THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ENDODONTIC DIAGNOSIS

DR. GEORGIA NIKOLOUDAKI

Successful management of the dental patient relies on accurately identifying and managing odontogenic pain and/or pathology. Diagnosis is the first step on the road to success. Although the main diagnostic tools available to us remain unchanged for years, if performed sequentially and correctly, a fairly reliable assessment of whether and where an endodontic intervention is necessary can be obtained. This seminar will review how to acquire a comprehensive history from the patient and methodically and systematically conduct clinical and radiographic tests in order to arrive at an accurate diagnosis. The physiology of pulpal and periradicular pathosis will be detailed, which will aid in interpreting the chief complaint of the patient and the results of the various objective clinical tests. Lastly, we will review pathologies mimicking endodontic pathosis and odontogenic infection and discuss the applications of CBCT imaging in differential and definite diagnosis and its limitations.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Understand the science behind the pathophysiology of pulpal and periapical disease.
- List the steps that help in achieving an accurate endodontic diagnosis.
- Ask the patient objective questions to help in the diagnostic process.
- Describe sequentially and apply in a systematic way the objective tests available to us in clinic to arrive to a definitive diagnosis.
- Identify oral lesions and dental anomalies that may mimic odontogenic infections.
- Identify the valuable information that CBCT imaging modality can provide in endodontic diagnosis.

CLINICIAN

GEORGIA NIKOLOUDAKI, DDS, MSC, FRCD(C), is a full-time assistant professor and Chair of the division of Endodontics at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University. Dr. Nikoloudaki obtained her Doctor of Dental Surgery and Master's Degrees in Dentistry with a specialization in Endodontics from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Greece. She then pursued her PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry at Western University where her research focused on wound healing mechanisms in the mouth. She is a board-certified Endodontist in Canada and Fellow of The Royal College of Dentists of Canada, and maintains part-time private practice limited to Endodontics at a dental specialty clinic in London, ON.

Dr. Nikoloudaki has been heavily involved in teaching dental students at Schulich Dentistry since 2015. She strives to contribute to high-quality research in the field of dentistry and to continue building on the current didactic and clinical Endodontics for future dentists. As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Nikoloudaki aims to not only share knowledge with her students, but also generate new knowledge to provide the highest quality of care for her patients and the advancement of the field of Endodontics. She has numerous scientific publications in peer reviewed journals and is supervising dental

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