



Sandro Rengo
Editor-in-Chief
Giornale Italiano
di Endodonzia
E-mail address
editor.giornale@endodonzia.it

Editorial

Endodontics and Systemic Health: A Clinical Responsibility Beyond the Tooth

For many years, endodontics has been perceived primarily as a discipline devoted to the preservation of the dental element. Today, however, the growing attention to the relationship between oral health and systemic health requires a broader perspective: the management of endodontic infections concerns not only the prognosis of the individual dental element, but may also have relevant implications for the patient's overall health. Scientific literature in recent years has highlighted how odontogenic infections may represent a potential source of bacteremia and systemic microbial dissemination. Invasive dental procedures, including endodontic treatments, can lead to the passage of microorganisms into the bloodstream and, in susceptible individuals, these bacteria may colonize cardiovascular structures or implanted medical devices, contributing to the development of serious infectious complications. Among these, infective endocarditis remains one of the most worrying conditions, characterized by bacterial colonization of the endocardium and heart valves and associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Moreover, increasing evidence suggests a correlation between dental disease—including lesions of endodontic origin—and cardiovascular disease. Several studies have reported a higher prevalence of caries, endodontic lesions and edentulism in patients with ischemic heart disease, suggesting that chronic inflammation of oral origin may represent a risk factor or a contributing element in the systemic disease process.

Peer review under responsibility of Società Italiana di Endodonzia.

10.32067/GIE.2026.40.01.01

Società Italiana di Endodonzia. Production and hosting by Helyx srl on behalf of Tecniche Nuove. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).



Two papers presented in the present issue of the Italian Endodontic Journal fit precisely within this broader clinical perspective. The contributions dedicated to patients with cardiovascular disease and to those with implantable medical devices highlight how endodontic management should be planned by considering not only local variables—such as root canal anatomy, microbiology and operative techniques—but also the patient’s systemic risk profile. Careful medical history assessment, knowledge of guidelines on antibiotic prophylaxis in high-risk subjects and interdisciplinary collaboration therefore become essential elements of clinical practice. The treatment of dental infections and the control of oral inflammation today represent not only an oral objective but also a concrete contribution to the protection of the patient’s systemic health. From this perspective, endodontics is not merely the discipline that saves the tooth, but also the one that contributes to protecting the patient as a whole.

Peer review under responsibility of Società Italiana di Endodonzia.

10.32067/GIE.2026.40.01.01

Società Italiana di Endodonzia. Production and hosting by Helyx srl on behalf of Tecniche Nuove. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).