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## The endodontic microflora revisited.

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The microbial flora of 35 dental root canals were examined, taking care to maintain the viability of obligate anaerobes which accounted for 45% of total isolations, while streptococcal species accounted for 24% of the total species isolated. Individual root canals yielded a maximum of eight bacterial species. A total of 40 different species was isolated of which the most prevalent were the facultative anaerobe *Streptococcus sanguis* and the obligate anaerobe, *Peptostreptococcus micros* (both in 23% of root canals), followed by *Eubacterium aerofaciens* and the 'Streptococcus milleri group' (both 17%) then *Prevotella melaninogenica* (formerly *Bacteroides melaninogenicus*), *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Prevotella oralis* (formerly *Bacteroides oralis*), which were each isolated from 14% of root canals. Highly significant associations were discovered between four pairs of species, viz *P. melaninogenica* with *P. micros*, *P. melaninogenica* with *P. oralis*, *Prevotella corporis* with *Streptococcus morbillorum* and *Actinomyces odontolyticus* with *E. faecalis*.

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