

# Practicing Minimal Endodontics

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## HISTORY

A twenty-three year old male was presented for endodontic treatment due to carious pulp exposure. The patient's medical history was non-contributory.

## DIAGNOSIS

Clinical examination revealed that the mandibular right second molar (#31), had a large carious lesion on the disto-occlusal aspect of the tooth which was exposing the pulp. Radiographic images confirmed the presence of a large carious lesion invading the pulp space. The periradicular tissue appeared to be normal. Based on the clinical and radiographic findings, the tooth was diagnosed with irreversible pulpitis with normal periradicular tissue. The subject tooth before root canal treatment with the GentleWave® System is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Before GentleWave® RCT



Figure 2. After GentleWave® RCT

## TREATMENT

The tooth was isolated with a rubber dam. The caries was removed and the defect was restored with a resin modified glass ionomer. The tooth was accessed conservatively, and instrumented to apical size #15 with taper .04. The root canal system was cleaned and disinfected using the GentleWave System. Obturation was performed using warm vertical compaction and a resin based root canal sealer. The subject tooth is shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3 after the GentleWave treatment and obturation. As shown in Figure 3, notice that the lateral canal was filled in the middle of the distal canal.

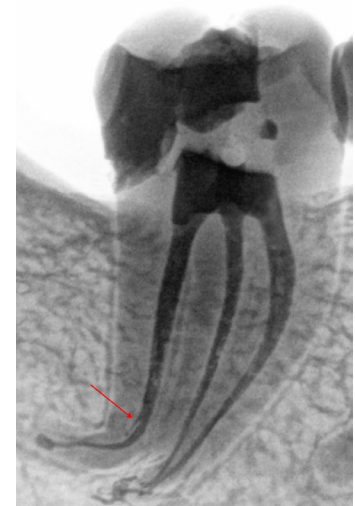


Figure 3. After GentleWave® RCT: inverted grayscale radiograph. The red arrow points to a filled lateral canal.