Extraction force and its determinants for minimally invasive vertical tooth extraction

Dietrich, Thomas; Schmid, Ivan; Locher, Michael; Addison, Owen

DOI:

[10.1016/j.jmbbm.2020.103711](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2020.103711)

License:

Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)

Document Version

Peer reviewed version

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Dietrich, T, Schmid, I, Locher, M & Addison, O 2020, 'Extraction force and its determinants for minimally invasive vertical tooth extraction', *Journal of the Mechanical Behavior of Biomedical Materials*, vol. 105, 103711.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2020.103711>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

Extraction force and its determinants for minimally invasive vertical tooth extraction.

Thomas Dietrich, Dr. med., Dr. med. dent., MPH, FDSRCS, Professor and Department Head,
Department of Oral Surgery, University of Birmingham and Honorary Consultant in Oral
Surgery, Birmingham Dental Hospital, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation
Trust, Birmingham, UK, t.dietrich@bham.ac.uk

Ivan Schmid, Dr. med. dent., Private Practitioner, Chur, Switzerland, ivanschmid@kns.ch

Michael Locher, Dr. med. Dr. med. dent., Private Practitioner, Waldshut-Tiengen, Germany,
michael-locher@t-online.de

Owen Addison, BDS, PhD, FDSRCS, FHEA, ADA+C Endowed Chair, Oral Health Translation
Research, School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, oaddison@ualberta.ca

Running title: Extraction forces for vertical extraction

Corresponding author:

Prof T Dietrich
The School of Dentistry
University of Birmingham
5 Mill Pool Way
B5 7EG
Birmingham
UK
P: +44 121 4665494

E: t.dietrich@bham.ac.uk

Abstract

Background: Minimally invasive vertical extraction devices have been developed to minimise the need for flap surgery and trauma to alveolar bone during tooth extraction. The objective of this study was to measure the forces required for vertical tooth extraction and evaluate the determinants of these forces.

Methods: The investigators coupled a precision load cell with a Benex® extractor to record extraction forces for 59 consecutive routine extractions of tooth roots. Age, sex, tooth type, root surface attachment area (RSAA) and whether or not the tooth was in functional occlusion were evaluated as determinants of extraction forces using linear mixed models.

Results: Maximum extraction forces ($F_{\max}$) varied widely from 41N to 629N. On average, maximum extraction forces were 104N (95% CI: 38N, 169N) higher for teeth/roots in occlusion vs. teeth not in occlusion. An increase in RSSA by one standard deviation was associated with a marked increase in $F_{\max}$ by 64N (95% CI: 34N, 94N). Extraction forces were not associated with age, sex or tooth type (maxillary vs. mandibular).

Conclusions: Extraction forces using the Benex® vertical extraction system vary widely and can be less than 50N or exceed 600N. On average, higher extraction forces are required to extract teeth with longer and thicker roots, as well as for teeth that are in functional occlusion.

Key words: atraumatic extraction, risk factors, socket healing, tooth extraction, wound healing

Background

The desire to minimise bone loss following tooth extraction to facilitate subsequent implant restoration has led to the development of novel vertical extraction techniques. These techniques aim to extract a tooth by applying a pulling force to the tooth root that is directed strictly along its long axis, resulting in the severance of Sharpey's dento-alveolar fibres and tooth extraction. Importantly, in case of a conical root without significant root curvature or undercuts, this extraction technique will minimise any direct trauma to alveolar bone.

The clinical procedure of vertical extraction with the Benex® system has been previously described in detail [1]. The system allows the predictable extraction of non-molar teeth, i.e., incisors, canines and premolars, as well as the extraction of some molar roots [2, 3]. Extractions are more likely to fail in multirooted and/or root-filled teeth; however, the overall need for flap surgery for the extraction of non-molar teeth may be reduced with the use of the system [2]. Due to its high predictability and the minimisation of trauma to root surface and alveolar bone, the system is also suitable for use with surgical extrusion [4, 5]. Clinical experience suggests that forces required for tooth extraction and pull time can vary widely [3], although extraction forces have never been directly measured.

The aim of the present investigation was to measure extraction forces occurring during vertical tooth extraction with the Benex device. A further aim was to evaluate putative tooth and patient level determinants of the maximum extraction force required for vertical tooth extraction.

