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Topic of Presentation:

Saving the Pulp: The Rise of Conservative Dentistry

Abstract

The shift towards conservative dentistry has gained momentum in recent years, with a strong emphasis on pulp preservation rather than traditional root canal treatment. Advances in biomaterials, regenerative endodontics, and diagnostic technologies have enabled clinicians to adopt a more minimally invasive approach, prioritizing vital pulp therapy (VPT) where possible. This lecture will explore the biological basis of pulp healing, highlighting the conditions under which pulp preservation is viable and when root canal treatment remains the preferred option.

A key focus will be on diagnosis and case selection, helping clinicians distinguish between reversible and irreversible pulp conditions. Various VPT techniques, including direct and indirect pulp capping, partial and full pulpotomy, will be discussed, alongside the latest biomaterial innovations, such as calcium silicate cements (MTA, Biodentine, and newer bioactive materials). Recent clinical studies comparing the long-term outcomes of VPT versus root canal therapy will be presented, providing evidence-based insights for decision-making.