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Associations of endodontic symptoms and signs with particular combinations of specific bacteria.

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Significant associations have been reported between (a) specific bacterial species isolated from root canals and (b) between individual bacterial species and endodontic symptoms and signs. The prime objective of this study was to determine whether particular combinations of specific bacteria are associated with individual endodontic symptoms and signs. Seventy root canals were investigated microbiologically taking care to maintain the viability of obligate anaerobes, which accounted for 64% of the total species isolated, including *Peptostreptococcus micros*, *Prevotella melaninogenica*, *Prevotella oralis*, *Eubacterium aerofaciens*, *Eubacterium lentum*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Prevotella buccae* and *Prevotella intermedia*. Significant associations were found between individual clinical features and the following pairs of species: (a) pain (37 cases) and *Peptostreptococcus* spp./*Prevotella* spp., *Peptostreptococcus* spp./*Prevotella melaninogenica*, *Pstr. micros*/*Prev. melaninogenica* (all $P < 0.01$); (b) swelling (23 cases) and *Pstr. micros*/*Prevotella* spp. ($P < 0.01$); (c) 'Wet' canal (57 cases) and *Prevotella* spp./*Eubacterium* spp. ($P < 0.01$), *Peptostreptococcus* spp./*Eubacterium* spp. ($P < 0.05$). Thus data from this investigation suggests that statistically significant associations exist between individual endodontic symptoms and signs and particular combinations of specific bacteria.

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