Methods

1

2 *Patient sample and clinical procedure*

3 The extractions described here were performed between December 2008 and October 2009
4 as part of routine clinical care of patients referred for tooth extractions or attending
5 emergency appointments at the Clinic of Oral Surgery, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial
6 Surgery, University of Zurich. All patients required tooth or root extractions as part of their
7 treatment plan and all provided informed consent to treatment. All procedures were
8 performed under local anaesthesia.

9 The clinical procedures and success rates of Benex extractions have been described in detail
10 previously [1-3]. Briefly, a specially designed self-tapping screw is anchored in the centre of
11 the root to be extracted. A pull rope is attached to the screw head and a strictly vertical
12 extraction force is then applied with the extractor device until the root yields. An optional
13 support tray may be used to help stabilise the extractor and ensure optimal alignment of
14 the pull rope as well as even distribution of extraction forces (Fig. 1).

15 All extractions were performed by a single surgeon (IS). If appropriate, multirooted teeth
16 were sectioned and roots were extracted separately. Once the extractor was set up, the pull
17 force was increased gradually by turning the extractor handle clockwise. When significant
18 resistance was felt, pauses were made at the surgeon's discretion, before turning the
19 handle further to increase the pull force. This procedure was followed until the root yielded.
20 Roots that could not be extracted with the Benex® system [2, 3] were excluded from this
21 study and extracted using a conventional approach with or without flap surgery.

22 *Measurement of extraction force*

23 In order to measure the forces on the pull rope/screw of the Benex® device, the device was
24 coupled with a precision load-cell (Burster®-Sensor, Burster Präzisionsmesstechnik GmbH &

Co KG, Gernsbach, Germany), which recorded the applied force every 50 milliseconds. These measurements were then exported into Excel-Software (Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Corp, Seattle, USA) to allow graphical representation of the extraction force over time. The sensor was first calibrated using a universal testing machine (Zwick/Roell Z010®, Zwick GmbH & Co KG, Ulm, Deutschland) in a setup that simulated the clinical scenario. To this end, a plaster model in conjunction with the support tray and silicon putty material was fitted to an upper premolar and 5 measurements each were taken for forces of 100N, 200N, 300N, 400N and 500N for calibration purposes. A calibration curve was fit using simple linear regression and the maximum extraction force was calibrated using the model estimates accordingly.

Other data

In addition to patient age, patient sex and type of extracted tooth, we recorded whether or not the tooth was in occlusion at the time of consultation. Furthermore, we used digital radiographs to estimate the root surface area of the tooth root to be extracted. To this end, the length of the periodontal attachment i and diameter d of the root was measured using image analysis software (Digora, SOREDEX, Tuusula, Finland)(Fig 2). Based on the formula for the lateral surface area of a right circular cone, the root surface attachment area (RSAA) with periodontal attachment was estimated as $RSAA \sim \frac{1}{2}\pi di$.

Statistical analysis

Summary statistics were calculated for all clinical variables as appropriate. A linear mixed model was fit to evaluate the association between maximum extraction force ($F_{\max}$) as the dependant variable and root surface area, functional occlusion, jaw (mandible vs. maxilla), age and sex as independent variables, accounting for lack of independence between

multiple roots in the same patient. In order to enhance interpretability of estimates, root surface attachment area was standardised to have standard deviation equal to 1. Distributional assumptions for linear regression were checked using graphical methods and Shapiro-Wilk's test. Pearson's correlation coefficient was calculated to evaluate the correlation between maximum extraction force and pull time. All statistical tests were two-sided at $\alpha=0.05$ and two-sided 95% confidence intervals were calculated using STATA 14.2 (STATA Corp., College Station, TX, USA).

Results

Sample characteristics

The sample included a total of 41 patients (28 Males and 13 Females) with a mean age of 45 ± 19 years (range 16-89 years). A total of 59 distinct roots of 55 teeth were extracted with the Benex® system, including 3 molars and one premolar, which each had two roots extracted separately. An additional 5 multi-rooted teeth had only one of their roots extracted with the Benex® system, and only these roots were therefore included in this analysis (Table 1). The majority of teeth required extraction due to caries or a combination of caries and periodontitis, other indications included failed endodontic therapy, root fractures, supernumerary teeth or orthodontic treatment. 59% of roots were in occlusion at the time of extraction (Table 1).

Qualitative analysis of extraction forces

Three main patterns could be identified that describe the extraction process with the vertical extraction system. The first pattern is characterised by a gradual increase of force leading to rupture of periodontal ligament fibres and tooth root delivery, typically at relatively low forces (Fig. 3a). The second pattern typically occurred when higher extraction forces are required and the operator pauses once significant resistance is felt. The curve indicates that the tension then slightly decreases over time, until the operator continues to increase the force until eventual fibre rupture and tooth delivery (Fig. 3b). The third pattern is more irregular, and typically occurs when some force is required to deliver the root out of the socket after fibre rupture has occurred (Fig. 3c).

