

# Apicoectomy



Clarence Street  
DENTAL Group

There are different types of endodontic surgery. An apicoectomy is performed when there is infection at the tip of the tooth that root canal treatment cannot reach.

## What is an apicoectomy?

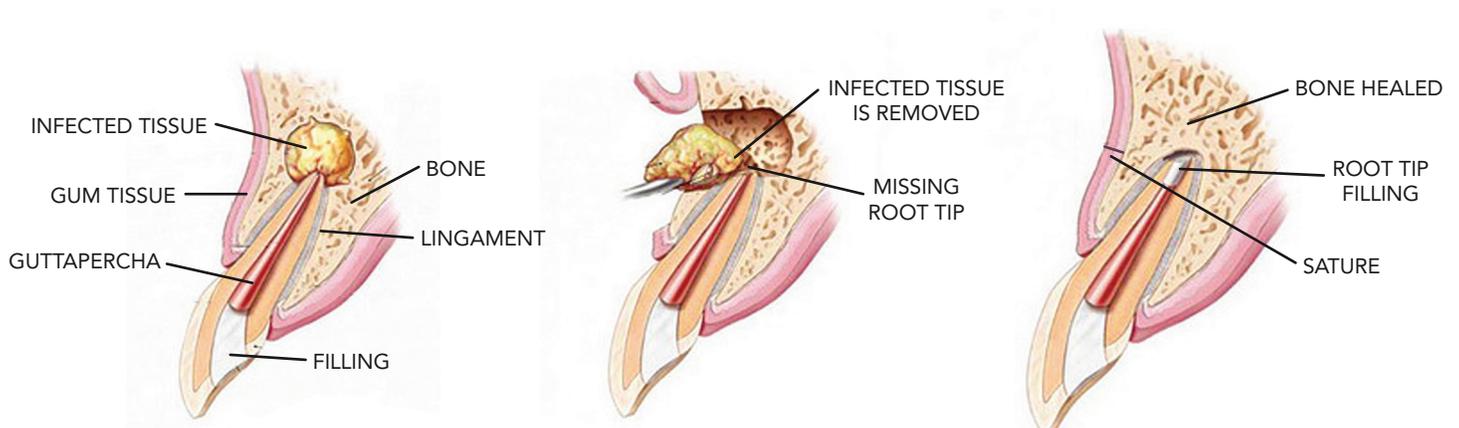
Our teeth are held in place by roots that extend into our jawbone. When there is infection in the root of our tooth, endodontic surgery is needed. Typically, root canal therapy is the most common option. For the majority of patients, this is successful in protecting the tooth from subsequent re-infection. There are some cases when a traditional root canal fails to remove all the dead nerves and infected tissues, and then an apicoectomy may be needed. This is because there is re-infection in the tooth which often signals a problem near the apex — where a tooth's roots come to a point. An apicoectomy is a minor surgical procedure that removes the apex, or very tip, of the tooth's root.

## What happens during an apicoectomy?

First, local anaesthesia is used to make you comfortable. During the apicoectomy, a very small incision is made in the gum near the troublesome tooth. This allows the endodontist to expose and get rid of any inflamed or infected tissue. Using a special microscope and advanced equipment, the dentist is able to remove the infected tissue along with the end of the root tips. After this process is complete, the end of the root canal is cleaned and then sealed with a small filling. This filling helps to prevent re-infection. A few stitches are used to close the gum tissue and the bone then heals naturally around the end of the root over the next few months. This allows the tooth to be restored to its full function.

## Why would I need to have this done?

An apicoectomy might be necessary if an infection develops or continues after a root canal. If this is recommended for you, it means your tooth cannot be saved by conventional root canal treatment. Because it is a complex procedure, an apicoectomy is often only recommended as a last resort after attempting one or more root canal treatments. This procedure allows patients to preserve their natural tooth instead of the alternative of removing the tooth.





## What should I expect after treatment?

You may experience discomfort and swelling as you heal. This is normal in the first couple of weeks following the procedure. Ice should be applied for the first 12 hours after surgery. Rest is especially important following an apicoectomy. Many patients are able to continue normal activities the next day.

You should avoid vigorous rinsing, brushing, and pulling or lifting the lips to allow for the best healing in this area.

Make sure to follow postoperative instructions – including diet and brushing advice - given by your endodontist. Please call us as soon as possible, if you have significant swelling or if your pain doesn't respond to medication or recovery instructions.

**You should be healed from this surgery very soon.  
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to  
contact us at 519.756.8080 or text us at our emergency hotline at 226.215.0521.**