



# Treatment of an Endo-Perio Lesion with Ozone Gas in a Patient with Aggressive Periodontitis: A Clinical Case Report and Literature Review

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**Abstract:** The pulp and periodontium have obvious relationships that have been described in many studies. Pulp infections may affect periodontal tissues and vice versa. Teeth with endo-perio lesions have a worse prognosis than isolated endodontic or periodontal lesions. Elimination of endodontic and periodontal infections is essential for successful treatment, so co-operation between endodontists and periodontists is necessary. In this clinical case, a 44-year-old male presented with primary periodontal disease with secondary endodontic involvement in his lower right canine because of aggressive periodontitis. There was 10 mm of clinical attachment loss and 8 mm periodontal pocket mesial from the tooth and bone radiolucency periapical and lateral from the root. Periodontal therapy was followed by endodontic treatment. Periodontal therapy included root scaling and planing, treatment of the periodontal pocket with ozone gas, systemic antibiotics, oral hygiene instructions, and chlorhexidine rinsing. Endodontic therapy included root canal instrumentation with rotary endodontic files, irrigation, root canal treatment with ozone gas, and obturation with lateral compaction. Radiographs at a 6-month follow-up appointment showed complete healing of the periapical lesion and alveolar bone lateral to the root. Using an interdisciplinary approach to treat endo-perio lesions provides favorable clinical outcomes. Ozone therapy is beneficial for the successful treatment of endo-perio lesions with narrow periodontal pockets in patients with aggressive periodontitis and poor prognosis.

**Keywords:** endo-perio lesion, ozone therapy, ozone gas

## Introduction

The pulp and periodontal interrelationships have been widely investigated by many authors.<sup>1-3</sup> Root canals and periodontal pockets contain physiological communications such as apical foramen, lateral canals foramina, and dentinal tubules. These anatomical structures may become pathways for the migration of periodontal and endodontic pathogens and contribute to the development of endo-perio lesions.<sup>4,5</sup>

Endo-perio lesions are challenging to diagnose and treat, causing variable prognosis. Treating these lesions is a complicated task with unpredictable outcomes. Song et al<sup>6</sup> compared the clinical outcomes between isolated endodontic lesions and endodontic-periodontal combined lesions and concluded that the latter had a negative effect on clinical outcomes. The prognosis for such lesions is considered poor and mainly depends on the severity of the periodontal involvement.<sup>7</sup>

Generally, extracting teeth with a poor prognosis and replacing them with implants is reasonable. However, a previous history of periodontal disease should

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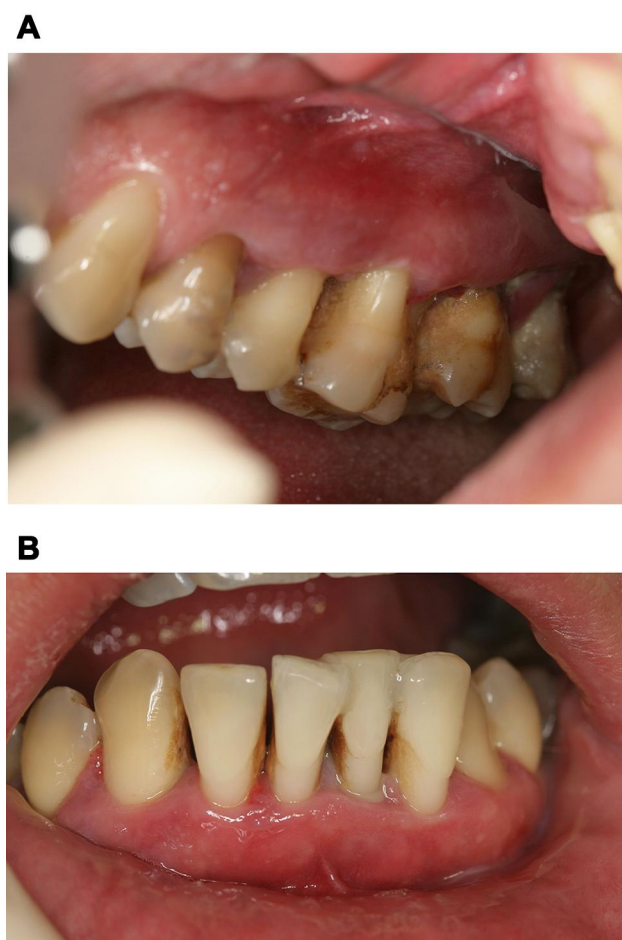
be evaluated, and, if present, it can be considered a risk factor for future peri-implant disease.<sup>8</sup> Periodontal diseases such as aggressive periodontitis negatively affect implant osseointegration.<sup>9</sup> Thus, clinicians should save such teeth rather than extract them and replace them with implants.<sup>10</sup> Comparing the survival rate between endodontically treated teeth with poor prognosis and implants placed in previously diseased sites showed that the survival rate of endodontically treated teeth was comparatively higher than implants.<sup>11</sup>

Several classifications have been proposed for endo-perio lesions.<sup>4,12–15</sup> There is no universal international classification of endo-perio lesions, so evaluating the literature data may be problematic because of the diversity of terminology. Rotstein and Simon's<sup>4</sup> classification was used for the present case. This classification categorizes primary endodontic diseases, primary periodontal diseases, and combined diseases, including primary endodontic disease with secondary periodontal involvement (PESP), primary periodontal disease with secondary endodontic involvement (PPSE), and true combined diseases. Using this classification provides valuable input for sound clinical decisions.<sup>16</sup>

This case provides an example of an interdisciplinary approach between the endodontist and periodontist for the successful treatment of an endo-perio lesion in a patient with aggressive periodontitis in the lower right canine using ozone therapy for periodontal pocket and root canal treatment.

