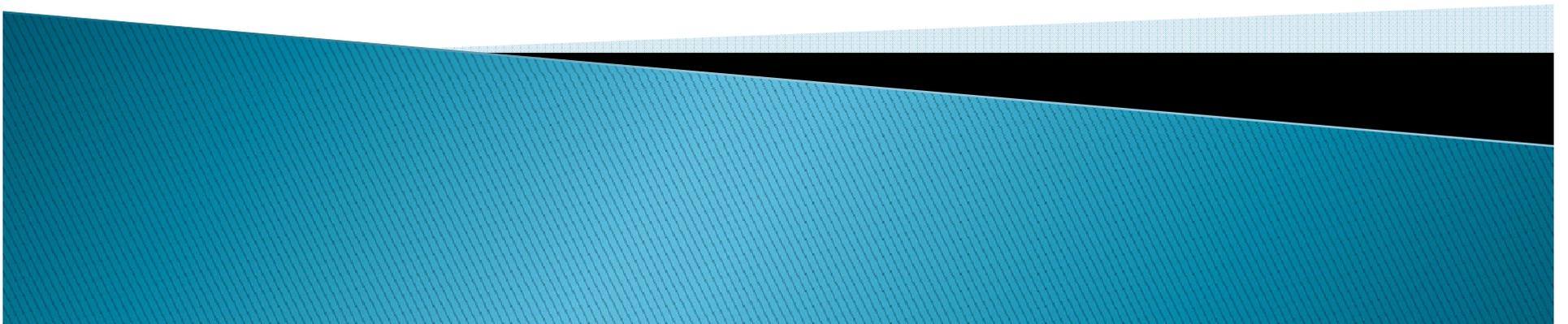


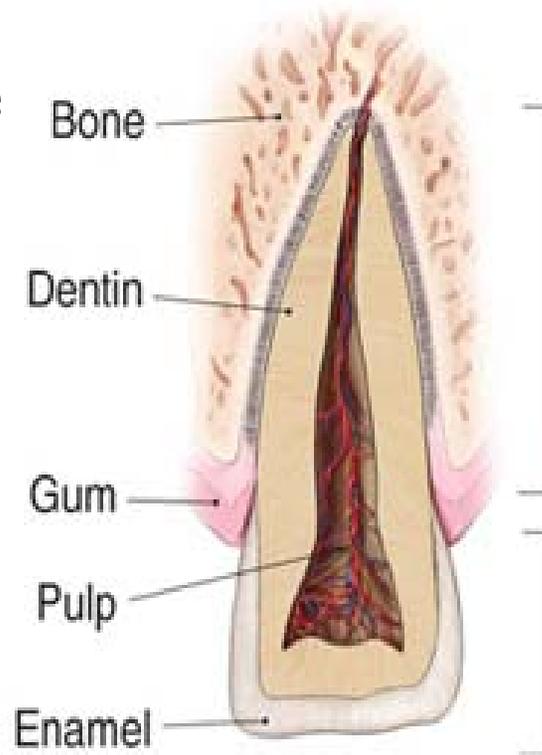
Your guide to

Traumatic Dental Injuries



What is Endodontic treatment?

A soft tissue called the pulp is inside the tooth, under the white enamel and a hard, thicker layer called the dentin. The pulp, which contains blood vessels and nerves. The pulp extends from the crown, or chewing portion of the tooth, to the tip of the roots where it connects to the tissues surrounding the root.



Root canal treatment is necessary when the pulp becomes inflamed or infected. This may happen as a result of deep decay, repeated dental procedures, or a blow to the tooth. During endodontic treatment the damaged pulp is removed. Then the tooth's canals are cleaned and filled to help preserve the tooth.

Whether the injury is the result of an auto accident, a sports mishap, an altercation, or a bad fall, the severity and type of the injury will determine the treatment necessary.

Dislodged teeth

During an injury a tooth may be pushed into its socket. This can be one of the more serious injuries. We can reposition and stabilize your tooth. Root canal treatment is usually started within a couple weeks of the injury, and a medication, such as calcium hydroxide, may be put inside the tooth. A permanent root canal filling will be placed at a later date.

