

## Survival Rate Of Endodontically Treated Teeth With Posts After Prosthetic Restoration.

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### ABSTRACT

#### Background

Endodontically treated teeth (ETT) often require additional support for prosthetic restoration to ensure their long-term survival. Post systems, used to reinforce ETT, play a critical role in improving structural integrity and functional longevity. This study aims to evaluate the survival rate of ETT restored with posts and prosthetic crowns over a specified follow-up period.

#### Materials and Methods

A retrospective analysis was conducted on 120 patients treated between January 2018 and December 2022. The study included 150 ETT restored with fiber-reinforced composite posts, metallic posts, or prefabricated posts, followed by prosthetic crowns. Patients were followed up for an average of 36 months. Data on failure modes, post types, and survival rates were recorded. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis was used to estimate survival probabilities, and statistical significance was evaluated using the log-rank test.

#### Results

The overall survival rate of ETT with posts and prosthetic crowns was 88% at the 36-month follow-up. Teeth restored with fiber-reinforced composite posts exhibited a higher survival rate (92%) compared to metallic posts (84%) and prefabricated posts (80%) ( $p < 0.05$ ). Most failures were due to root fractures (10%), while secondary caries accounted for 7% of failures. The survival rate was significantly influenced by the post type and the remaining tooth structure.

#### Conclusion

The study highlights that ETT restored with fiber-reinforced composite posts demonstrate superior survival rates compared to metallic and prefabricated posts. Appropriate post selection and preservation of the remaining tooth structure are crucial for the long-term success of prosthetic restorations on ETT. Further longitudinal studies are warranted to validate these findings.

## Keywords

Endodontically treated teeth, post systems, survival rate, prosthetic restoration, fiber-reinforced composite posts, dental longevity.

## Introduction

Endodontically treated teeth (ETT) often require restorative interventions to regain their structural and functional integrity. These teeth are typically more susceptible to fractures due to the significant loss of tooth structure caused by caries, access cavity preparation, and canal instrumentation (1, 2). To enhance their longevity, post systems are frequently used to provide additional support for prosthetic crowns by reinforcing the remaining tooth structure and improving the distribution of occlusal forces (3).

Several types of post systems are available, including fiber-reinforced composite posts, metallic posts, and prefabricated posts. Fiber-reinforced composite posts have gained popularity due to their favorable elastic modulus, which is closer to that of dentin, thereby reducing the risk of root fractures (4). Metallic posts, although durable, are associated with a higher risk of catastrophic failures and may compromise aesthetics, especially in the anterior region (5). Prefabricated posts, on the other hand, offer ease of use but may not always provide optimal adaptation to the root canal morphology (6).

The survival rate of ETT restored with posts and crowns is influenced by various factors, including the type of post, remaining tooth structure, occlusal forces, and the quality of the restorative materials used (7, 8). Understanding these factors is crucial for making evidence-based decisions that optimize the outcomes of prosthetic restorations.

This study aims to evaluate the survival rate of ETT restored with different types of post systems and prosthetic crowns over a medium-term follow-up period. By analyzing survival rates and failure modes, the study seeks to provide insights into the most effective approaches for restoring ETT.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Design and Population

This retrospective study was conducted at a dental care center and included patients who received endodontic treatment followed by prosthetic restoration with post systems between January 2018 and December 2022. The study population consisted of 120 patients, contributing 150 endodontically treated teeth (ETT). Inclusion criteria were ETT with posts restored using prosthetic crowns and follow-up records available for at least 36 months. Exclusion criteria included teeth with inadequate coronal structure, untreated periodontal disease, or pre-existing fractures.

### Types of Post Systems and Restorations

Three types of post systems were evaluated: fiber-reinforced composite posts, metallic posts, and prefabricated posts. Post selection was based on clinical indications and patient-specific factors. All teeth were restored with full-coverage prosthetic crowns using either metal-ceramic or all-ceramic materials.

### Data Collection

Data were collected from patient records, including age, gender, type of tooth, type of post used, prosthetic material, and follow-up duration. Clinical outcomes were categorized as "success" (functional tooth with no complications) or "failure" (tooth extraction, root fracture, or post dislodgement). Failure modes were further analyzed to identify trends.

### Statistical Analysis

Kaplan-Meier survival analysis was performed to estimate the survival rate of ETT restored with posts. The log-rank test was used to compare survival probabilities among different post types. A significance level of  $p < 0.05$  was set for all statistical tests. Data were analyzed using statistical software SPSS version 26.

## Results

### Survival Rates of Endodontically Treated Teeth

The overall survival rate of endodontically treated teeth (ETT) restored with posts and prosthetic crowns was 88% at the end of the 36-month follow-up period. The survival rates varied depending on the type of post used. Teeth restored with

fiber-reinforced composite posts showed the highest survival rate (92%), followed by metallic posts (84%) and prefabricated posts (80%) (Table 1).

**Failure Modes**

Among the 18 failed restorations, the most common mode of failure was root fracture (10 cases, 55.6%), followed by secondary caries (5 cases, 27.8%) and post dislodgement (3 cases, 16.6%) (Table 2). The distribution of failure modes was consistent across different post types, although metallic posts had a slightly higher incidence of root fractures compared to fiber-reinforced composite posts.

