

Root End Surgery (Apicoectomy)

Explanation of the procedure:

- Root end surgery (apicoectomy) is carried out when root canal treatment is not possible. This procedure retains a tooth which may otherwise require extraction.
- This procedure is done under local anaesthetic, you should not experience any discomfort during treatment.
- The treatment will take approximately 1hr 30 min – 2 hours to complete.
- I will be placing stitches in that area of your mouth, so I will be required to see you a few days after the treatment to review you and remove the stitches.

Before treatment:

- Have something to eat before the treatment. This will give you energy. If you do not eat your blood sugar level may drop and you will feel ill.
- Take painkillers like ibuprofen/Nurofen one hour before treatment, this will help with any postoperative discomfort/swelling that may occur. If you are asthmatic, then do not take ibuprofen/Nurofen, only take paracetamol.

Management after treatment:

- **You may experience discomfort, swelling and/or bruising for 7 to 14 days after treatment.** To reduce the discomfort/swelling you will be required to take painkillers after the treatment and then take painkillers as you feel is necessary. Ibuprofen/Nurofen (400mg) can be taken every 8 hours and paracetamol (1000mg) every 6 hours. Always read the instructions on the box of the painkillers.
- When you arrive home after the treatment take a cold pack example, frozen peas/meat wrapped with a dishcloth and place it on your face for 20minutes, then remove for 20minutes, then place back on for 20minutes. Continue doing this as long as you can as it can help reduce with any pain/swelling that may occur.
- After 24hours, place a warm pack, example a water bottle, on your face. This will help reduce bruising/swelling. Make sure you do not burn yourself with the water bottle.
- Do not brush your teeth in that area for 3 days. You can use wet gauze to gently wipe the teeth in the area. Gauze can be bought at any pharmacy.
- You will need to rinse your mouth 3 times a day for 3 days with a mouthwash called corsodyl. Corsodyl can be bought over the counter at any pharmacy. After 3 days rinse with warm water with salt (one cup of water with 2 teaspoons of salt) for another 3 days.
- No antibiotics are required.

Common complications:

- You may experience discomfort, swelling and bruising for approximately 7 to 14 days after the procedure. The discomfort can be controlled with painkillers.
- There is a possibility that there may be an extensive crack of your root. If this is the case, then the tooth will need to be extracted. This will not be done at the appointment; you will need to see your dentist for the extraction.
- The area where the surgical procedure is done may heal with a slight scar.

- Recession of the gum can occur after the treatment. If your tooth has a crown, the recession may expose the margin of the crown (which is sometimes dark) and in some instances may be un-aesthetic.

Please be aware that although root end surgery has a very high degree of clinical success, it is a biological procedure, so it cannot be guaranteed to be 100% successful. Please contact me at the practice if you have any questions.