Introduction

Endodontic treatment may lead to the development of inflammatory periradicular lesions; therefore, it is not always successful. In most cases, the microorganisms surviving through the endodontic treatment procedures can penetrate into the root canal via coronal leakage, thus inducing treatment failures. Therefore, a non-surgical endodontic retreatment is required to restore health to the periapical tissues in such cases. Various techniques, including application by hand, as well as rotary and ultrasonic instruments, are employed to eliminate root canal filling materials. Sof-
tening of gutta-percha by heat or solvents can facilitate the mentioned steps. The bond strength between root canal filling materials and root canal wall dentin may be influenced by the endodontic retreatment steps. Dentin surface chemical composition can be changed by root canal wall dentin exposure to some solvents, such as chloroform, during retreatment. The strength of C&B Meta bond to root canal dentin was shown by Eldemir et al to be deleteriously affected by chloroform.

Biologic MTA-based sealers were developed since no endodontic sealers were available with ideal properties. MTA Fillapex (Angelus, Londrina, PR, Brazil), composed of MTA, silica nanoparticles, silicate resin, natural resin, bismuth oxide and pigments, came to be applied as a new silicate-based sealer. Good physicochemical properties of this sealer have been found by recent studies, which include proper radiopacity and setting time, alkaline pH, high flow rate, and low solubility and absorption of water. As shown in previous studies, AH Plus epoxy resin sealer has many advantages compared to other materials, providing a gold standard for evaluation of endodontic sealers in terms of resistance to dislodgment. As compared to AH-plus sealer, MTA Fillapex sealer showed proper resistance to dislodgment in the root canal based on the push-out test results of a study conducted by Assman et al.

Further studies are required to investigate the adhesive properties of MTA-based materials as they are increasingly used in endodontic treatments. However, only a few studies have been so far aimed at the possibility of endodontic retreatment by MTA Fillapex sealers, without an evaluation of their effects on the push-out bond strength using new techniques. Thus, the current study aimed to assess the effects of endodontic retreatment on the push-out bond strengths of MTA Fillapex and AH Plus sealers.

Methods
A total of 80 single-rooted teeth of mandibular premolars with similar morphologies were selected. A standard root length of 14 mm was achieved by removing the toothcrown. To ensure the root canal patency and determine the working length, a #10K file (Mani Inc., Tochigi Ken, Japan) was placed in each root canal. The working length was measured at 1 mm shorter than the file length as soon as its tip was visible at the apical foramen. Then, to standardize the apical foramen, a #20K file was applied. Using the crown-down technique, preparation of the root canals was carried out with ProTaper rotary files (Dentsply, Maillefer, Ballaigues, Switzerland). In the cervical area, canal shaping was carried out with S1 and Sx files, followed by S2 file in the middle area and the finishing files F1, F2 and F3 in the apical area up to the working length. After each instrument, the root canals were irrigated with 5 mL of 2.5% NaOCl. After applying 10 mL of normal saline solution, 17% EDTA was used to flush the root canals for 1 min following the completion of cleaning and shaping steps. Paper points (Dentsply, Maillefer) were applied to dry the root canals, which were to be obturated. Based on the sealer type applied, 2 groups of 40 samples were randomly prepared:

- **Group A:** MTA Fillapex (Angelus Industria de ProductosOdontologicos Ltda, Londrina, Brazil)
- **Group B:** AH Plus (De Trey, Dentsply, Konstanz, Germany)

Using a lateral compaction technique, the root canals were obturated with gutta-percha and sealer in both groups. Then, to help the sealers completely set, the teeth were incubated at 37°C and 100% relative humidity for 2 weeks. At this stage, 2 subgroups of 20 samples were randomly assigned out of each group. The samples of subgroups A1 and B1 were prepared for the push-out test without a retreatment. However, using ProTaper Universal rotary retreatment files and chloroform as a solvent, the root canals of subgroups A2 and B2 underwent retreatment. Using a #2 Gates-Glidden drills (MANI Inc., Tochigi, Japan), 3 mm of the coronal parts of the root canal walls was removed. Then, each root canal received an injection of 3 drops of chloroform (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). D1, D2 and D3 files were used for the evacuation of the coronal third and in the middle and apical thirds of the root canal up to the working length, respectively. F1, F2 and F3 finishing files were used for the final apical preparation. The similar irrigation and drying steps as those taken during the initial endodontic treatment were followed. Obturation of the root canals in the A2 and B2 subgroups was carried out with gutta-percha sealer with MTA Fillapex and AH Plus sealer via a lateral compaction technique, respectively. After 2 weeks of incubation at 37°C and 100% relative humidity, the samples were prepared for the push-out test.

