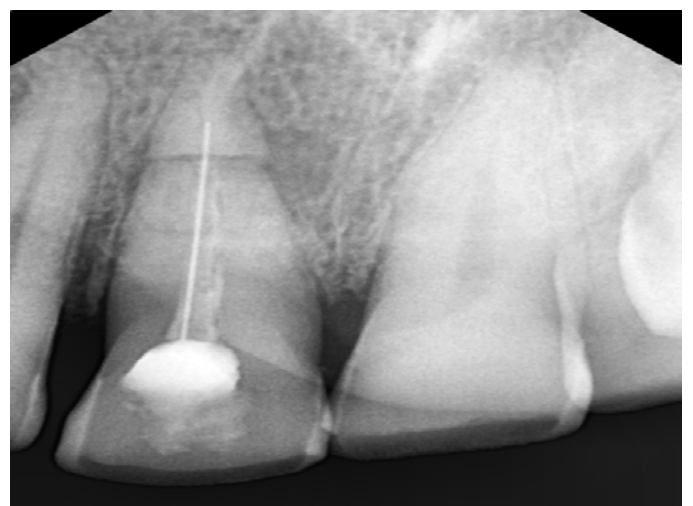


Figure 8: post-operative radiograph after one year

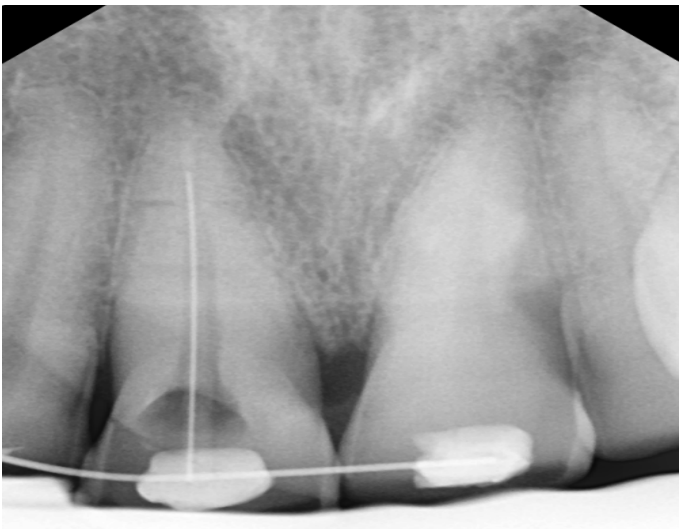


Figure 6: Luting of fiber post