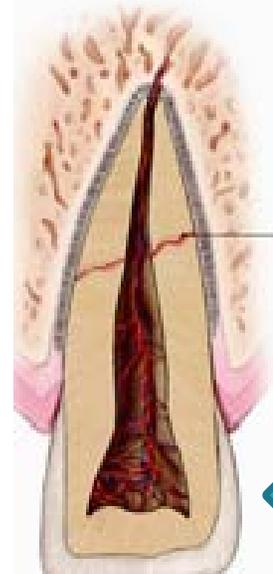
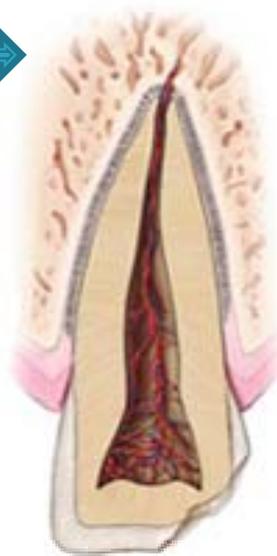


Sometimes a tooth is pushed partially out of the socket. Repositioning and stabilization of the tooth are usually necessary. If the pulp remains healthy, no additional treatment may be needed. If the pulp is injured we may need to start a root canal. Medication, such as calcium hydroxide, may be placed inside the tooth and should be followed by a permanent root canal filling at a later date.

Chipped teeth →



Sometimes a chip is down far enough to expose the pulp of the tooth. Some exposures may require root canal treatment. Injuries in the back of the teeth often include fractured cusps, cracked teeth and the more serious split teeth. Cracks may or may not extend into the root, if the crack does not extend into the root, the tooth can usually be restored with a full crown. If it does extend into the root and affects the pulp, root canal treatment is usually necessary in an attempt to save all or a portion of your tooth.



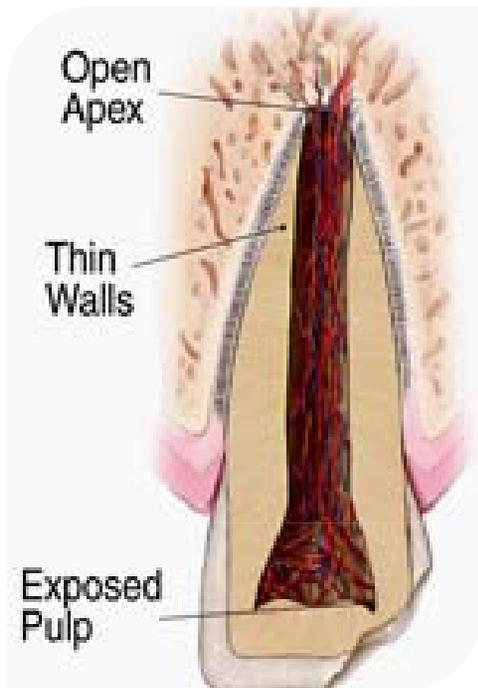
Root Fracture

A traumatic injury to the tooth may also result in a horizontal root fracture. The location of the fracture determines the long-term health of the tooth. If the fracture is close to the root tip, the chances for success are better. If the fracture does not result in the two pieces of the root being separated, there is also a better chance for success. However, the nearer the fracture is to the chewing surface of the tooth, the poorer the long-term success rate, regardless of whether the pieces are separated.