**Push-out test**
A similar approach was taken to prepare the samples of all the subgroups for the push-out test. Using a diamond saw (SP 1600 Microtome, Leica, Nußloch, Germany) under water spray, 4 dentin disks of 2 mm thickness were made perpendicular to the root long
axis at a distance of 2 mm from the root coronal surface. To ensure the canal central positioning and homogeneous sealer layer with no bubbles, the coronal and apical surfaces of the disks were assessed. Since a plugger of 0.8 mm was used in this study, only samples with a canal diameter of 0.88±0.02 mm were selected for the push-out test after being measured with a digital caliper.

A digital caliper and special marker were used to measure the coronal and apical diameters and mark the apical area of the disk samples selected for the push-out test, respectively. Then, using a cylindrical stainless steel plugger of 0.8-mm diameter and a universal testing machine (Hounsfield test equipment, Model HS-K-S, Surrey, England), a dislodging force was applied to the root canal filling material in an apico-coronal direction at a crosshead speed of 0.5 mm/min. The maximum force was converted to MPa after the dislodging force was measured in Newton by the following formula:

\[ \text{Push-out bond strength (MPa)} = \text{Maximum load (N)} / \text{Adhesion (mm}^2) \]

Calculation of the adhesion area was carried out through the following formula: \[ \pi(R+r)^2 \] \[ - (R-r)^2] \[ h^3 \] where \( \pi = 3.14 \) and \( R, r, \) and \( h \) indicate the coronal and apical radii and slice thickness, respectively.

To determine the effects of independent material variables (MTA Fillapex and AH Plus sealers), treatment type (retreatment or no retreatment), and the interaction between them on the push-out bond strength, two-way ANOVA was used to analyze the data. Statistical significance was set at \( P<0.05 \).

Results

The mean values of the push-out bond strength for the study groups are shown in Table 1. Regardless of the treatment type (\( P<0.001 \)), a significant difference was found between MTA Fillapex and AH Plus sealers based on the mean bond strength values obtained via two-way ANOVA. Compared to MTA Fillapex sealer, AH Plus sealer represented a higher bond strength. However, no significant differences were observed between the bond strength means relevant to the treatment type regardless of the sealer type (\( P=0.3 \)). Moreover, no significant interaction was seen between the treatment and sealer types (\( P=0.5 \); Figure 1).

Discussion

The bond strength between dentin and the materials plays an important role in the success of endodontic procedures. To prevent sealer dislodgement under the mechanical stresses caused by operative procedures, tooth flexure, and post space preparation, sealer–dentin adhesion is necessary under dynamic conditions. In this research, higher push-out bond strength was achieved with AH Plus compared to MTA Fillapex sealer. Nevertheless, higher push-out bond strength with AH Plus epoxy resin sealer has been reported by some previous studies. The higher values of bond strength associated with epoxy resin sealers have been ascribed to the coherent bond between epoxide (open circle) and the exposed amino groups in collagen, low polymerization stress, and long-term dimensional stability.

The bonding behaviors of MTA-based sealers can be affected by their chemical compositions. Resistance of MTA against dislodgement is promoted by its biomimeralization capacity. However, due to the presence of resin components in MTA Fillapex sealer structure and decreased adhesion of apatite tag-like structures, a reduced bond strength to dentin will be achieved. Their sealing and adhesion properties might be influenced by their solubility as well. According to the results obtained by Borges et al., the bond strength differences of MTA Fillapex and AH Plus sealers can be attributed to the much higher solubility of MTA Fillapex sealer.

Based on the results of the present research, no significant effects on the push-out bond strengths of MTA Fillapex and AH Plus sealers are exerted by retreatment with rotary files and a solvent. As shown by a large number of previous studies, the time required for retreatment is reduced by a solvent since it can facilitate the penetration of rotary files into gutta-percha by plasticizing it and as evidenced by Carpenter et al., application of chloroform as a solvent with MTA Fillapex retreatment would lead to the re-achievement of apical patency in 100% of cases and thus, it was used as the solvent in the present study. Nonetheless, some studies have shown the detrimental effects of using a solvent on the bond strength of root canal filling materials. In this regard, the negative effects of solvents on the bond strengths of AH Plus and Epiphany resin sealers were demonstrated in a study by Nasim et al. Also,

Table 1. Push-out bond strength values (means ± standard deviations) for different groups

| Group          | Type of treatment | Total     |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
|                | Without retreatment | With retreatment | Total |
| Group A: MTA Fillapex | 1.54(±1.1)            | 0.9(±1)            | 1.2(±1.1)         |
| Group B: AH Plus    | 4(±2.5)                | 3.9(±1.3)           | 4(±2)            |
a significantly reduced bond strength of the filling material was discovered, resulting from the use of chloroform for Resilon/Epiphany SE retreatment by Shokouhinejad et al.\cite{31} These differences might be explained by differences in methodologies, the amount of solvent used and the duration of contact between the solvent and dentin in the present and previous studies. For instance, Shokouhinejad et al performed chemical flushing with a higher amount of chloroform and wicking procedure on each tooth 3 times. In this investigation, only one solvent, i.e. chloroform, was assessed for its effects on the bond strengths of the sealers during retreatment and thus, further research should be carried out on the effects of various solvents with different volumes on the bond strengths of various sealers under diverse retreatment techniques.

