

Endodontic Spotlight

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Introduction

After a brief hiatus, we're restarting our Endodontics Spotlight publications. I hope everyone has had a good year and is excited about the upcoming holiday season. In this issue, we have a new study that looks at the association of pulp stone with cardiovascular disease and with kidney stones. Hopefully this can provide another interesting conversation topic when a new patient asks you to tell them about their radiographs!

Almadhoon HW, Al-Kafarna M, Asla MM, Gbreel MI, Allah MADA, Almotairy N. The Association of Dental Pulp Stones to Cardiovascular and Renal Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. J Endod 2022;48:845-854.

This systematic review and meta-analysis evaluated if pulp stones (PS) were associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) or renal stones (RS). Based on their search of the literature, the authors found that PS were associated with CVD but not RS. Looking closer at the types of CVD, they found that PS was associated with coronary artery stenosis but not carotid artery stenosis. Additionally, the association of PS and CVD was noted even more strongly in patients older than 40 years old but not found in patients younger than 40 years old. In contrast, gender did not significantly affect the rate of association between PS and CVD. In addition to providing an interesting conversation topic for a new patient who asks about their radiographs, this study could help us evaluate preoperatively the likely difficulty of a proposed root canal therapy as well as help us determine if we should consider a more careful screening of a patient's medical history. *SUMMARY: This systematic review and meta-analysis found that pulp stones were associated with cardiovascular disease but not associated with renal stones.*

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