## Case Report

A 44-year-old male with non-contributory medical, family, and psychological history presented at the Conservative Dentistry Department of Sechenov University and reported bleeding during tooth brushing, frontal lower teeth mobility, and episodic suppuration of the gingiva. The patient also reported with the following history: first signs of gum bleeding started at puberty, at the age of 35 he had already had his frontal teeth mobile, tooth 46 was extracted because of mobility and alveolar bone loss. The patient had no systemic pathology. The patient signed written informed consent for treatment and for publishing of case details and images. Institutional approval First Moscow State University, named after I.M. Sechenov (Sechenov University), for case publication was obtained. Clinical examination revealed pus discharge (Figure 1A and B) and gingival swelling, 82.2% of the sites had a probing depth (PD) of  $\geq 4$  mm, and 87% of the sites had bleeding



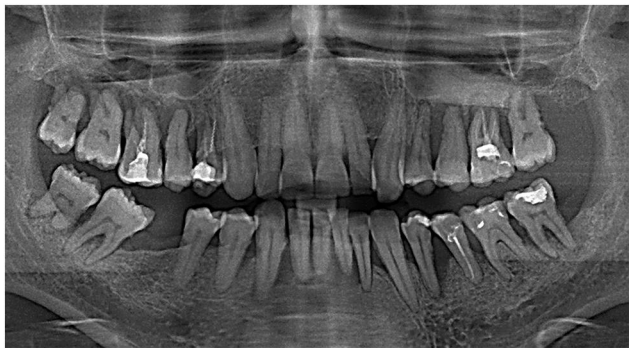
**Figure 1** (A) Intraoral view of the upper right quadrant at baseline; calculus and gum bleeding is visible. (B) Intraoral view of the frontal lower teeth at baseline; small amounts of calculus and pus discharge are visible.

on probing. Oral Hygiene Index-Simplified<sup>17</sup> had a score of 1.4. The oral hygiene level was defined as moderate and inconsistent with the degree of attachment loss. Panoramic radiographs were obtained and revealed horizontal and vertical alveolar bone resorption (Figure 2).

In the area of teeth #43 and #34 (according to the International Dental Federation tooth notation ISO 3950),<sup>18</sup> alveolar bone resorption reached the apical third of the root. Both teeth were responsive to the cold test. Sensitivity after the test stopped within 10 seconds. The electric pulp test confirmed the vitality of both teeth. Tooth 43 presented II degree of mobility.

The diagnosis was generalized aggressive periodontitis. The patient was prescribed systemic antibiotic ciprofloxacin 500 mg b.i.d. for 7 days. There was no pus discharge after antibiotic therapy (Figure 3A and B).

The patient underwent thorough scaling and root planing (SRP), splinting of the mobile teeth, occlusal checking and adjustment was done after splinting of frontal teeth to avoid



**Figure 2** Panoramic radiograph at baseline.



**Figure 4** Intraoral view of the frontal lower teeth 14 days after SRP and splinting.

**A**



**B**



**Figure 3** (A) Upper right quadrant after antibiotic therapy. (B) Frontal lower teeth after antibiotic therapy.

trauma from occlusion, and home oral hygiene instructions and training; 0.12% chlorhexidine rinsing was prescribed twice daily for 14 days. Follow-up 2 weeks after RSP showed no pus or bleeding on probing (Figure 4). The patient adhered to a strict maintenance program with monthly appointments with the same dental hygienist.

No pus discharge or bleeding on probing was observed at a 6-month follow-up appointment (Figure 5). Panoramic radiographs (Figure 6) revealed that the alveolar bone level was considered stable compared with previous radiographs. The bone distal from tooth #34 healed, and tooth #43 showed an extensive periapical lesion with well-defined borders.

Intact tooth #43 was not responsive to the cold test. The electric pulp test confirmed that the pulp was non-vital. Vertical percussion was slightly tender when compared with the neighboring teeth. The alveolar mucosa had no fistulas or edema. The pocket depth of tooth #43 was probed via the “walking” probing technique<sup>19</sup> with the University of Michigan’s “O” probe using Williams markings (at 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 mm). All of the measurements were 2 mm, except for the mesial side, where a narrow 8 mm periodontal pocket and 10 mm of clinical attachment loss was revealed (Figure 7A–D). The



**Figure 5** Intraoral view 6 months after SRP.





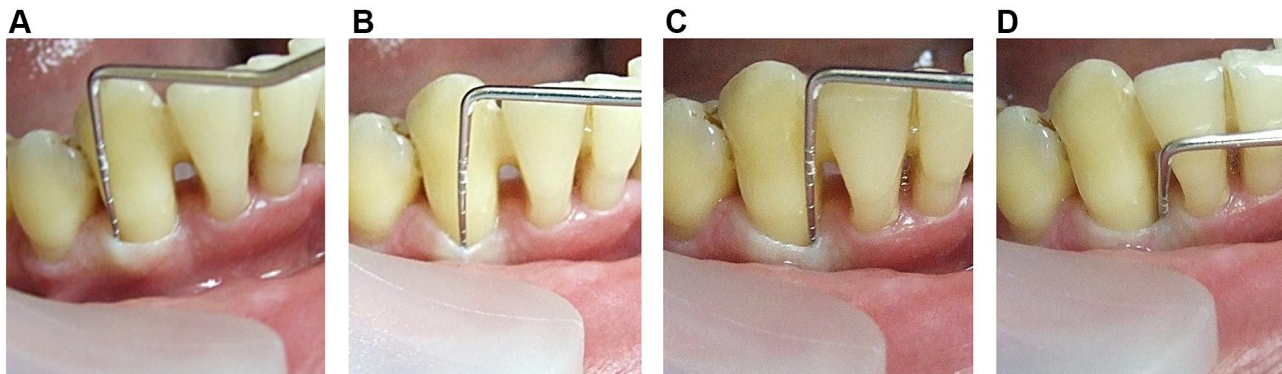
**Figure 6** Panoramic radiograph 6 months after SRP: tooth #43 showed an extensive periapical lesion with well-defined borders and bone loss extruding onto the root's mesial surface.

diagnosis was confirmed as follows: chronic apical periodontitis according to ICD-10,<sup>20</sup> and primary periodontal disease with secondary endodontic involvement according to Rotstein and Simon's<sup>4</sup> classification. As far as a narrow pocket may also be present in vertical root fracture, the differential diagnosis with vertical root fracture was done according to the criteria of Byakova et al,<sup>21</sup> and vertical root fracture was not revealed.

