



National University
Centre for Oral Health
Singapore



Apicoectomy

An apicoectomy is performed when a root canal treatment has failed or when the infection is deemed to be arising from the bone outside the root. It involves removing the tip of the tooth's root to address infection or inflammation in the surrounding bone. The procedure is done under local anaesthesia with a dental microscope.

Steps Involved in an Apicoectomy

- 1. Anaesthesia:** The affected area will be numbed with local anaesthesia.
- 2. Incision:** A small incision is made in the gum tissue to expose the tooth's root and the surrounding bone.
- 3. Removal of the tip of the root:** The tip of the root and surrounding infected tissue are removed.
- 4. Cleaning and sealing:** Your dentist will clean and shape the root canal and fill it with a special material to prevent further infection. In some cases, special materials like bone grafts and membranes may be used to promote bone regrowth.
- 5. Stitches:** Your dentist will close the incision with stitches.

During the procedure, a microscope will also be used to inspect the tooth root for any cracks. If cracks are present on the root, the tooth may need to be extracted instead.

Is Apicoectomy Painful?

Most patients experience minimal pain due to local anaesthesia. Post-procedure discomfort and swelling can be managed with over-the-counter medications.

Contact your dentist today to schedule an appointment to receive timely oral health care.



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