### Conclusion

AHPlus sealer exhibited a higher bond strength compared to MTA Fillapex. Retreatment using rotary files and chloroform had no statistically significant effect on the bond strength of sealers evaluated in this study.

### Acknowledgments

The authors would like to appreciate the Dental and Periodontal Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, for the financial and technical support of this research project.

### Authors’ contributions

HY and SG contributed to the concept and design, SS and SG critically revised the manuscript. MS and SS contributed to data acquisition and interpretation, and drafted the manuscript. SS and MJ performed data analysis. All the authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

### Funding

This research was carried out by financial support of the Dental and Periodontal Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences.

### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests with regards to the authorship and/or publication of this article.

### Ethics approval

This research was approved by Research Ethics Committee of Tabriz University of Medical Sciences in 2014.

### References

1. Saunders WP, Saunders EM. Coronal leakage as a cause of failure in root-canal therapy: a review. *Endod Dent Traumatol* 1994; 10:105–8. DOI: 10.1111/j.1600-9657.1994.tb00533.x
2. Voet KC, Wu MK, Wesselink PR, Shemesh H. Removal of Gutta-percha from Root Canals Using the self-Adjusting File. *J Endod* 2012;38:1004–6. DOI: 10.1016/j.joen.2012.03.003
3. Stabholz A, Friedman S. Endodontic retreatment—case selection and technique. Part 2: treatment planning for retreatment. *J Endod* 1998;14:607–14. DOI: 10.1016/S0099-2399(88)80058-X
4. Wilcox LR, Krell KV, Madison S, Rittman B. Endodontic retreatment: evaluation of gutta-percha and sealer removal and canal reinstrumentation. *J Endod* 1987; 13:453–7. DOI:10.1016/S0099-2399(87)80064-X
5. Kaufman D, Mor C, Stabholz A, Rotstein I. Effect of gutta-percha solvents on calcium and phosphorus levels of cut human dentin. *J Endod* 1997;23:614–5.
6. Erdemir A, Eldeniz AU, Belli S, Pashley DH. Effect of solvents on bonding to root canal dentin. *J Endod* 2004;30:589–92. DOI: 10.1097/01.DON.0000121613.52816.03