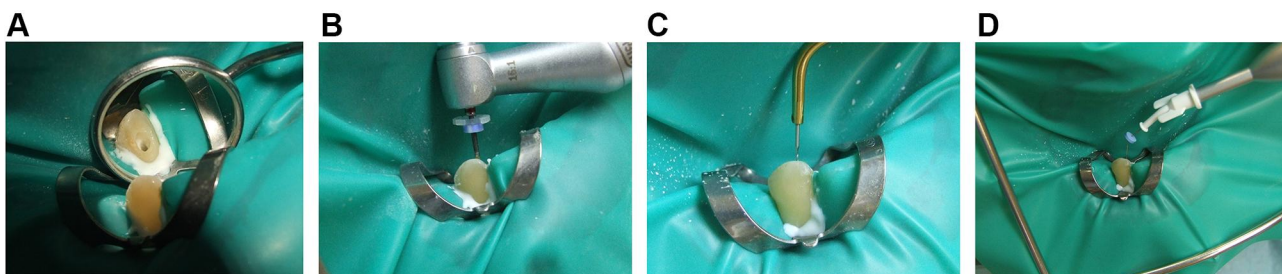
The patient was referred to an endodontist and underwent endodontic treatment (Figure 8A–D) according to the

following protocol: administration of local anesthesia using 1.7 mL of 4% articaine (Ubistesin Forte, 3M ESPE), rubber dam isolation, and preparation of endodontic access. No bleeding occurred during the root canal treatment. Necrotic pulp was found, and the working length was confirmed with radiographs (Figure 9A). Root canal instrumentation was conducted with a rotary nickel-titanium instrument (iRace, FKG Dentarium). The root canal was irrigated with 3% sodium hypochlorite (Parcan, Septodont), distilled water, and 17% EDTA (EndoGiNo. 2, 17% EDTA, VladMiva). Sodium hypochlorite was activated using a passive ultrasound tip (Irrisafe IRR-2025, Satelec/Acteon). The root canal was dried and treated with ozone gas from an ozone generator (Prozone, W&H) for 24 seconds following endodontic setting in Prozone (Figure 10).

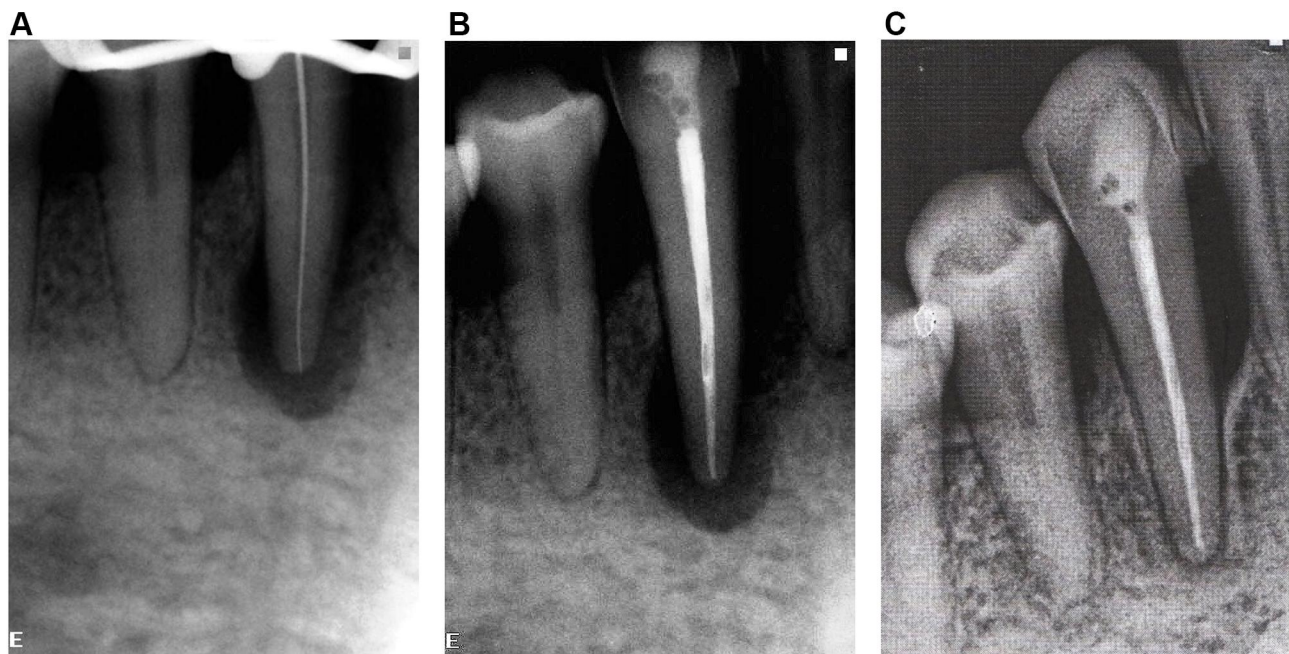
The root canal was dressed with calcium hydroxide (Calasept, Nordiska Dental AB) for 7 days. After 1 week, the patient reported no pain or discomfort when biting in tooth #43. The root canal was disinfected again using the same protocol. After drying, the root canal was obturated with lateral compaction using guttapercha points and sealer (AH Plus, Dentsply). Obturation was controlled with radiographs



**Figure 7** "Walking" probing of the periodontal pocket using a Naber periodontal probe. Distal buccal point (A), middle buccal point (B), mesial buccal point (C), all measurements are 2 mm probing depth. (D) Narrow and deep 8 mm periodontal pocket on the mesial tooth surface.



**Figure 8** (A) No bleeding was observed immediately after endodontic access opening. (B) Instrumentation of the root canal using an iRace rotary endodontic instrument. (C) Passive ultrasound irrigation with an ultrasound tip. (D) Treating the root canal with ozone gas.



**Figure 9** (A) Working length confirmation. (B) Immediately after obturation. (C) Six-month follow-up showing complete healing of the bone defect in the periapical area and interdental septum.

(Figure 9B). Endodontic access was filled with a light-cured composite (Revolution, Kerr and Filtek Z250, 3M ESPE).

The day after endodontic treatment, root scaling and planing were performed. The periodontal pockets were rinsed with chlorhexidine and treated with ozone gas for 18 seconds according to the device's periodontal treatment settings.

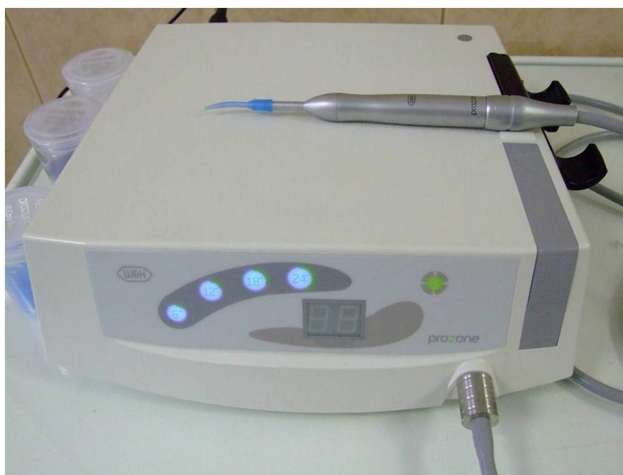
The patient returned for a follow-up appointment 6 months after endodontic treatment. Periapical radiograph demonstrated complete healing of the periapical lesion and reorganization of the alveolar bone lateral to the tooth

surface (Figure 9C). The probing depth mesial from tooth #43 was 4 mm.

