Levels of Evidence for the Outcome of Endodontic Retreatment

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**Aim**
- To search for clinical studies pertaining to success & failure of RET
- To assign levels of evidence to these studies.

**Materials & Methods**
- A search was initiated to identify clinical studies published related to the success & failure of RET from 1970 to early 2004.
- **Inclusion criteria:** studies looked at
  a- Short-term success & failure (presence or absence of pain)
  b- Long-term success & failure, (periapical healing or PAR)
  c- Success rate of endodontics in a specified population (epidemiological study)
  d- Success rate using different materials and/or techniques
  e- Success rate of a unique case followed over time
  f- Clinical review articles of success & failure
- The type of study was identified according to the definitions established by the ADA:
  1) A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial
  2) A Cohort Study
  3) Case Control Studies
  4) Case Series
  5) Case report
- All selected articles were then examined to determine the level of evidence (LOE) from 1 to 5, were LEO 1 is the highest & LEO 5 is the lowest.

**Results**
- 37 articles were identified:
  - **LOE 1:** No high level Randomized Control Trials
  - **LOE 2:** 3 low level Randomized Control Trials & 1 Cohort study
  - **LOE 3:** 2 Case Control Studies
  - **LOE 4:** 13 Case Series. which comprise the most highly quoted success and failure data
  - **LOE 5:** 12 Case Reports & 6 review articles were found

**Conclusion**
- Few high level studies have been published in the past 34 yrs related to the success & failure of RET.

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