Quantitative analysis of extraction forces

Maximum extraction forces ($F_{\max}$) varied widely from just 41N for a mesial root of a lower first molar, to 629N for an upper first premolar tooth (Table 1). Pull time was highly correlated with $F_{\max}$ (Pearson correlation coefficient $\rho=0.71$).

In a multiple linear regression model, no differences between extractions forces were observed according to age, sex, or between maxillary vs. mandibular teeth. However, teeth with a larger estimated root surface attachment area and teeth that were in occlusion at the time of extraction required higher extraction forces (Table 2, Fig. 4). On average, maximum extraction forces were 296N (95% CI: 251N, 342N) and 193N (95% CI: 140N, 245N) for teeth/roots in occlusion and not in occlusion, respectively. An increase in the estimated root surface attachment area of one standard deviation was associated with a marked increase in $F_{\max}$ by 64N (95% CI: 34N, 94N) (Fig. 4, Table 2). Mean maximum stress was 1.36 N/mm² (SD 0.71, range 0.80, 1.89).

Discussion

The present study determined the forces occurring during tooth extraction with a vertical extraction system. We found that the required maximum extraction force varied widely between teeth, ranging from less than 50N to over 600N. Extraction force also increased linearly with increasing root surface attachment area. The corresponding maximum stress ranged from 0.8 to 1.9 N/mm². Larger forces were required for teeth that were in functional occlusion at the time of extraction, compared to teeth or roots not in occlusion. Age and sex did not affect maximum extraction forces.

It is important to note that technical difficulty and required extraction force are not synonymous. However, notwithstanding the strong negative association between perceived technical difficulty and operator experience and confidence, most clinicians will agree that technical difficulty and forces required for conventional exodontia are correlated and can vary widely. Although the literature on this topic is scarce, clinical experience and common sense can identify certain tooth and patient characteristics that predict extraction difficulty. Examples for tooth related factors are marked root curvature, root divergence and root bulbosity (e.g., due to hypercementosis). As conventional extraction technique relies on expansion of the bony socket, patient factors such as bone morphology (e.g., spongy vs. cortical bone) and bone mineral density, which is associated with sex, race/ethnicity and body mass [6, 7], are also important. However, vertical tooth extraction is fundamentally different to conventional forceps extraction in that it does not rely on socket expansion, and allows the application of a strictly vertical force vector, thereby minimising trauma to bone.

1 Ideally, i.e., in case of a conical tooth root with no undercuts, extraction will be the result of
2 overcoming the tensile strength of the periodontal ligament with no compressive forces on
3 alveolar bone. Our finding that the required extraction force is associated with the root
4 surface attachment area is therefore not surprising [Fig 4]. For straight tapering roots,
5 movement axial to the applied force occurs when periodontal ligament (PDL) fibres rupture,
6 following breaks in covalent cross-links in collagen and slippages between the unit
7 molecular chains [8]. Studies into the various factors influencing the mechanical properties
8 of the PDL agree that the content, direction and organisation of the collagen fibre
9 component is critical to the observed mechanical response [8]. The contribution to
10 resistance of tooth movement of individual PDL fibres varies with location, due to differing
11 alignment within the tensile stress field, and with time due to cumulative fibre rupture
12 (beginning apically) [9] and the intrinsic viscoelastic behaviour of the PDL [8, 10]. The PDL
13 exhibits time-dependent stress-release following force application, which is a property
14 considered to be protective to reduce PDL injury. Multiple stress-relaxation mechanisms
15 have been proposed and can be categorised into short, medium and long-term components
16 and viscous and elastic components [8]. Mechanical characterisations have shown that the
17 response is sensitive to the stressing-rate, with rapidly applied forces associated with
18 relative increases in effective PDL stiffness and an increased stress required to cause
19 rupture [8, 11]. In this study, in cases when the operator chose to wait following an increase
20 in force applied, it was consistently observed that following application of an extrusive
21 force, an initial rapid decrease in the measured force occurred, followed by a more gradual
22 stress relaxation (Fig 3b, 5). This behaviour is consistent with previous observations which
23 have elaborated further to show that the amount of stress relaxation that occurs is inversely
24 related to the magnitude of the initially applied force [8, 12]. This non-linear behaviour