## Discussion

Endo-perio lesions present challenging diagnosis, differentiation, and treatment.<sup>22</sup> Thorough clinical examinations and radiological investigations enable the definition of lesion's causative factors. While endodontic infection in periapical tissues may be verified with radiographs, probing the pocket depth and measuring the clinical attachment loss are essential for detailed evaluation of periodontal destruction. In the present case, the endo-perio lesion's periodontal pocket was very narrow. This finding was confirmed by Hind et al,<sup>23</sup> who also reported narrow periodontal pockets in endo-perio lesions. Because narrow periodontal pockets may be clinically missed, we used "walking" probing<sup>19</sup> instead of conventional probing at 4–6 points. This technique is recommended to diagnose teeth with endo-perio lesions because it decreases the risk of missing narrow pockets.

A randomized clinical trial can generate high-quality evidence when evaluating an intervention's effectiveness.<sup>24</sup> Unfortunately, there is a lack of such studies on endo-perio lesions because their pathology is relatively rare.<sup>4</sup> Affected teeth often have poor prognosis,<sup>25</sup> and the variety of clinical parameters are difficult to standardize. Thus, detailed reviews of clinical cases may be valuable for



**Figure 10** Prozone ozone generator.



clinicians to define treatment strategies and anticipate particular clinical outcomes.

The latest review of endo-perio lesions clinical cases was published in 2009 by Oh et al.<sup>26</sup> Twenty-six cases from 14 articles were evaluated. The authors proposed a 4-phase treatment algorithm: 1) presurgical phase (determining periodontal/regenerative prognosis), 2) endodontic phase, 3) periodontal surgical phase, and 4) post-GTR re-evaluation protocol. This might provide beneficial guidelines for managing endodontic-periodontal combined lesions.

Although a general treatment strategy was summarized, the sequence and details of treatment remain controversial. Gupta et al<sup>27</sup> reported that non-surgical periodontal treatment may be conducted simultaneously with endodontic treatment for the management of concurrent endodontic-periodontal lesions without communication. Schmidt et al<sup>28</sup> postulated that a sequential strategy with root canal treatment as a first step is reasonable. Abbott<sup>29</sup> concluded that endodontic treatment can be completed before periodontal treatment, except where there is a “combined endodontic-periodontal lesion with communication”. In these cases, root canals should be medicated until periodontal treatment has been completed. There are literature data about successful treatment of endo-perio lesions using platelet-rich fibrin and plasma for treatment of combined endo-perio lesions.<sup>30</sup>

The absence of a universal international classification of endo-perio lesions makes comparing publications problematic because of differences in terminology. Regarding the diversity of recommendations and terminology and the lack of randomized clinical trials, cases and case series reviews with detailed presentations of baseline clinical and radiological parameters may be beneficial for clinicians, allowing them to compare baseline parameters, treatment strategies, and clinical outcomes with endo-perio lesion cases in their practise.

This review included case studies from the PubMed database on March 2, 2020, using the search terms “endo perio lesion”, “periodontic-endodontic lesion”, and “endodontic-periodontic lesion” from 2011 to 2019. There were 29 cases from 17 case reports and case series. The following parameters were evaluated: patient age and systemic health, tooth, lesion type according to Rotstein and Simon’s<sup>4</sup> classification, baseline parameters (teeth vitality, radiograph [RVG], probing depth, tooth mobility, and furcation involvement), splinting, treatment protocol, and degree of healing at follow-up appointments. The present case was compared with similar cases from the review. All

the obtained data from the review were organized into tables according to the lesion type (Tables 1–4).

In the review, most of the patients had no systemic conditions; one patient had diabetes mellitus.<sup>31</sup> Healing in this patient was slower compared with healthy patients<sup>32</sup> with the same lesion type, mobility, and probing depth in single-rooted teeth. An 18-month follow-up RVG of the diabetic patient showed decreased radiolucency and a 39-month follow-up RVG showed complete healing of the lesion, while, in healthy patients, a 14-month RVG showed resolution of bone defects. Faster healing in healthy patients may be explained by the absence of systemic pathology, immediate splinting (while in the diabetic patient, splinting was delayed for 6 months after endodontic treatment), and regenerative periodontal surgery 3 months after endodontic treatment (the diabetic patient underwent open flap surgery without grafting 6 months after endodontic treatment). In systemically compromised patients, endo-perio lesions represent higher risks because focal dental infections have negative effects on systemic conditions<sup>33</sup> and may trigger exacerbation of some auto-immune pathologies such as psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.<sup>34,35</sup> Regular follow-ups for healing control are essential to prove treatment success and prevent focal dental infections.

There were 12 teeth (six molars<sup>16,23,36,37</sup> and six single-rooted teeth<sup>23,36,37</sup>) with PESP in the review. All molars had furcation involvement. Four molar cases did not undergo periodontal regenerative surgery and showed decreased radiolucency in 12-month RVG.<sup>36</sup> Two molar cases underwent regenerative surgery. One showed complete healing in 6-month RVG,<sup>37</sup> and the other demonstrated complete healing in 2-year RVG with no information about the 6-month follow-up.<sup>16</sup>

Four single-rooted teeth with PESP underwent endodontic treatment and SRP without regenerative procedures.<sup>36</sup> Two teeth received endodontic treatment and SRP with regenerative procedures.<sup>23,38</sup> None of the teeth without regeneration surgery showed complete healing of bone defects at a 6-month follow-up RVG. One tooth with regeneration surgery demonstrated complete healing of bone defects at a 6-month follow-up RVG.<sup>38</sup> Regenerative surgery seems to accelerate healing in molars and single-rooted teeth with PESP. This conclusion should be confirmed by future clinical studies.

