

## Incidence of C Shaped Canal In Mandibular Second Molar – A Cbct Study

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to evaluate the prevalence of C-shaped root canals in mandibular second molars using cone beam computed tomography. In endodontics, root canal treatment of a tooth requires proper knowledge of the variable anatomy of the root canal. One such anatomic variation is the C-shaped root canal system which is commonly seen in mandibular second molars. Cone beam computed tomography is used to analyse the presence of C shaped canals in the mandibular second molar. A total of 50 cone beam computed tomography scans of both the arches were obtained from the radiology lab of Saveetha dental college and 100 mandibular second molars were assessed. The data was tabulated and assessed for statistical significance using the SPSS software. The Incidence of C shaped canals in mandibular second molars was found to be 3.0%. Incidence of C-shaped canals was more in tooth number 37 (2.0%) than in tooth number 47 (1.0%). This was found to be statistically not significant according to chi square test ( $p=0.558$ , statistically not significant). Recognition of a C-shaped canal prior to root canal treatment is very important in order to prevent any complications during root canal treatment.

**KEY WORDS:** C-SHAPED CANAL; CONE BEAM COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY; MANDIBULAR SECOND MOLARS.

### INTRODUCTION

In endodontics, root canal treatment of a tooth requires proper knowledge of the variable anatomy of the root canal. One such anatomic variation is the C-shaped root canal system which is commonly seen in mandibular second molars but have also been observed in mandibular premolars, maxillary first molars, and maxillary and mandibular third molars (Baisden et al., 1992; Demirbuga

et al., 2013; Yu et al., 2012). Roots with C-shaped canals have a square or conical configuration (de Azevedo et al., 2019; Jerome, 1994; Manning, 1990).

C shaped canals have been found to have a high prevalence in mandibular second molars (Weine et al., 1988). Various research is conducted to determine the incidence of C shaped canals in mandibular second molars. The incidence of C shaped canals can differ in different populations. Higher incidence of C-shaped anatomy were seen in Lebanese population compared to the other West Asian population groups (Al-Fouzan, 2002; Al-Qudah and Awawdeh, 2009; Haddad et al., 1999; Rahimi et al., 2008). The complex nature of the canal configuration proves to be a challenge with respect to obturation and possibly the prognosis during root canal therapy (Chai and Thong, 2004; Melton et al., 1991). Recognition of a C-shaped canal before treatment can be very effective in management, which will prevent

### ARTICLE INFORMATION

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irreparable damage to the tooth (de Azevedo et al., 2019; Weine, 1998).

Ever since the identification of the C-shaped canal anatomy, various causes have been postulated to explain its formation, one of the most accepted theories is failure of fusion of Hertwig's epithelial sheath for the formation of the C-shaped canal configuration (Orban and Mueller, 1929). The irregular fusion of the Hertwig's epithelial sheath may be due to trauma, such as radiation or chemical interference, but it is more likely to be of genetic origin (Fischischweiger and Clausnitzer, 1988; Manning, 1990). Intra oral periapical radiographs basically do not give an accurate image of the presence or absence of such complex morphology due to superimposition of adjacent anatomic structures. So, in most cases cone beam computed tomography is used to analyse the presence of C shaped canals in the mandibular second molar. C shaped canals can be of different types.

We have numerous highly cited publications on well designed clinical trials and lab studies (Azeem and Sureshbabu, 2018; Govindaraju et al., 2017; Janani and Sandhya, 2019; Jenarthanan and Subbarao, 2018; Khandelwal and Palanivelu, 2019; Malli Sureshbabu et al., 2019; Manohar and Sharma, 2018; Nandakumar and Nasim, 2018; Poorni et al., 2019; Rajakeerthi and Ms, 2019; Rajendran et al., 2019; Ramarao and Sathyanarayanan, 2019; Siddique, Nivedhitha, et al., 2019; Siddique, Sureshbabu, et al., 2019; Siddique and Nivedhitha, 2019; Teja et al., 2018). This has provided the right platforms for us to pursue the current study. Our aim is to evaluate the incidence of C-shaped root canals in the mandibular second molar using cone beam computed tomography.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 50 cone beam computed tomography scans of both the arches were obtained from the radiology lab of Saveetha dental college and 100 mandibular second molars were assessed for presence of C shaped canals. Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) scans were considered because Intra oral periapical (IOPA) radiographs do not give an accurate image of the presence or absence of such morphology due to superimposition of adjacent anatomic structures. The data was tabulated and assessed for statistical significance using the SPSS software 20.0. Descriptive statistics and comparison of variables were done. Chi square test was used to detect the significance between tooth number and presence or absence of C shaped canals where P value less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