1 highlights the complex mechanisms underpinning the short and long-term relaxation
2 components. Whilst factors such as water content [13] and PDL dimensions are certainly
3 important to the observed behaviour, the response of collagen to the applied stress is
4 central [8]. This is evidenced by studies exposing the PDL to collagenases prior to
5 mechanical characterisation and showing significant increases in the magnitude of stress
6 relaxation following loading [14]. The implications of this behaviour for tooth removal using
7 controlled extrusion is that the PDL is adapted to accumulate damage sub-critically, prior to
8 fibre rupture. This damage following masticatory loading cycles is likely reversible, with for
9 example, re-crosslinking of collagen occurring. During tooth extraction the use of low
10 stressing rates (applying force increases slowly) and maintained force application results in
11 cumulative sub-critical damage resulting in a reduced force to cause fibre rupture. In this
12 study when the operator chose not to continue to increase the force continuously, resulting
13 in a static force application, stress relaxation was observed (Fig. 3b). Force-time plots show
14 that as the loading increase paused, rapid stress relaxation occurred followed by a more
15 gradual decay in measured force, which is consistent with animal-model (rabbit) data [12].
16 Minimising extraction forces may be desirable to minimise the risk of root fracture and
17 reduce the stress transferred to the dento-alveolar complex and may have biologically
18 favourable results in terms of reduced trauma and improved healing, in particular in the
19 case of surgical extrusion [5]. Further investigations are required to identify whether or not
20 slower extraction, i.e., longer periods of sustained input of force would result in a reduction
21 in the maximum extraction force and whether this is clinically significant in terms of
22 biological sequelae.

1 In the current study, reduced extrusion forces were associated with teeth that were not in
2 functional occlusion. Numerous animal studies [15-17] and complementary observations in
3 humans [18, 19] have demonstrated that decreased, or absence of, occlusal function leads
4 to dimensional and structural changes in the both the PDL and alveolar process.
5 Morphometric studies show that the PDL narrows with reduced function, and histology
6 shows an associated reduction in the number [20] of collagen fibres, which are less
7 organised [21-23] and are remodelled more slowly [24]. Experiments in rats have
8 demonstrated a gradual decrease in required extraction forces within 8 days after loss of
9 function [25]. Return to function is associated with increasing PDL thickness which is
10 considered a protective adaptation to loading [26]. The reduced extrusion forces are likely
11 to be a consequence of the changes to the collagen content of the PDL, although a
12 contribution from changes in plasticity of the alveolar bone cannot be discounted.
13 Explaining the observed behaviour solely on the mechanical response of the PDL is an over-
14 simplification and tooth-related factors such as root curvature, root divergence or
15 hypercementosis are also relevant for Benex® extractions. If these features are pronounced,
16 vertical extraction may be impossible [2]. In case of minor undercuts or root divergence,
17 sufficient force may be generated with the Benex® device to allow extraction via minimal
18 socket expansion or even fracture (Fig. 5). The latter is an extremely rare complication and
19 has been observed by the authors in only 2 cases in well over 500 extractions.
20
21 This is the first study to measure forces associated with tooth extraction in humans in vivo,
22 facilitated by the use of an extraction device that allowed coupling to a load cell. However,
23 our study has some limitations. Firstly, root surface attachment area was estimated based
24 on 2 dimensional radiographs, which will have resulted in measurement error. Secondly, we

1 did not ascertain root features likely to affect extraction forces such as hypercementosis or
2 root divergence. Finally, the sample size in this study is limited and we cannot rule out
3 relatively smaller effects of other factors, such as age and gender.

5 **Conclusions**

6 Extraction forces required to extract teeth or tooth roots using the Benex vertical extraction
7 system vary widely and can be less than 50N or exceed 600N. On average, higher extraction
8 forces are required to extract teeth with longer and thicker roots, as well as for teeth that
9 are in functional occlusion.

11 **List of Abbreviations**

12 RSAA root surface attachment area

13 $F_{\max}$ maximum extraction force

14 PDL periodontal ligament

17 *Availability of data and material*

18 Raw data have previously been published and are available through the university of Zurich
19 (Schmid I, Kräftermessungen bei Zahnextraktionen mit dem Benex®-Extraktor,
20 Zahnmedizinische Dissertation, University of Zurich, 2010).

22 *Competing interests*

23 None declared

Funding

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Authors' contributions

I.S. and M.L. conceived the idea and collected the data. T.D. performed statistical analysis and led the writing with O.A. All authors contributed to data interpretation and critically reviewed and approved the manuscript.

