

Advice for Patient undergoing Apicectomy Procedures at Refine Specialist Dental Care

What is an Apicectomy?

An Apicectomy is a small surgical procedure on the root tip of a tooth. If a tooth undergoes root treatment (root canal therapy) an infection can persist at the end of the root and an Apicectomy procedure may be used to remove this infection. The procedure itself is a small surgical procedure, usually under local anesthetic, which allows the surgeon to remove a small piece of the tip of the root and place a filling in the root canal (retrograde root filling) following this procedure the area is washed and closed with stitches.

What can I expect after an Apicectomy?

Apicectomy procedures are generally very comfortable and controlled with local anesthetic but after patients can suffer mild discomfort and swelling which can be visible from the outside. Full advice is given to patients following surgery to control the symptoms and in particular the use of routine pain relief such as Ibuprofen and paracetamol to control the mild discomfort.

What complications can occur with an Apicectomy?

An Apicectomy procedure is not guaranteed to be successful and the possible success depends on the condition of the tooth before the treatment is undertaken. If the procedure is unsuccessful it may result in the removal of the tooth entirely or a repeat procedure to attempt to gain success for a second time. Other potential complications include Recession of the gum around the tooth that has undergone an Apicectomy, leaving an unsightly crown margin, which may require further treatment by your dentist.

Will I require Antibiotics and stitches?

At Refine Specialist Dental Care, we generally do not provide antibiotics for Apicectomy procedures as clinical research shows that this is not necessary. You will require stitches and sometimes these are dissolving stitches and sometimes these stitches need to be removed at approximately 10 days after, we generally review our patients afterwards to ensure all is well. Other times when an Apicectomy procedure cannot be done

An Apicectomy procedure is not suitable for all cases; in particular it is really important that a very good conventional root filling is in place for an Apicectomy procedure to be successful. When your surgeon assesses you it may be necessary to refer you back to your general dental practitioner to have a good root filling placed which may reduce or eliminate the need for an Apicectomy procedure altogether.

A full explanation about your procedure will be given to you by your treating surgeon and if you have any question in advance of your procedure or indeed any questions at all about your treatment please do not hesitate to contact us at the practice.