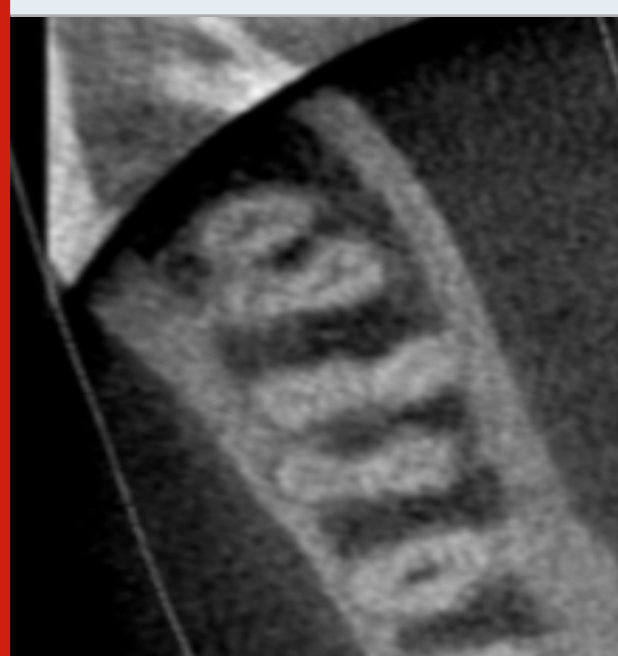
C-shaped root canals are an important variation seen in routine endodontic practice. The crown morphology of teeth does not show special features that can help in the diagnosis of teeth with C-shaped canal. The clinical recognition of C-shaped canals is mainly based on the

anatomy of the floor of the pulp chamber (Xu et al., 1996).

Figure 1: CBCT image showing C shaped canal in 37.



Figure 2: CBCT image showing C shaped canal in 37.



CBCT helps to prevent problems of overlap which is common in two dimensional views (Bóveda et al., 1999; Sour et al., 2012). Thus, it acts as an important diagnostic aid in detecting C shaped canals. CBCT helps in better understanding of the anatomy of the root canal (Matherne et al., 2008), aids in root canal preparation (Estrela et al., 2008) and vertical fracture detection (Hassan et al., 2009). During root canal treatment in the

mandibular second molar with C shaped canals use of an apex locator helps to prevent furcation perforation (Melton et al., 1991; Weine et al., 1988). Figures 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 shows the CBCT images depicting C shaped canal in mandibular second molars.

Figure 3: CBCT image showing C shaped canal in 47.

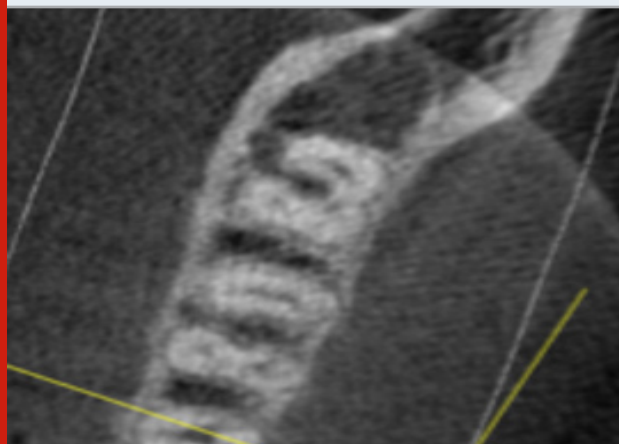
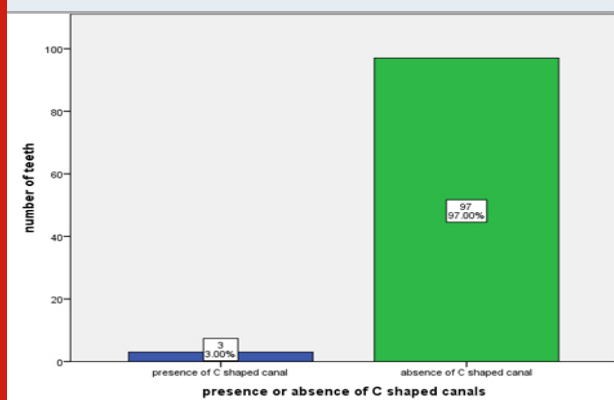


