

Apicectomy

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This fact sheet is for general information about this procedure only. It is not intended to be used as medical advice or to replace advice that your relevant healthcare professional would give you. If you have a particular medical problem, please consult a healthcare professional.

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What is an apicectomy?

An apicectomy is a procedure to remove the end of the root of a tooth. It is usually performed to get rid of infection or fix a hole in the root of your tooth.

What are the benefits?

You should have less risk of your symptoms coming back and your tooth should last longer.

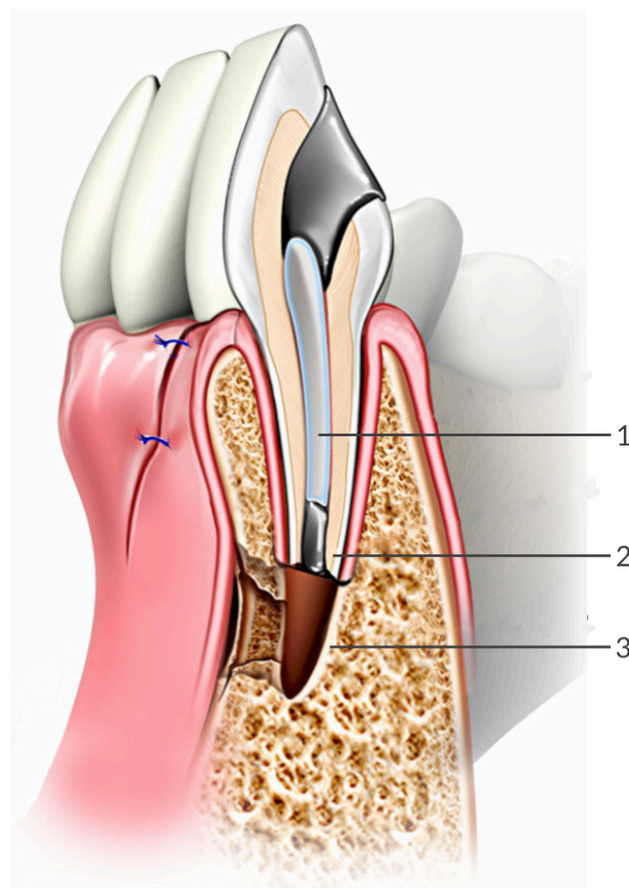
Are there any alternatives?

Your dentist may be able to do the root-canal treatment again. The only other treatment is to remove your tooth.

What will happen if I decide not to have the procedure?

Infection can get worse and spread, leading to jaw bone loss. Infection can also cause a cyst in the bone, making it more difficult to treat your tooth and affecting nearby teeth. There is a small risk of getting a serious, life-threatening infection.

An apicectomy



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1. Standard root filling
2. New filling placed during apicectomy
3. Apex removed

What does the procedure involve?

Most apicectomies can be performed under a local anaesthetic.

The procedure usually takes up to an hour, depending on where the tooth is and how difficult it is to reach.

Your surgeon will make a cut on your gum. They may need to use a drill to remove some of the bone around the end of your tooth. Your surgeon will clean the area, remove the root tip and fill the area.

What complications can happen?

The healthcare team are trained to reduce the risk of complications.

Any risk rates given are taken from studies of people who have had this procedure. Your doctor may be able to tell you if the risk of a complication is higher or lower for you. Some risks are higher if you are older, you are obese, you smoke or you have other health problems. Health problems include diabetes, heart disease or lung disease.

Some complications may be serious.

General complications of any procedure

- Bleeding after the procedure.
- Swelling and bruising.
- Infection. You may need antibiotics or more treatment. If the infection keeps coming back, you will usually need to have the affected tooth removed.
- Allergic reaction to the equipment, materials or medication.

Specific complications of this procedure

- Damage to nearby teeth.
- Receding gum.
- Sinus problems.
- Damage to the nerve that supplies sensation to your lower lip.
- Failed procedure. If this happens your surgeon will need to remove the whole tooth.

Consequences of this procedure

- Pain.

What happens after the procedure?

Leave your tooth alone for 24 hours. Then rinse your mouth gently with warm, salty water 3 times a day for the next few days.

Eat only soft foods for 1 to 2 days, gradually moving on to solid food only when you can chew comfortably. Try to chew using the other side of your mouth.

You may need a few days off work. You should be able to return to normal activities within a week.

The future

Your surgeon may arrange for you to come back to the clinic to remove any stitches or for a check-up.

Most people make a full recovery.

Summary

An apicectomy is usually suggested if you have had root-canal treatment that has not worked. The treatment involves removing part of a tooth to treat the infection and stop your symptoms from coming back.

Keep this information document. Use it to help you if you need to talk to the healthcare team.

Some information, such as risk and complication statistics, is taken from global studies and/or databases. Please ask your surgeon or doctor for more information about the risks that are specific to you, and they may be able to tell you about any other suitable treatments options.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant healthcare team would give you.

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