Dear Dr. Ahmed

Manuscript ID: IEJ-19-00767

Manuscript Title: Application of a new system for classifying root canal morphology in teaching and clinical practice: A national survey in Malaysia

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the International Endodontic Journal subject to major changes being made.

The comments of the referees are included at the bottom of this letter; please revise your paper taking into account any points they have raised. Also double check that in the body of the text and in the Reference section the names of authors are spelt correctly including any non-English characters where appropriate.

You will be unable to make your revisions online using the originally submitted version of the manuscript. Instead, revise your manuscript on your PC/MAC using your word processing programme and save it on your computer. Please highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document by using the "track changes" mode in MS Word or equivalent.

To upload your revised manuscript, log on to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/iej and enter your Author Centre, where you will find your original manuscript title listed under "Manuscripts with Decisions". Under "Actions," click on "Create a Revision". Your manuscript number has been appended to denote a revision.

When submitting your revised manuscript, you will be able to respond to the comments made by the referees(s) in the space provided. You can use this space to document any changes you have made to the original manuscript. Please be as specific as possible in your response to the referee(s).

IMPORTANT: Your original files are available to you when you upload your revised manuscript. Please delete any redundant files that are to be replaced before completing the submission, for example, you would have to delete the file containing the main text and then upload the new version. You do not have to delete and upload files that are not being changed, for example, the Table or Figure files from the original version if they are to remain the same. Do NOT remove the Conflict of Interest forms these should remain with your submission throughout.

I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Kind regards

Paul Dummer
Editor-in-Chief, International Endodontic Journal
iejeditor@cardiff.ac.uk

Referee(s) comments to authors:
Referee: 1

Comments to Author
Overall
The subject of this paper is related to suitability of a new classification of root canal morphology for the undergraduate teaching environment. This is relevant and important, and within the scope of the journal.

Title
Modification of the title may reconsidered. In its current form it suggests a much wider survey on acceptability of the new classification system. It should be modified to reflect that this is a survey of undergraduate students alone.

Aim
To evaluate and compare the feedback of final year undergraduate dental students in eight Malaysian dental schools on the application of a new system for classifying root canal morphology in teaching and clinical practice. The aim is clear and addressed by the study.

Materials and methods
This is on the whole appropriate. The inclusion of undergraduate students in eight schools across Malaysia is valuable. The delivery of the PowerPoint presentation in a standard format and by a limited number of independent presenters is important. The PowerPoint delivered in the study prior to the Questionnaire was well-constructed. It would be helpful to provide some additional detail on how the questionnaire was piloted and by whom. On the whole the questions were appropriate, however, the question on accuracy could present challenge. It could be inferred from the question that the students were being asked to state the accuracy of the classification system based upon experience rather than perception. I would expect experience of endodontics to be somewhat limited, so accuracy determination is likely to be based upon how a student would expect the classification system to perform given their limited practical experience. A brief acknowledgement/discussion of this may be helpful. It is not to say it is unhelpful to ask the question, but I think this can only be meaningfully answered by a seasoned practitioner.

Data treatment and analyses
Figures should be used and constructed to provide the reader with a better overview of the findings of the study. In the present study tables do not facilitate understanding as it is necessary to cross reference with the questionnaire. It would be appropriate to modify tables or legends to enable the reader to understand at a glance. In tables some text formatting issues are present with the “t” from count being placed in a second text line.

Figure one does not add great value. Simply stating in the text that eight schools were including from geographically distinct areas of Malaysia may be more appropriate.

It may be more appropriate to combine the data presented in Table One with that of data presented in Figure Two.

Discussion
The discussion is comprehensive, highlighting the importance of undergraduate understanding of root canal morphology. Consideration of how the new classification system could impact upon teaching is made. The authors highlight areas of potential further work that appear interesting.

Conclusion
The conclusion could be expanded to be more robust. Please reconsider.

Referee: 2
Comments to Author
An interesting study with lots of organising to do.
From the PDF
Page 1 line 19 Vertucci et al? Line 38 the style of the journal is to have a capital P in italics
Page 3 line 40 leading to
Page 4 line 14 Many surveys? This is 4 studies, perhaps Several studies is a better description. Line 22 in the References this is Baaij
Page 5 line 38 PowerPoint (PPT) presentations Line 54 The Cleghorn reference is not in the Reference section
Page 8 line 15 except for
Page 11 line 31 Approximately
Page 13 line 15 no need for the full stop after F

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