There were 18 teeth with PPSE (six molars<sup>10,-16,-39-41</sup> and 12 single-rooted teeth<sup>35,42-46</sup>) in the reviewed literature. Two molars were extracted without any treatment.<sup>40</sup> Two

**Table 1** Summarizing of Clinical Parameters, Treatment Protocols, and Healing Data of Case Studies with PESP Lesion Type

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>c</sup>	PD <sup>d</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Jivoinovici et al, 2017 <sup>36</sup>	Not reported	38	#22	PESP <sup>b</sup>	Negative	Periodontal space widening with periapical and lateral radiolucency and triangulation on the interdental septum	4 mm	Not reported	-	No	RCT <sup>e</sup> , intracanal medicament CH <sup>f</sup> between appointments SRP <sup>g</sup>	12-months RVG noted a decrease until no radiolucent periapical and side
	Not reported	58	#34	PESP	Negative	Periodontal space widening with periapical radiolucency, circumscribed and lateral, located on mesial and distal sides of the tooth	Not reported	Not reported	-	No	RCT, intracanal medicament CH between appointments SRP	6-months RVG showed reduced periapical radiolucency
	Not reported	39	#47	PESP	Negative	Periapical radiolucent mesial and distal to the roots, radiolucency at furcation	6 mm	Not reported	Involved	No	RCT, intracanal medicament CH between appointments SRP	12-months RVG showed tendency of healing and periapical osteitis, remineralization of the interdental septum with a radiolucent decrease in furcation
Kambale et al, 2014 <sup>37</sup>	Not reported	35	#26	PESP	Tooth has filled root canals	Periapical radiolucency at the mesial root and disto-vestibular and vestibular bone demineralization of furcation	Not reported	Not reported	Involved	No	RCT, intracanal medicament CH between appointments SRP	1 year RVG showed reduction radiolucent of distal septum circumscribing apexes and disto-mesial buccal roots and the furcation
	Not reported	25	#11, 21	PESP	Not reported	Periapical radiolucent and demineralization on the mesial interdental septum	Not reported	Not reported	-	No	RCT, intracanal medicament CH between appointments SRP	1.5 year RVG presented a decrease in the apical radiolucent
Lata Goyal, 2014 <sup>38</sup>	Healthy	32	#47	PESP	Negative	Furcation area and periapical region of mesial and distal root, extruding along the lateral surface of root	10 mm	Not reported	Grade III	No	RCT, 2 months break, periodontal regenerative surgery with grafting	2-months RVG showed furcation involvement is still prevailed Six months of postoperative therapy, the normal probing depth of 2 mm was achieved
		35	#22	PESP	Negative	Radiolucency along the distal side of the entire root surface to the apex	8 mm	Not reported	-	No	RCT, regenerative periodontal surgery with PRP and grafting	6-months RVG showed complete healing, 12-months RVG showed stability

(Continued)

Table 1 (Continued).

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>c</sup>	PD <sup>d</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Aksel and Serper; 2014 <sup>16</sup>	Healthy	45	#36	PESP	Tooth has filled root canals	Bony defect in the furcal and periapical area	12 mm	Yes	Grade III	No	RCT, 3 months later regenerative periodontal surgery	3-month RVG showed that the furcation lesion still remained intact 2-year recall radiograph showing complete healing of the furcation
Hind Alquthami et al; 2018 <sup>23</sup>	Noncontributory	55	#46	PESP	Negative	Periapical and furcal radiolucency	10 mm (narrow)	Grade II	Involved	No	RCT in two visits with calcium hydroxide 5,25% sodium hypochlorite irrigation. No periodontal treatment was administered	Follow-ups 1 year to 6 years showed complete healing of the bone in the periapical and furcation areas
	Noncontributory	30	#36	PESP	Negative	Large furcal lesion related to the distal root opposite the post placement	Increased values	Not reported	Grade II	No	2.5% sodium hypochlorite followed by drying of the canal and sealing of the perforation with MTA	3, 6, 9-months and up to 4 years follow-up appointments showed complete healing of the soft tissue and bone lesions and a pocket depth of 3 mm.
	Noncontributory	27	#22	PESP	Negative	Advanced bone resorption extending from the mesial bone crest toward the apex	10 mm	Grade II	-	No	RCT in two visits with calcium hydroxide medication between appointments, periodontal regeneration, grafting after 3 months.	30-month RVG showed complete healing

Notes: <sup>a</sup>According to Rotstein and Simon's<sup>4</sup> classification. <sup>b</sup>Primary endodontic lesion with secondary periodontal involvement. <sup>c</sup>Radiovisiography. <sup>d</sup>Periodontal pocket depth. <sup>e</sup>Root canal treatment. <sup>f</sup>Calcium hydroxide. <sup>g</sup>Scaling and root planing.



**Table 2** Summarizing of Clinical Parameters, Treatment Protocols, and Healing Data of Case Studies with PPSE Lesion Type

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>c</sup>	PD <sup>d</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Varughese et al, 2015 <sup>39</sup>	Healthy	40	#16	PPSE <sup>b</sup>	Partially vital pulp	Radiolucency of 0.5x1 mm at the apical region of the palatal root	9 mm	Grade I	Not reported	No	SRP <sup>e</sup> , systemic antibiotic (Amoxicillin/500 mg/thrice daily/5 days) RCT <sup>f</sup> , irrigation 5.25% SH <sup>g</sup> , intracanal medication CH <sup>h</sup> between appointments. 3 months after RCT, root resection and periodontal regenerative surgery with PRF <sup>i</sup> , graft and GTR <sup>l</sup>	6-months RVG showed decreasing of radiolucency. 12-months RVG showed complete healing
Pico-Blanco et al, 2016 <sup>35</sup>	Healthy	Not reported	#23	PPSE	Negative	The baseline radiograph showing bone destruction beyond the apex	12 mm	Grade III	–	Yes	RCT with 5.25% SH irrigation, SRP, 3 months break, periodontal regenerative surgery with grafting and GTR	14-month follow-up radiograph showing resolution of the bone defect
	Healthy	Not reported	#21	PPSE	Negative	Distal extensive bone destruction	13 mm	Grade II	–	Yes	RCT with 5.25% SH irrigation, SRP, 3 months break, periodontal regenerative surgery with grafting and GTR	2-year follow-up radiograph showed resolution of the bone defect
	Healthy	Not reported	#21	PPSE	Negative	An endodontic periodontal lesion involving the apex of tooth	8 mm	Grade III	–	Yes	RCT with 5.25% SH irrigation, SRP, 3 months break, periodontal regenerative surgery with grafting and GTR	3-year follow-up radiograph showing resolution of the apical lesion
	Healthy	Not reported	#1,21	PPSE	Negative	Baseline radiograph showing extensive bone destruction	6 mm	Grade II	–	No	RCT with 5.25% SH irrigation, SRP, 3 months break, periodontal regenerative surgery with grafting and GTR	6-year follow-up radiograph showing complete resolution of the apical lesion and bone maintenance
	Healthy	Not reported	#11	PPSE	Negative	Baseline radiograph showing extensive bone destruction	10 mm	Grade III	–	No	RCT with 5.25% SH irrigation, SRP, 3 months break, periodontal regenerative surgery with grafting and GTR	17-yr follow-up RVG showed resolution of the apical lesion

