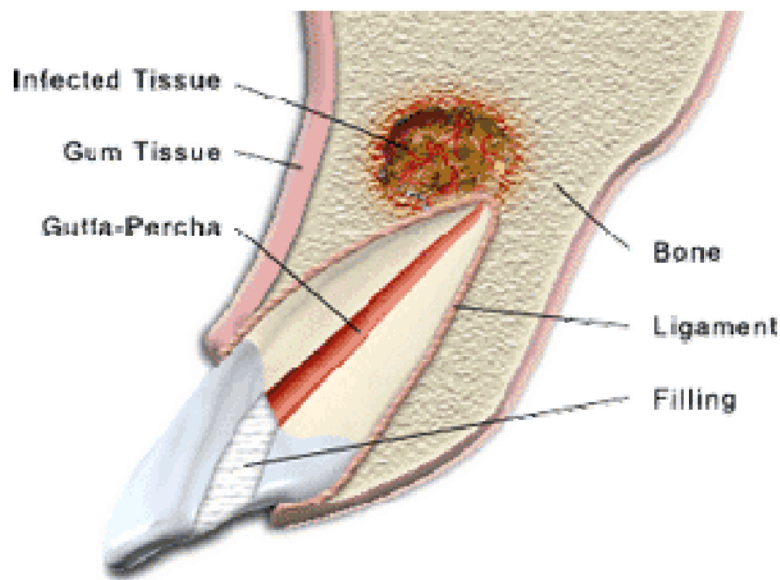


Apical Surgery (Apicoectomy)

Generally, a root canal is all that is needed to save a tooth with an injured pulp. Occasionally, this non-surgical (root canal therapy) procedure will not be sufficient to seal the canals of the tooth and your Endodontist will recommend surgery. Endodontic surgery can be used to locate fractures or hidden canals that do not appear on x-rays but still manifest pain in the tooth. Damaged root surfaces or the surrounding bone may also be treated with this procedure. The most common surgery used to save damaged teeth is an apicoectomy or apical surgery.



What is an apicoectomy “apico”?

An incision is made in the gum tissue to expose the bone and surrounding inflamed tissue. The damaged tissue is removed along with the end of the root tip. A root-end filling is placed to seal the canal of the root and stitches are placed to re-attach the gums. The bone naturally heals around the root over a period of months and restores the tooth to full function.

Following the procedure, there may be some discomfort or slight swelling while the incision heals. This is normal for any surgical procedure. To alleviate any discomfort, the appropriate pain medication will be recommended. Please call our office at 919-367-2875 with any questions.