Acknowledgements

This research was conducted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Dr. med. dent., awarded to Ivan Schmid by the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

References

1. Saund D, Dietrich T: **Minimally-invasive tooth extraction: doorknobs and strings revisited!** *Dent Update* 2013, **40**(4):325-326, 328-330.
2. Hong B, Bulsara Y, Gorecki P, Dietrich T: **Minimally invasive vertical versus conventional tooth extraction: An interrupted time series study.** *J Am Dent Assoc* 2018.
3. Muska E, Walter C, Knight A, Taneja P, Bulsara Y, Hahn M, Desai M, Dietrich T: **Atraumatic vertical tooth extraction: a proof of principle clinical study of a novel system.** *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol* 2013, **116**(5):e303-310.
4. Kelly RD, Addison O, Tomson PL, Krastl G, Dietrich T: **Atraumatic surgical extrusion to improve tooth restorability: A clinical report.** *J Prosthet Dent* 2016, **115**(6):649-653.
5. Krug R, Connert T, Soliman S, Syfrig B, Dietrich T, Krastl G: **Surgical extrusion with an atraumatic extraction system: A clinical study.** *J Prosthet Dent* 2018.

6. Lloyd JT, Alley DE, Hawkes WG, Hochberg MC, Waldstein SR, Orwig DL: **Body mass index is positively associated with bone mineral density in US older adults.** *Arch Osteoporos* 2014, **9**:175.
7. Looker AC, Borrud LG, Hughes JP, Fan B, Shepherd JA, Sherman M: **Total body bone area, bone mineral content, and bone mineral density for individuals aged 8 years and over: United States, 1999-2006.** *Vital Health Stat* 11 2013(253):1-78.
8. Komatsu K: **Mechanical strength and viscoelastic response of the periodontal ligament in relation to structure.** *J Dent Biomech* 2010, **2010**.
9. Atkinson HF, Ralph WJ: **In vitro strength of the human periodontal ligament.** *J Dent Res* 1977, **56**(1):48-52.
10. Picton DC, Wills DJ: **Viscoelastic properties of the periodontal ligament and mucous membrane.** *J Prosthet Dent* 1978, **40**(3):263-272.
11. Chiba M, Komatsu K: **Mechanical responses of the periodontal ligament in the transverse section of the rat mandibular incisor at various velocities of loading in vitro.** *J Biomech* 1993, **26**(4-5):561-570.
12. Komatsu K, Sanctuary C, Shibata T, Shimada A, Botsis J: **Stress-relaxation and microscopic dynamics of rabbit periodontal ligament.** *J Biomech* 2007, **40**(3):634-644.
13. Provenzano P, Lakes R, Keenan T, Vanderby R, Jr.: **Nonlinear ligament viscoelasticity.** *Ann Biomed Eng* 2001, **29**(10):908-914.
14. Komatsu K, Shibata T, Shimada A: **Analysis of contribution of collagen fibre component in viscoelastic behaviour of periodontal ligament using enzyme probe.** *J Biomech* 2007, **40**(12):2700-2706.
15. Kaneko S, Ohashi K, Soma K, Yanagishita M: **Occlusal hypofunction causes changes of proteoglycan content in the rat periodontal ligament.** *J Periodontal Res* 2001, **36**(1):9-17.
16. Levy GG, Mailland ML: **Histologic study of the effects of occlusal hypofunction following antagonist tooth extraction in the rat.** *J Periodontol* 1980, **51**(7):393-399.
17. Motokawa M, Terao A, Karadeniz EI, Kaku M, Kawata T, Matsuda Y, Gonzales C, Darendeliler MA, Tanne K: **Effects of long-term occlusal hypofunction and its recovery on the morphogenesis of molar roots and the periodontium in rats.** *Angle Orthod* 2013, **83**(4):597-604.
18. Kronfeld R: **Histologic Study of the Influence of Function on the Human Periodontal Membrane *.** *Journal of the American Dental Association* 1931, **18**(7):1242-1274.
19. Richardson ER: **Comparative thickness of the human periodontal membrane of functioning versus non-functioning teeth.** *J Oral Med* 1967, **22**(4):120-126.
20. Beertsen W: **Collagen phagocytosis by fibroblasts in the periodontal ligament of the mouse molar during the initial phase of hypofunction.** *J Dent Res* 1987, **66**(12):1708-1712.
21. Deporter DA, Svoboda EL, Motruk W, Howley TP: **A stereologic analysis of collagen phagocytosis by periodontal ligament fibroblasts during occlusal hypofunction in the rat.** *Arch Oral Biol* 1982, **27**(12):1021-1025.
22. Kanoza RJ, Kelleher L, Sodek J, Melcher AH: **A biochemical analysis of the effect of hypofunction on collagen metabolism in the rat molar periodontal ligament.** *Arch Oral Biol* 1980, **25**(10):663-668.
23. Short E, Johnson RB: **Effects of tooth function on adjacent alveolar bone and Sharpey's fibers of the rat periodontium.** *Anat Rec* 1990, **227**(4):391-396.