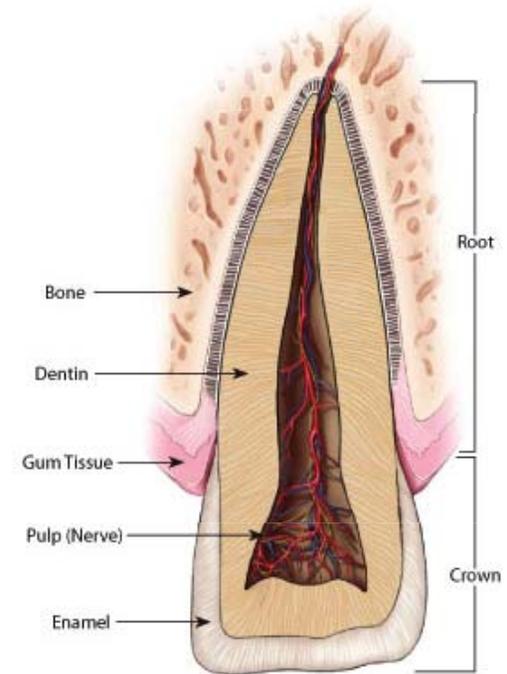
← **Root fractures**

Do traumatic dental injuries differ in children?



Child`s tooth

Children`s permanent or adult teeth that are not fully developed at the time of the injury may need special attention. In an immature adult tooth, the tip of the root, called the apex, is open, and the canal walls are thin. As the tooth develops, the apex closes and the canal walls thicken. An injured immature tooth may need one of the following two procedures to improve the chances of saving the tooth:



Adult`s tooth



Apexogenesis

This procedure encourages the root to continue developing as it helps heal the pulp. The injured soft tissue is covered with a medication to encourage further root growth. The apex continues to close, and the walls of the root thicken. If the pulp heals, no additional treatment is necessary. The more mature the root becomes, the better the chances that the tooth can be saved.

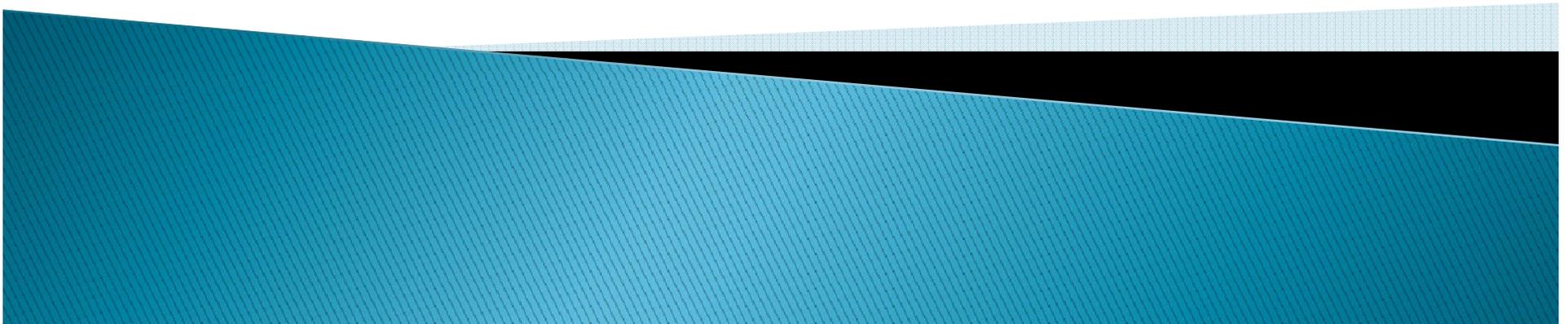


Apexification

In this procedure, the unhealthy pulp tissue is removed. I place a medication into the root to help a hard tissue form near the apex, or root tip. This hard tissue provides a barrier for the permanent root canal filling. In spite of appropriate treatment, the canal walls treated will not continue to develop and thicken, making the tooth susceptible to crown or root fractures. Proper restoration will minimize this possibility and maximize protection of your tooth.

Will the tooth need any special care or additional treatment?

The nature of the injury, the length of time from injury to treatment, how your tooth was cared for after the injury and your body's response to all affect the long term health of the tooth. Resorption occurs when your body, through its own defense mechanism, begins to reject your own hard tooth structure in response to the traumatic injury. You should return at regular intervals to have the tooth reexamined at regular intervals following the injury to ensure that resorption is not occurring and that surrounding tissues continue to heal.





Scottsdale Endo PC

