



European Society of Endodontology

Vital Pulp Treatment Awareness Campaign

**To promote the appropriate management of
deep carious lesions and the exposed pulp**



ADVOCATING MINIMALLY INVASIVE, BIOLOGICALLY-BASED THERAPIES



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Join the ESE to promote

Vital Pulp Treatment Awareness Campaign

2019



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What are vital pulp treatments (VPT)?

- **Strategies for maintaining the health of all or part of the pulp;**
- **Strategies to avoid unnecessary pulp exposure, such as indirect pulp capping, selective caries removal and stepwise excavation;**
- **Strategies for the managing the exposed pulp, such as pulp capping, partial pulpotomy and full pulpotomy.**



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Why are VPTs important?

- **Minimally invasive biologically-based treatment strategies to retain pulp tissue reduces the need for more destructive and complex endodontic therapies;**
- **Preservation of pulpal health maintains the pulp's developmental, and defensive responses as well as retaining the pulp's mechanoreceptors.**



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Is there a problem with current treatments?

- **Root canal treatment (RCT) is often technically demanding, time-consuming, and expensive;**
- **RCT is frequently associated with post-treatment endodontic disease;**
- **When the pulp is saveable, RCT could be considered overtreatment.**



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What are the benefits of VPTs?

- **VPTs take less time, are less technically demanding and less invasive than pulpectomy and root canal treatment;**
- **VPTs reduce unwanted effects such as tooth discolouration, fracture or residual periapical inflammation;**

VPTs take advantage of the regenerative capacity of the pulp.



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What can you do?

- **Pledge to promote the development of minimally invasive vital pulp treatments in Endodontics, with the aim of reducing more complex interventions, while improving cost-effectiveness and patient outcomes.**



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What the ESE is doing

Developing and coordinating a VPT awareness campaign to promote new techniques, understanding and practice of pulp preservation strategies:

- 1. Working with full member national societies of the ESE to develop local campaigns to promote VPTs by members of the dental profession, and to inform other national dental organisations, the public and media;**



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What the ESE is doing

Developing and coordinating a VPT awareness campaign to promote new techniques, understanding and practice of pulp preservation strategies:

2. **Working with dental schools in countries affiliated to the ESE to promote the education of undergraduate and postgraduate students in the management of deep caries and the exposed pulp;**



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What the ESE is doing

Developing and coordinating a VPT awareness campaign to promote new techniques, understanding and practice of pulp preservation strategies:

- 3. Working with its individual specialist, certified and guest members with the aim of promoting the use of vital pulp therapies to referring practitioners and other healthcare professionals;**



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What the ESE is doing

Developing and coordinating a VPT awareness campaign to promote new techniques, understanding and practice of pulp preservation strategies:

- 4. Running a social media campaign to promote the use of pulp preservation techniques via Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter with the aim of informing healthcare professionals, dental/medical organisations, the public, and the press/media.**



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Resources and information

The ESE has published a Position Statement on “The Management of Deep Caries and the Exposed Pulp”, see:

[ESE Position Statement on the management of deep caries and exposed pulps](#)

The ESE has also been associated with a review paper on “Deep Caries and the Exposed Pulp”, see:

[Deep caries and the exposed pulp: a review](#)



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Resources and information

The ESE recently held its 3rd Research Meeting on the subject of ,
“Deep caries and the exposed pulp” for presentation summaries, see:
[Editorial: Deep caries and the exposed pulp: current and emerging
therapeutic perspectives.](#)

For videos of all presentations made at the research day, see:
[ESE Research Meeting: Deep caries and the exposed pulp: current and
emerging therapeutic perspectives](#)



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Other resources and information

For important scientific references in VPTs, see:

- [- Nair et al. 2008. MTA v calcium hydroxide. Int Endod J. 41,128-50.](#)**
- [- Taha et al. 2017. Pulpotomy irreversible pulpitis. JOE. 43, 1417-21.](#)**
- [- Bjorndal et al. 2017. RCTs: caries management. JDR 96, 747-53.](#)**
- [- Ricucci et al. 2014. Clinical Histological Diagnoses. JOE 40, 1932-9.](#)**



Other resources and practical information

For other recent guidelines and information, see:

[- Dammaschke et al. 2019 German DZZ - Current recommendations for VPT](#)

[- Schwendicke et al. 2016. Carious tissue removal consensus. Adv Dent Res. 28, 58-67.](#)

[- Marending et al. 2016. Options for treating deep caries in permanent teeth. SDJ](#)



For National Societies

Consider the following actions:

- Appoint a “VPT champion” to lead/drive the campaign;
- Develop a comprehensive awareness campaign for the dental profession, other healthcare organisations, the public and the press;
- Ensure the campaign has valid educational messages that are simple yet effective;
- Establish what other dental societies have achieved and consider aligning your campaign and using their good practice.



For Dental Schools

Consider the following actions:

- **Work with colleagues to review current teaching and training of VPTs at both UG and PG levels;**
- **Ensure that students are aware of the benefits of a minimally invasive approach when treating deep carious lesions;**
- **Ensure that students are aware of the need to adopt new techniques and understand the limits of VPTs using appropriate cases and clinical scenarios.**



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For Dental Schools and National Societies

The future:

- Refresh your VPT campaign each year;
- Develop an audit tool to evaluate the effectiveness of your campaign, make changes and respond to educational needs when required;
- Liaise with other dental schools, medical/dental societies and patient groups and consider aligning your campaign to add value and impact.





VPT awareness campaign

For help and advice

Contact:

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