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>c</sup>	PD <sup>d</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Dhoum et al, 2018 <sup>31</sup>	Uncontrolled diabetes type 2	50	#13	PPSE	Negative	Severe bone loss related to a periapical lesion	12 mm	Grade III	-	Yes, 6 months after RCT	SRP, RCT with Amoxicillin 2 days before and a week following the procedure, 2.5% SH, intracanal medication CH between appointments. Open flap surgery 6 month after RCT	2 weeks follow-up RVG showed beginning of bone reorganization. 2-month RVG showed stabilization of the radiolucency image. 12-month (6 months after open flap) showed partial healing of bone radiolucency. 18-months RVG showed decreasing of radiolucency. 39-month RVG showed disappearing of former radiolucency
Aksel and Serper, 2014 <sup>16</sup>	Healthy	42	#37	PPSE	Negative	Severe bone loss around the distal root of tooth #37 related to the uncleaning space between second and third molar	Not reported	Not reported	Involved	No	RCT, extraction of third molar	6 month recall visit, the complete repair of the bony lesion; 1 year recall radiograph showing complete healing of the bone lesion
Makino-Oi et al, 2017 <sup>40</sup>	Not reported	60	#16, 27	PPSE	Negative	Periapical radiolucency suggested perio-endo lesion	7-9 mm	Yes	Grade I-II	No	No treatment was done, teeth were extracted because of poor prognosis (furcation involvement and mobility)	-
Nadig et al, 2016 <sup>52</sup>	Not reported	35	#11	PPSE (radicular groove)	Not reported	Extensive peri-radicular radiolucency involving the apical and middle one-third of the mesial aspect of root	13 mm	Not reported	-	No	SRP, RCT, calcium hydroxide for 3 weeks, obturation, 8 weeks later radicalarplasty, periodontal surgery with grafting and PRF	1-year follow-up RVG significant reduction in radiolucency around the root surface

Gandhi et al, 2011 <sup>43</sup>	Not reported	30	#22	PPSE (radicular groove)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	10 mm	Yes	-	No	Conventional root canal treatment, radiculopathy, root resection of accessory root and surgical curettage of the periodontal defect	Progression of hard tissue healing was observed in the periapical radiograph taken 1 year postoperatively
Praveena Devi et al, 2019 <sup>44</sup>	Not reported	19	#22	PPSE (radicular groove)	Negative	Peri-apical radiograph of the tooth showed a lateral and periapical radiolucency	10 mm	Yes	-	No	-	No	Combination of endodontic and periodontal treatment Calcium hydroxide intracanal medicament 5.2% NaClO followed by placement of intracanal medicament for another week. 6 weeks post-endodontic radicularplasty, periodontal surgery with grafting	Radiographic complete bone fill was evident after 6 months
Kavarthapu and Malaiappan, 2019 <sup>10</sup>	Healthy	28	#46	PPSE (aggressive periodontitis)	Negative	Radiolucency surrounding the distal root with furcation involvement and vertical bone loss up to apical third of the distal root	8 mm	Grade II	Grade II	No	-	No	Initial Phase I therapy, RCT, review was made after a month, when the site is probed, a 6 mm pocket was present with bleeding on probing flap surgery and regenerative surgery with PRF	3 months postoperative, radiographs shows the formation of bone around the distal root of 46 9 months postoperative follow-up shows bone formation circumscribing the distal root

(Continued)



Table 2 (Continued).

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>c</sup>	PD <sup>d</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Mayuri Naik et al, 2014 <sup>45</sup>	Not reported	22	#12	PPSE (radicular groove)	Negative	Extensive periradicular radiolucency involving the apical one-third of the root	10 mm	Not reported	-	No	RCT: 5.25% sodium hypochlorite and 2% chlorhexidine, rinsed with 17% EDTA followed by full strength NaOCl, filled with calcium hydroxide and sealed with Cavit. Obturation was completed 3 weeks after the initial visit. 1 month later an exploratory surgery was planned. After flap access, a narrow palatal bony defect, scaling, Odontoplasty was performed on the palatal aspect of the root, followed by filling of the groove with Biodentine	Follow-up radiograph at 6 months reducing radiolucency of the osseous defect
Mina D. Fahmy et al 2016 <sup>41</sup>	Healthy	35	#36	PPSE (aggressive periodontitis)	Delayed	Bone resorption around distal root	12 mm	Not reported	Grade I	No	Oral prophylaxis session. RCT was in two visits; calcium hydroxide for 7 days. Shortly after RCT SRP, antibiotics (amoxicillin 500 mg three times a day and metronidazole 400 mg three times a day for 8 days). Regenerative periodontal therapy using Endogain 4 weeks after anti-infective therapy	6 months follow-up showed gain of bone structure in comparison to the baseline visit 24 months after regenerative surgery panoramic radiograph showed progressive periodontal healing
Kumar et al, 2017 <sup>6</sup>	Not reported	34	#11	PPSE	Vital	Intrabony defect with radiolucency in the mesiodistal region	6 mm	Grade II	-	Yes	SRP antibiotics (amoxicillin 500 mg thrice daily/5 days). RCT and splinting was done within a week. After reevaluation at 3rd month, periodontal regenerative therapy with amniotic membrane and grafting was initiated	9th and 12th month indicated radiographic bone fill in relation to I1

Notes: <sup>a</sup>According to Rotstein and Simon's<sup>4</sup> classification. <sup>b</sup>Primary periodontal lesion with a secondary endodontic involvement. <sup>c</sup>Radiosialography. <sup>d</sup>Periodontal pocket depth. <sup>e</sup>Scaling and root planing. <sup>f</sup>Root canal treatment. <sup>g</sup>Sodium hypochlorite. <sup>h</sup>Calcium hydroxide. <sup>i</sup>Platelet rich fibrin. <sup>l</sup>Guided tissue regeneration.

