

STEPHEN M. KORAL, D.M.D.

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Dear Friends:

The Endodontics Committee of the I.A.O.M.T. (you and me, friends) is ready to start its first organized research project: a prospective study of the long-term success rate of Biocalex root treatments. It is going to be an office-based study, a case registry of patients treated in the ordinary course of events in our practices. We have a real advantage over academic settings, because in private general practice we have a built-in mechanism for getting patients to return to for follow-up: routine prophies and check-ups. Nearly all the published studies of clinical outcomes are retrospective examinations of records in endo departments, with variable and often unreported percentage of recall attendance.

Extraneous variables are always the bane of research, and I'm going to propose a core technique, which we must all discuss and ultimately agree to follow for cases submitted to this study. Now, we are all creative and adventurous, and we all have tailored techniques according to our own new ideas, and to individual patients' needs. Each of our ideas deserves respect and investigation. All I'm asking is that we agree on one technique for this study. If you use a different technique for a given case, fine, but don't submit it. I expect comments on my proposal. We'll hammer it out and proceed.

The study will proceed for at least five years, requiring that you file recall reports over that period. Heaven willing, I'll be around at least that long, but if you are planning to retire sooner maybe you should pass. A draft of the form we'll use to register and report on cases is attached separately. Please comment on that, too. Clinical success in a given case will be defined as a tooth that is comfortable and functional, as reported by you and your patient. Radiographic success will be defined, as it is in the literature, by absence, or resolution, or reduction in area of a radiographic lesion.

Please correspond in the open forum of the group e-mail address:

iaomt-endo@eagle-access.net

My personal e-mail address is: skoraldmd@eagle-access.net

OK? What follows is my draft protocol:

Text of sticker:

Tooth # ____ . RCT date _____,
is included in the

Biocalex Clinical Outcome Study

Please remember to report follow-up data.