---

**Figure 1.** Graphic representation of the sealer’s mean push-out bond strength with or without retreatment.
7. Assmann E, Scarparo RK, Böttcher DE, Grecca FS. Dentin bond strength of two mineral Trioxide Aggregate-based and one Epoxy Resin-based sealers. J Endod 2012;38:219-21. DOI: 10.1016/j.joen.2011.10.018
8. Silva EJ, Rosa TP, Herrera DR, Jacinto RC, Gomes BP, Zaia AA. Evaluation of cytotoxicity and physicochemical properties of calcium silicate-based endodontic sealer MTA Fillapex. J Endod 2013;39:274-7. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2012.06.030
9. Vitti RP, Prati C, Silva EJ, Sinhoreti MA, Zanchi CH, de Souza e Silva MG, et al. Physical properties of MTA Fillapexsealer. J Endod 2013;39:915-8. DOI: 10.1016/j.joen.2013.04.015
10. Orstavik D, Eriksen HM, Beyer-Olsen EM. Adhesive properties and leakage of root canal sealers in vitro. Int Endod J 1983;16:59-63. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2591.1983.tb01297.x
11. Belli S, Cobankara FK, Ozcopur B, Eliguzeloglu E, Eski-tasicooglu G. An alternative adhesive strategy to optimize bonding to root dentin. J Endod 2011;37:1427-32. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2011.06.014
12. Neelakantan P, Grota D, Sharma S. Retractability of 2 Mineral Trioxide Aggregate–based Root Canal Sealers: A Cone-beam Computed Tomography Analysis. J Endod 2013;39:893-6. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2013.04.022
13. Ferracane JL. Developing a more complete understanding of stresses produced in dental composites during polymerization. Dent Mater 2005;21:36-42. DOI:10.1016/j.dental.2004.10.004
14. Vilanova WV, Carvalho-Junior JR, Alfredo E, Sousa-Neto MD, Silva-Sousa VT, Reyes-Carmona JF, Felippe MS, Felippe WT. The biominalerization ability of mineral trioxide aggregate and Portland cement on dentin enhances the push-out strength. J Endod 2010;36:286-91. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2009.10.009
15. Rached-Junior FJ, Souza-Gabriel AE, Alfredo E, Miranda CE, Silva-Sousa VT, Sousa-Neto MD. Bond strength of Epiphany sealer prepared with resinous solvent. J Endod 2009;35:251-5. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2008.10.027
16. Saleh IM, Ruyter IE, Haapasalo MP, Orstavik D. Adhesion of endodontic sealers: scanning electron microscopy and energy dispersive spectroscopy. J Endod 2003;29:595-601. DOI:10.1097/00004770-200309000-00013
17. Ureyen Kaya B, Kececi AD, Orhan H, Belli S. Micropush- out bond strengths of gutta-percha versus thermoplastic synthetic polymer-based systems—an ex vivo study. Int Endod J 2008;41:211-8. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2591.2007.01342.x
18. Jainaen A, Palamara JE, Messer HH. Push-out bond strengths of the dentine-sealer interface with and without a main cone. Int Endod J 2007;40:882-90. DOI:10.1111/j.1365-2591.2007.01308.x
19. Vilanova WV, Carvalho-Junior JR, Alfredo E, Sousa-Neto MD, Silva-Sousa YT. Effect of intracanal irrigants on the bond strength of epoxy resin-based and methacrylate resin-based sealers to root canal walls. IntEndod J 2012;45:42-8. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2591.2011.09495.x
20. Sagens B, UstKen Y, Demirbuga S, Pala K. Push-out bond strength of two new calcium silicate-based endodontic sealers to root canal dentine. Int Endod J 2011;44:1088-9. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2591.2011.01925.x.
21. Lee KW, Williams MC, Camps JH, Pashley DH. Adhesion of endodontic sealers to dentin and gutta-percha. J Endod 2002;28:684-8. DOI:10.1097/00004770-200210000-00002
22. Fisher MA, Berzins DW, Bahlall JK. An in vitro comparison of bond strength of various obturation materials to root canal dentine using a push-out test design. J Endod 2007;33:856-8. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2007.02.011
23. Nagan E, Uyanik MO, Eymirli A, Cehreli ZC, Vallittu PK, Lassila LV, et al. Dentin moisture conditions affect the adhesion of root canal sealers. J Endod 2012;38:240-4. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2011.09.027
24. Borges RP, Sousa-Neto MD, Versiani MA, Rached-Junior FA, De-Deus G, Miranda CE, et al. Changes in the surface of four calcium silicate-containing endodontic materials and an epoxy resin-based sealer after a solubility test. Int Endod J 2012;45:419-28. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2591.2011.01992.x
25. Khalilak Z, Vatanpour M, Dadresanfar B, Moskheglousha P, Nourbakhsh H. In Vitro Comparison of Gutta-Percha Removal with H-File and ProTaper with or without Chloroform. Iran Endod J 2013;8:6-9.
26. Giuliani V, Cocchetti R, Pagavino G. Efficacy of ProTaper universal retreatment files in removing filling materials during root canal retreatment. J Endod 2008;34:1381-4. DOI: 10.1016/j.joen.2008.08.002
27. Ma J, Al-Ashaw AJ, Shen Y, Gao Y, Yang Y, Zhang C, et al. Efficacy of ProTaper universal rotary retreatment system for gutta-percha removal from oval root canals: a microcomputed tomography study. J Endod 2012;38:1516-20. DOI:10.1016/j.joen.2008.08.002
28. Ferreira JJ, Rhodes JS, Ford TR. The efficacy of gutta-percha removal using ProFiles. Int Endod J 2001;34:267-74. DOI: 10.1046/j.1365-2591.2001.00379.x
29. Carpenter MT, Sidow SJ, Lindsey KW, Chuang A, Mpherson JC. Regaining apical patency after obturation with Gutta-percha and a sealer containing Mineral Trioxide Aggregate. J Endod 2014;40:588-90. DOI: 10.1016/j.joen.2013.10.020
30. Nasim I, Neelakantan P, Subbarao CV. Effect of gutta-percha solvents on the bond strength of two resin-based sealers to root canal dentin. Acta Odontol Scand 2014;72:376-9. DOI: 10.3109/00016357.2013.841987
31. Shokouhinejad N, Sabeti MA, Hasheminasab M, Shafiei F, Shamsir M. Push-out bond strength of resilon/epiphany self-etch to intraradicular dentin after retreatment: a preliminary study. J Endod 2010;36:493-6. DOI: 10.1016/j.joen.2009.11.009

JODDD, Vol. 11, No.1 Winter 2017

Retreatment Effect on Sealer Push-out Bond Strength 47