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## DETERMINATION OF THE ROOT CANAL LENGTH OF TEETH OF BANTU PATIENTS ATTENDING THE TEACHING HOSPITAL OF KINSHASA UNIVERSITY

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**Background:** There is paucity of literature on the determination of the root canal length of Bantu subjects in dental professional practicing in Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo in particular. Aims: The aim of the present study was to determine the root canal length of teeth of Bantu patients attending the Teaching Hospital of Kinshasa University.

**Methods and Material:** Prospective cross-sectional study was carried out in the service of Conservative Dentistry. The patients suffering with pulpitis of permanent teeth which were selected for root canal treatment during the period of January 2014 to December 2016 were included. All patients whose main root canals were inaccessible, teeth carrying prosthesis, teeth with large coronal decay, teeth having periapical periodontitis, supernumerary teeth, wisdom and primary teeth were excluded.

**Results:** The upper canines presented some significant longer canals compared to the lower canine ( $23.4 \pm 2.3$  mm and  $21.6 \pm 1.8$  mm). Palatal canals of the first and second molar were respectively longer as compared to the superior teeth canals ( $21.5 \pm 1$  mm,  $21.3 \pm 2$  mm). The distal canals of the first and second molar were the longest in the mandibular arch respectively measuring  $20.7 \pm 2.0$  mm and  $21.5 \pm 1.7$  mm.

**Conclusion:** Data obtained from Bantu patients show slightly shorter roots compared to some European populations, but longer than some Asian populations.

### Biography

Jean Marie Kayembe graduated at the University of Kinshasa as a Dental Surgeon. He became Specialist and is now Chairman of the service of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics at the Dental Medicine Department of the Teaching Hospital of Kinshasa University in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His research focuses on endodontics in the context of African population especially of Bantu (Black African). He is also a visiting teacher at Dental school of the "Université des montages" in Cameroon.

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