



Editorial Message

Reconsidering the Nomenclature of Irreversible Pulpitis: A Call for Change

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Dear Readers,

In the ever-evolving landscape of endodontics, critical deliberations that challenge traditional perceptions, concepts and terminologies are essential to drive progress. One important discussion, that has garnered significant attention in recent times, is the nomenclature of *irreversible pulpitis* (IP). The current editorial seeks to explore the rationale behind the necessity of reconsidering the present terminology in the light of emerging present-day evidence and shifting treatment paradigms.

For decades, IP has been synonymous with the perception of pulpal tissue as inherently non-healing; necessitating aggressive interventions, e.g. pulpectomy and root canal therapy. However, the landscape of dentistry, particularly endodontics, is undertaking a vigorous transformative shift; fueled by innovative research in pulp biology associated with the advent of vital pulp therapy (VPT). The best and strong existing evidence has presented a compelling case; i.e. compromised pulp tissue, once labelled as *irreversible*, can indeed respond positively to VPTs and reverse to its normal status.

The aforementioned observation begs the question: “Is the term *irreversible* still an accurate reflection of the reality encountered in clinical practice OR the evidence suggests otherwise?”. The outcomes of VPT interventions have challenged the longstanding belief; indicating that the capacity of dental pulp tissue to heal and regenerate is, in fact, far more robust than previously believed.

The implications of the stated revelation extend beyond semantics. The used conventional terminology shapes our clinical approach; affecting the treatment decisions and communication(s) with patients. The term *irreversible* carries

connotations of limited options and dire outcomes, while the VPT successes suggest a different narrative; i.e. hope, conservation, and healing potential of the pulpal tissue, wrongly labelled IP.

Endodontology has the need to reconsider new vocabulary that encapsulates the evolving understanding of dental pulp biology and its responses. Not only is this about linguistic revision but about embracing a new mindset; aligning the realities of dental treatment and oral health. The renaming of IP to a term that acknowledges the healing potential of the compromised dental pulp tissue, e.g. *PULPITIS*, seems mandatory to esteem the scientific rigour that could define modern endodontics.

The *Iranian Endodontic Journal* (IEJ) is committed to facilitating meaningful conversations that could drive and lead Endodontics towards improvement and betterment of the current knowledge. Moreover, IEJ invites thinkers, readers, practitioners, educators, and researchers to engage in such a discourse. Let us collectively explore the implications, challenges, and opportunities of redefining IP, and pave the path for a more accurate, inclusive, and forward-looking nomenclature.

In closing, IEJ encourages you to reflect on the transformative power of words and concepts. Just as our understanding of dental pulp biology continues to evolve, so too should our language and terminology. Based on the recent evidence/facts, the endodontic community shall be forced to redefine the way pulpitis is approached; fostering a more informed and progressive matrix for the benefit of our patients and the dental community worldwide.