**Table 3** Summarizing of Clinical Parameters, Treatment Protocols and Healing Data of Case Studies with Primary Endodontic Diseases

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>b</sup>	PD <sup>c</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Aksel and Serper, 2014 <sup>16</sup>	Healthy	21	#36	Primary endodontic diseases	Negative	Bone resorption in periapical and furcal area	Increased values	Grade II	Grade II	No	RCT <sup>d</sup> with intracanal medicament CH <sup>e</sup> for 2 weeks between appointments. No SRP <sup>f</sup> or regenerative surgery	1 year recall radiograph showing complete healing
	Healthy	45	#46	Primary endodontic diseases	Negative	Baseline RVG showed increased bone lesion in the furcation	Increased values	Not reported	Involved	No	RCT with intracanal medicament CH for 2 weeks between appointments. No SRP or regenerative surgery	1 year RVG showed the repair of lesion

Notes: <sup>a</sup>According to Rotstein and Simon's<sup>4</sup> classification. <sup>b</sup>Radiovisiography. <sup>c</sup>Periodontal pocket depth. <sup>d</sup>Root canal treatment. <sup>e</sup>Calcium hydroxide. <sup>f</sup>Scaling and root planing.

**Table 4** Summarizing of Clinical Parameter, Treatment, and Healing Data of a Case with True Combined Lesion

Authors, Year	Systemic Disease	Age	Tooth	Endo-Perio Lesion Type <sup>a</sup>	Vitality Test	Baseline RVG <sup>b</sup>	PD <sup>c</sup>	Tooth Mobility	Furcation Involvement	Splinting	Treatment	Healing
Al Attas et al, 2017 <sup>60</sup>	Not reported	31	#36	True combined lesion (generalized aggressive periodontitis)	Tooth has filled root canals	Apical radiolucency and resorption of interdental septum distally from the tooth	6 mm	Grade I	Grade I	No	SRP <sup>d</sup> , systemic antibiotics Augmentin 1 gm twice/day and Metronidazole 500 mg 3 times/day for 2 weeks. RCT <sup>e</sup> , mesial root resection, periodontal regenerative surgery	6-month RVG showed complete healing of the mesial root lesion and a significant reduction of the distal root lesion, and healing of interdental bone, 12-month RVG showed further improvement

Notes: <sup>a</sup>According to Rotstein and Simons's<sup>4</sup> classification. <sup>b</sup>Radiovisiography. <sup>c</sup>Periodontal pocket depth. <sup>d</sup>Scaling and root planing. <sup>e</sup>Root canal treatment.

molars were in patients with aggressive periodontitis and were evaluated separately.<sup>10,41</sup> One maxillary molar in a healthy patient was treated with SRP, endodontic treatment, root resection, and periodontal regenerative surgery.<sup>35</sup> In this case, a 6-month follow-up RVG showed decreased radiolucent areas, and a 12-month RVG follow-up demonstrated complete healing. One mandible molar did not undergo regeneration surgery and showed complete healing at 6-month follow-up RVG.<sup>16</sup> Although the small number of observed cases does not allow definitive conclusions, endo-perio lesions in the mandible seem to heal faster than those in the maxilla. This preliminary assumption was confirmed by Kotze et al,<sup>47</sup> who reported a 106% higher rate of bone regeneration in the mandible compared with the maxilla. Further clinical trials are needed to prove faster regeneration rates in mandible endo-perio lesions compared with the maxilla.

Four single-rooted teeth had endo-perio lesions because of palatal radicular grooves. These cases<sup>42–45</sup> were evaluated separately because of specific local predisposing factors. One case with PPSE in a single-rooted tooth in a diabetic patient had been previously described.<sup>31</sup> The other seven single-rooted teeth with PPSE<sup>35,46</sup> underwent endodontic treatment, SRP, and periodontal regenerative surgery. They showed complete healing and stability over long-term periods (1–17 years). Regenerative surgery seems to contribute to the stability of long-term outcomes for the treatment of PPSE lesions.

While there was no periodontal regenerative surgery in the present PPSE case, complete healing of the endodontic lesion and normalization of the probing depth was achieved after 6 months. This result was confirmed by Hirsch et al,<sup>48</sup> concluding that the success rate of endo-perio lesions without concomitant regenerative procedures has been reported in 27–37% of cases.

In the PPSE lesion group, four single-rooted teeth were splinted<sup>35,46</sup> (the diabetic patient was not counted) and two were not,<sup>35,42</sup> over long-term periods, they had comparable results. In the present case, splinting was done before endodontic treatment, which contributed to the complete healing of the lesion in 6 months. These cases provided inconclusive information regarding the influence of splinting on tooth prognosis. This influence was also controversial in the literature. Bernal et al<sup>49</sup> reported that splinting may not only improve the prognosis of teeth but also restore patient comfort. Graetz et al<sup>50</sup> reported that splinting did not improve the prognosis of periodontally affected teeth. The immediate splinting of mobile single-rooted

teeth with PPSE lesions seems to lead to favorable outcomes by decreasing tooth mobility and improving patient comfort.

In patients with PPSE lesions with palatal radicular grooves,<sup>42–45</sup> the mean age was 26.5 years (minimum 19 and maximum 35). The mean age of patients with PPSE without radicular grooves was 48 years (minimum 40 and maximum 60),<sup>10,–16,–35,–39–46</sup> considering patients with aggressive periodontitis<sup>10,41</sup> were not counted. Thus, palatal radicular grooves are predisposing factors that provoke faster formation of endo-perio lesions and lead to endodontic therapy of intact teeth because of retrograde infections. Evaluating the probing depth in the palatal radicular groove area in each case is recommended, and, if the PD is increased, radiculoplasty might be necessary to prevent retrograde infections and endodontic treatment of intact teeth.