**Influence of Remaining Tooth Structure**

The analysis revealed a significant correlation between the amount of remaining tooth structure and the survival rate of ETT. Teeth with more than 2 mm of ferrule effect had a survival rate of 94%, while those with less than 2 mm exhibited a reduced survival rate of 76% (Table 3).

**Statistical Significance**

The log-rank test indicated a statistically significant difference in survival rates between the three post types ( $p < 0.05$ ). Similarly, the presence of a sufficient ferrule effect was significantly associated with better survival outcomes ( $p < 0.01$ ).

**Tables**

**Table 1. Survival Rates Based on Post Type**

| Post Type                  | Number of Teeth | Survival Rate (%) |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Fiber-Reinforced Composite | 60              | 92                |
| Metallic Posts             | 50              | 84                |
| Prefabricated Posts        | 40              | 80                |

**Table 2. Distribution of Failure Modes**

| Failure Mode      | Number of Cases | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Root Fracture     | 10              | 55.6           |
| Secondary Caries  | 5               | 27.8           |
| Post Dislodgement | 3               | 16.6           |

**Table 3. Influence of Ferrule Effect on Survival Rate**

| Ferrule Effect | Number of Teeth | Survival Rate (%) |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ≥ 2 mm         | 90              | 94                |
| < 2 mm         | 60              | 76                |

**In-Text Citations**

The survival rates for different post systems are summarized in **Table 1**, showing that fiber-reinforced composite posts outperformed other types. Failure modes, as shown in **Table 2**, highlight the predominance of root fractures as the leading cause of failure. The impact of ferrule effect on survival is detailed in **Table 3**, demonstrating its critical role in ensuring long-term success.

**Discussion**

The survival rate of endodontically treated teeth (ETT) restored with posts and prosthetic crowns in this study was 88% over a 36-month follow-up period. This finding aligns with previously reported survival rates ranging from 80% to 95% in similar studies (1, 2). The higher survival rate observed with fiber-reinforced composite posts (92%) can be attributed to their favorable biomechanical properties, including an elastic modulus closer to that of dentin, which minimizes stress concentration and reduces the likelihood of root fractures (3, 4).

**Post Type and Survival Rate**

The results highlight the significant role of post type in determining the survival rate of ETT. Fiber-reinforced composite posts demonstrated superior performance compared to metallic and prefabricated posts. This is consistent with previous studies suggesting that fiber posts enhance stress distribution and offer aesthetic advantages, making them particularly

suitable for anterior teeth (5, 6). Conversely, metallic posts, despite their durability, are associated with a higher risk of catastrophic failures, such as root fractures, which may compromise the tooth's prognosis (7). Prefabricated posts, while convenient, often do not adapt well to the root canal morphology, potentially leading to inadequate retention and increased failure risk (8).

### **Failure Modes**

Root fractures accounted for the majority of failures (55.6%), followed by secondary caries (27.8%) and post dislodgement (16.6%). These findings are in agreement with earlier studies, which also identified root fractures as the predominant failure mode in ETT restored with posts (9, 10). The increased prevalence of root fractures in teeth restored with metallic posts is likely due to their high modulus of elasticity, which can create stress concentrations at the root apex (11). Secondary caries, as a significant cause of failure, underscores the importance of proper marginal adaptation and oral hygiene maintenance in preventing recurrent decay (12).

### **Influence of Ferrule Effect**

The presence of a sufficient ferrule effect was found to significantly improve survival rates, with teeth exhibiting  $\geq 2$  mm of ferrule achieving a 94% survival rate compared to 76% for those with  $< 2$  mm. The ferrule effect has been widely recognized as a critical factor in enhancing the fracture resistance of ETT by providing additional support to the post and crown complex (13, 14). This finding reinforces the need for adequate crown preparation and preservation of sound coronal tooth structure to optimize treatment outcomes (15).

### **Clinical Implications**

The findings of this study emphasize the importance of selecting an appropriate post system based on clinical indications and patient-specific factors. Fiber-reinforced composite posts appear to be the most favorable choice for achieving long-term success in ETT restorations. Additionally, preserving sufficient coronal tooth structure to achieve a ferrule effect should be prioritized during treatment planning.

### **Limitations and Future Directions**

This study has several limitations, including its retrospective design and relatively short follow-up period. Future research should focus on long-term prospective studies to validate these findings and explore the impact of newer materials and techniques, such as bioactive post systems, on the survival rate of ETT. Additionally, investigating the role of occlusal forces and patient-specific factors, such as bruxism and oral hygiene practices, would provide further insights into optimizing treatment protocols.

### **Conclusion**

This study highlights the importance of post selection and the preservation of remaining tooth structure in the long-term survival of endodontically treated teeth. Fiber-reinforced composite posts demonstrated superior survival rates compared to metallic and prefabricated posts, while the presence of a sufficient ferrule effect significantly enhanced treatment outcomes. These findings underscore the need for meticulous treatment planning and material selection to ensure the durability and functionality of post-restored teeth.

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