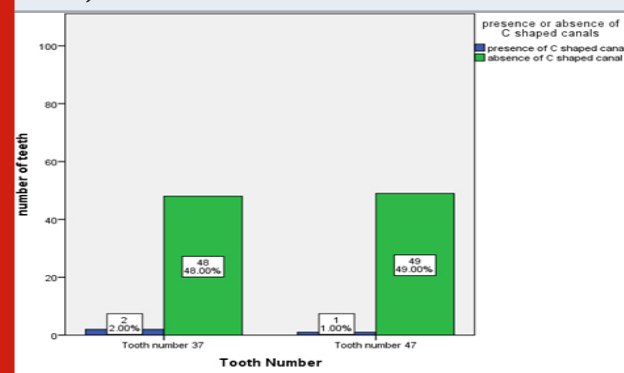
Figure 4: Bar graph depicting presence or absence of C shaped canals in mandibular second molar. X axis denotes the presence and absence of C shaped canals and Y axis denotes the number of teeth. Blue colour depicts the presence of C shaped canals (3.0%) and Green colour depicts the absence of C shaped canals (97.0%). The incidence of C shaped canals in the mandibular second molar was found to be 3%.



Only 3 out of 100 mandibular second molars have C shaped canals. Thus, the incidence of C shaped canals in the mandibular second molar was 3.0% (Figure 4). Similar evidence was seen in study by Tassoker, et al. among 444 teeth only 47 teeth had C-shaped canals, thus incidence of c shaped canals was 10.6% (Tassoker and Sener, 2018). Incidence of C shaped canals in the mandibular second molars 37 and 47 were compared and it was found that incidence of C-shaped canals were more in tooth number 37 (2.0%) than in tooth number 47 (1.0%). However this value was statistically not significant (Figure 5). According to Chi square test,  $p = 0.558$ , statistically not significant ( $p < 0.05$ , statistically significant).

Higher incidence of C-shaped canals were seen in Lebanese population (19.1%) compared to the other West Asian population groups (Al-Fouzan, 2002; Al-Qudah and Awawdeh, 2009; Haddad et al., 1999; Rahimi et al., 2008). According to a study done by Weine, C shaped canals have been found to have a high prevalence in mandibular second molars with a percentage ranging between 2.7%-45.5% (Weine et al., 1988). According to a study done by Saeed Rahimi, et al., 7.2% mandibular second molars had C-shaped canals (Rahimi et al., 2008)

Figure 5: Bar graph depicts the comparison of tooth number and presence or absence of C shaped canals. X axis denotes the tooth number 37 and tooth number 47 and Y axis denotes the number of teeth. Blue colour depicts the presence of C shaped canal and green colour depicts the absence of C shaped canal. Incidence of C shaped canals in tooth number 37 was 2% and incidence of C shaped canals in tooth number 47 was 1%. This was found to be statistically not significant. (Chi square test,  $P = 0.558 > 0.05$ ).



The success of a root canal treatment completely depends on the proper identification of the anatomic variations present in the teeth. The knowledge of presence of C shaped canals helps in performing root canal treatment without any complications. Thus, This study aims in finding the incidence of C-shaped root canals in mandibular second molars using cone beam computed tomography.

## CONCLUSION

According to this study there is 3.0% occurrence of C shaped canals in the mandibular second molar. Although the incidence of C shaped canals differ in different populations, diagnosing these cases at an early treatment stage provides success to endodontic treatment. CBCT must be used for diagnosis as conventional radiographic examination does not provide information about C shaped canals.

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**Conflict of Interest:** Nil

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