

Distribution Information

AAE members may reprint this guide for distribution to other educators.

About This Document

To assist educators in teaching predoctoral dental students effective evaluation and decision-making skills in endodontics, the AAE has prepared the following guidelines. It is the intention that these guidelines provide a more objective evaluation tool for students to use in assessing the difficulty associated with an endodontic patient's case, and assist them in the decision whether to treat or refer.

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Use of Endodontic Case Difficulty Assessment Form

AAE Educator Guide

In order to make the Case Difficulty Assessment Form a more objective exercise, it is recommended that a point score be assigned to each item within each difficulty category. This point system is offered for educational purposes only and is not recommended for clinical practice.

Those items listed in the Minimal Difficulty category are assigned a point value of 1.

Those items listed in the Moderate Difficulty category are assigned a point value of 2.

Those items listed in the High Difficulty category are assigned a point value of 5.

The following score ranges are recommended in making the decision whether to treat or refer:

- **Less than 20 points:** Dental student may treat—level of faculty supervision should be tailored to the student's level of experience.
- **20 – 40 points:** An experienced and skilled dental student may treat with very close supervision by an endodontist, or the case referred to a graduate student or endodontist.
- **Above 40 points:** The case should not be treated by a predoctoral dental student. The patient should be referred to a graduate student or endodontist.

The assignment of an objective "point score" will hopefully assist the dental student in critically evaluating the difficulty associated with treating each patient, assist him/her in making a treatment decision that will be in the patient's best interests, as well as enhance the student's educational experience.