

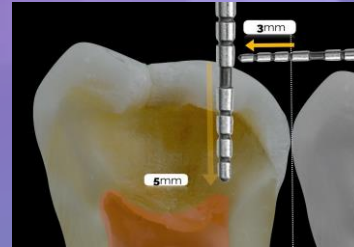
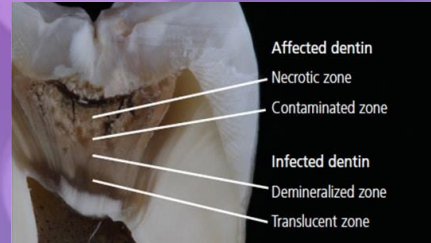
VITAL PULP PRESERVATION IN DEEP CARIES: DECISION-MAKING AND BIOACTIVE MATERIALS



N. Longurova, K. Zlatanovska, S. Atanasova, B. Nikolovski, J. Zarkova Atanasova

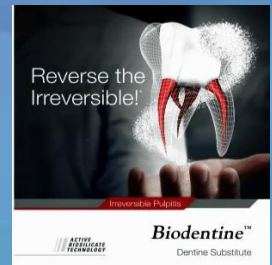
INTRODUCTION

Direct pulp capping is a procedure in which a medicament, or dental material is placed directly over exposed dental pulp to preserve its vitality.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 50 dentists in Strumica, Skopje and Shtip using a structured questionnaire. The survey analyzed the frequency of deep caries cases, preferred treatment approaches, and the influence of clinical experience on therapeutic choice.



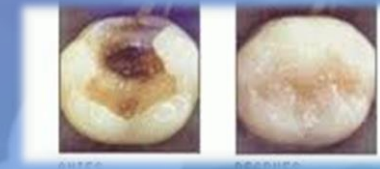
RESULTS

Most respondents (90%) reported frequently encountering patients with deep caries. Endodontic treatment was the most commonly selected approach (70%), while 30% preferred vital pulp therapy procedures.

An alternative gold standard, mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) and Biodentin are available as a direct pulp-capping materials.

OBJECTIVE

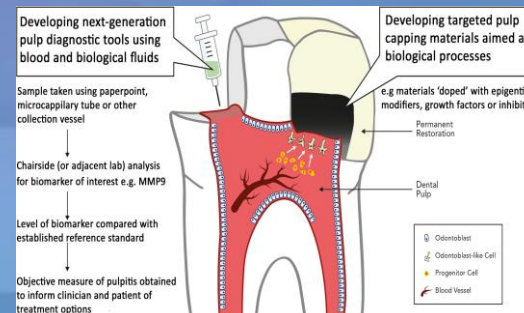
This study aimed to assess the prevalence of deep caries in daily practice and to evaluate therapeutic decision-making among dentists, with emphasis on vital pulp preservation and the use of bioactive materials.



CONCLUSION

Although conventional endodontic therapy remains predominant, there is an increasing tendency toward vital pulp preservation supported by bioactive materials.

However, MTA is difficult to use because of its long setting time, poor handling properties, cost, and the potential discoloration of teeth and soft tissue, so among dentists performing direct pulp capping, Biodentin was more frequently selected than MTA.



All respondents agreed that the higher success rate for patients younger than 40 years than for patients 40 years old and older can be explained by the high capacity of pulp tissue in young patients, and also agree that the time span before the placement of a permanent restoration after pulp capping has a major impact on the healing of an exposed pulp.