

Exploring Demographic Trends for Root Canal Therapy During COVID-19 Pandemic
Zoe Mamula, Allen Colic*

This analysis-based research project aimed to examine the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic had on root canal therapy (RCT). Specifically, whether there were any trends in regard to demographics in a greater Seattle population group. Reviewing the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, patient data regarding the demographics and type of RCT (molar, premolar, or anterior) procedures were collected from the records at Endodontics Northwest, Seattle. A statistical analysis was performed to determine the average age and the proportion of sex of the patients, along with the type of RCT received. This allowed us to observe various trends suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic had an effect on RCT-related care. Overall there was a significant difference in RCT patients between 2019-2021 and 2020-2021. However, across all three years, there was no significant difference in the type of RCT performed. Furthermore, there was a lower average age of treated patients during the representative year of the pandemic, 2020. We hypothesized that stress, fear, anxiety, and possible loss of health benefits in a lower age group may be likely reasons for the observed trends. This research will aid in informing and developing future prevention and care plans for those that may be more susceptible to needing RCT and creating greater accessibility for those people in need of RCT in general.