- 1 24. Niver EL, Leong N, Greene J, Curtis D, Ryder MI, Ho SP: **Reduced functional loads**
2 **alter the physical characteristics of the bone-periodontal ligament-cementum**
3 **complex.** *J Periodontal Res* 2011, **46**(6):730-741.
- 4 25. Kinoshita Y, Tonooka K, Chiba M: **The effect of hypofunction on the mechanical**
5 **properties of the periodontium in the rat mandibular first molar.** *Arch Oral Biol*
6 1982, **27**(10):881-885.
- 7 26. Denes BJ, Mavropoulos A, Bresin A, Kiliaridis S: **Influence of masticatory**
8 **hypofunction on the alveolar bone and the molar periodontal ligament space in**
9 **the rat maxilla.** *Eur J Oral Sci* 2013, **121**(6):532-537.

1 Tables

2

3 **Table 1: Characteristics of extracted teeth/roots**

Characteristic	Total N=59
Tooth, n (%)	
U1	0 (0%)
U2	2 (3%)
U3	5 (8%)
U4	9 (15%)
U5	6 (10%)
L1	1 (2%)
L2	1 (2%)
L3	4 (7%)
L4	6 (10%)
L5	12 (20%)
root ^a	13 (22%)
functional occlusion, n (%)	
No	24 (41%)
Yes	35 (59%)
indication for extraction, n (%)	
caries	25 (42%)
caries & periodontal	12 (20%)
endodontic failure	5 (8%)

root fracture	3 (5%)
supernumerary	8 (14%)
orthodontic	6 (10%)
maximum extraction force [N], mean (SD)	261 (152)
pull time [sec], mean (SD)	60 (44)
root surface attachment area [mm ²], mean (SD)	199 (75)
maximum stress [N/mm ²], mean (SD)	1.36 (0.71)

^a single roots of multirooted teeth extracted following sectioning

Table 2: Association of age, sex, jaw and root surface attachment area and functional occlusion with maximum extraction force (multiple linear regression, dependent variable: F_{max})

Independent variable	β - coefficient	(95% CI)	p-value
age (years) ^a	- 7 N	(-27N, 13N)	P=0.50
sex (Female vs. Male)	4.5N	(-75N, 84N)	P=0.91
jaw (mandible vs. maxilla)	-11 N	(-75N, 54N)	P=0.74
root surface attachment area (mm) ^b	64N	(34N, 94N)	P<0.001
functional occlusion (yes vs. no)	104N	(38N, 169N)	P=0.002

^a estimates for increase in age by 10 years

^b estimates for increase in RSAA by 1 SD

Figure legends

Fig. 1 Clinical procedure

- (a) carious upper right lateral incisor
- (b) use of Benex® diamond coated bur
- (c) Benex self-tapping screw and support tray in place
- (d) pull rope and Benex® extractor assembled (note that the extractor needs to be moved slightly more towards the distal for perfect alignment of the pull rope)
- (e) extraction of root.
- (f) extraction socket after extraction

Fig. 2

Measurement of length of periodontal attachment (23.0 mm) and root diameter (5.2 mm) on a lower right canine for estimation of root surface attachment area (RSAA)

Fig. 3

Representative examples of the three main qualitative patterns of force/time curves observed during extractions

- (a) constant increase in force leading to extraction
- (b) increase in force followed by pauses during which a gradual linear drop in force can be observed
- (c) irregular pattern.

1 Fig. 4

2 Linear association between root surface attachment area and $F_{\max}$

3 ($F_{\max}$ adjusted for age, sex and jaw)

4

5 Fig. 5

6 Force/time curve for an upper first premolar with two slightly divergent roots and

7 undercuts. Benex extraction was ultimately achieved at high extraction forces. Note the

8 fragment of the buccal plate attached to the root surface.