Two cases with palatal radicular grooves<sup>42,44</sup> had comparable baseline parameters and underwent endodontic therapy, SRP, and periodontal regenerative surgery. One<sup>44</sup> showed complete healing at a 6-month follow-up, and the other<sup>42</sup> demonstrated reduced radiolucency at a 1-year follow-up. Two cases without regenerative surgery<sup>43,45</sup> showed reduced radiolucency at 6-month and 1-year RVG follow-ups. Such different healing periods regardless of treatment protocol may be explained by the individual periods of endodontic healing, which may take up to 4 years,<sup>51</sup> and even later long-term healing has been reported.<sup>52</sup> In the past, a long palatal radicular in combination with a periapical lesion often resulted in extraction of the tooth. With accurate assessment of the etiology of the defect, patient education, and a multidisciplinary approach, teeth with a palatal radicular may be retained with a stable outcome for years.<sup>53,54</sup>

Many studies indicated that combined endodontic and periodontal therapy is required for successful healing of endo-perio lesions.<sup>55,56</sup> Schilder<sup>57</sup> postulated that either endodontic treatment or periodontal pathology will not produce favorable outcomes. This conclusion is controversial. While most of the analyzed cases, including the present case, received both endodontic treatment and SRP, Aksel and Serper<sup>16</sup> reported one case of a molar with grade II mobility, grade II furcation involvement, and increased probing depth; after 1 year, complete healing was achieved after endodontic treatment with no periodontal treatment. The young age (21 years) of this systemically healthy patient likely contributed to successful healing compared with older patients with similar lesions.



Although Lindaman<sup>58</sup> reported that bone healing in children is faster than in adults, there are no data regarding faster healing in young adults compared with the elderly.

When endodontic procedures and non-surgical periodontal treatment fails to heal lesions, regenerative periodontal surgery or root resection may improve outcomes.<sup>39,59</sup> This was confirmed by the case of Sharanappa et al<sup>37</sup> in a lower molar with a 10 mm probing depth and grade III furcation. At a 2-month follow-up after endodontic treatment, furcation persisted, so periodontal regenerative surgery was conducted. Six months post-operatively, a 2 mm probing depth was achieved. Aksel and Serper<sup>16</sup> reported a furcation lesion that persisted 3 months after endodontic treatment. The regenerative procedure was performed, and 2-year follow-up showed complete healing of the furcation.

There were three cases of endo-perio lesions in patients with aggressive periodontitis in the literature review.<sup>10,41,60</sup> In all cases, the first lower molars were affected. The teeth underwent regenerative periodontal surgery and bone gain was achieved in 3, 6, 9, and 24 months. In the present case, the lower right canine was affected, which was treated using both endodontic and SRP. It healed the endodontic lesion and stabilized the marginal periodontium in 6 months. Non-surgical periodontal therapy included root scaling and planing and treatment of periodontal pockets with ozone gas. No cases in the literature review were treated using ozone therapy.

Ozone may bring a positive effect for the treatment of patients with periodontal pathology, as it was proved in recent studies that ozone antimicrobial activity and good biocompatibility with periodontal cells and gingival fibroblasts,<sup>61</sup> ozone therapy significantly improves clinical parameters when applied in addition to periodontal therapy.<sup>62</sup> According to Taşdemir et al,<sup>63</sup> ozone-treated groups had higher quality-of-life due to a decrease in postoperative pain. The ozone generator which was used in the presented case is characterized by its ease of use and safety of application because of preset tissue-compatible dosages in the indication areas; it ensures a hygienic procedure during the gassing of the pockets due to its exchangeable plastic attachments.<sup>64</sup>

In patients with aggressive periodontitis, local immune mechanisms may be altered.<sup>65</sup> Ozone therapy improves rheological properties, activates cellular metabolism, and increases intracellular ATP concentrations and expression of cytokines relevant to wound healing.<sup>66</sup> Ramzy et al<sup>67</sup> reported a highly significant improvement in clinical

parameters and reduction of bacterial counts in quadrants treated by SRP together with ozone application compared to SRP alone in patients with aggressive periodontitis. Regarding the narrow periodontal pocket in the present case, it is important to mention that conventional cleaning of such pockets without surgical procedure are complicated and ozone gas application may have beneficial effects in such clinical condition.

Well-executed endodontic treatment is a key factor for treatment success. Poor endodontic treatment allows canal re-infection and leads to treatment failure.<sup>68</sup> Scientists do not stop trying to improve the effectiveness of endodontic treatment using the novel techniques, such as guided endodontics,<sup>69</sup> antimicrobial photodynamic therapy,<sup>70</sup> and polymeric nanoparticles application for reducing dentin permeability after endodontic.<sup>71</sup>

Bacterial infections in endo-perio lesions seem to be more complicated because endodontic and periodontal pathogens may communicate through the different pathways present.<sup>72,73</sup> According to Zehnder,<sup>74</sup> bacteria found within root canals were present in the periodontal pocket of a tooth with endodontic problems caused by aggressive periodontal disease. In another study, *Bacillus pumilus* occurred in root canal systems and periodontal pockets, resulting in severe marginal periodontitis.<sup>75</sup> Ozone is known as an agent with antibacterial effects that damage cell membranes.<sup>76</sup> When ozone gas was combined with 2.5% sodium hypochlorite, and 2% chlorhexidine, the number of colonies of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria decreased,<sup>77</sup> thus it is reasonable to use ozone gas in complicated cases.

Due to the variety of microbiota and increasing number of resistant strains,<sup>78</sup> additional disinfection of root canal systems with ozone may be beneficial for patients with endo-perio lesions. From the authors clinical experience, ozone has a further positive effect that is an improvement in drying of the root canal, though further studies are necessary to prove this effect.

None of the reviewed cases utilized ozone therapy to treat endo-perio lesions. In the present case, ozone gas was added to the conventional root canal disinfection protocol for additional antibacterial effects. The efficacy of root canal disinfection was proved by the significant reduction in periapical radiolucency and beginning of bone reorganization on the lateral root surface by the complete healing at a 6-month follow-up RVG. Thus, ozone therapy may improve outcomes when treating PPSE lesions with

narrow periodontal pockets that are difficult to access for conventional treatment without a surgical procedure.

Teeth with poor prognoses can be retained by maintaining good oral hygiene and patient compliance.<sup>79</sup> In the present case, the patient was highly motivated to save the tooth, visited the dental hygienist regularly, and was compliant to recommended oral hygiene instructions.

Endo-perio lesions are challenging problems faced by clinicians, and, although they are relatively rare in clinical practice, they can severely compromise the tooth prognosis. They require multidisciplinary diagnosis and treatment. Regardless of the treatment protocol used, cooperation between the endodontist and periodontist is essential to treat and monitor lesion healing.

## Conclusion

Using an interdisciplinary approach to treat endo-perio lesions provides favorable clinical outcomes, and proper patient oral hygiene contributes to the long-term prognosis. Additional options for root canal and periodontal pocket disinfection such as ozone gas can assist with successful outcomes of treatment endo-perio lesions with narrow periodontal pockets in patients with aggressive periodontitis and poor prognosis.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest for this work.

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