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### **APICECTOMY PROCEDURES:**

The aim of the procedure is to remove infection (abscess granuloma, cyst etc.) which covers the apex (root point) of the root canal treated tooth. A seal which could either be a root canal treatment or a retrograded filling is performed on the apex. Large lesions (usually cysts) are sent for histological examination and the results are available within a week.

### **POST OPERATIVE SYMPTOMS:**

1. Swelling which can last up to 5 days.
2. Pain and discomfort in the area. Pain relief is usually common if severe pain was experienced pre-operatively.
3. Skin discoloration usually appears within a few days and may last for a few days.
4. The lower lip may feel numb (only where the root apex was nerve involved.) It is not obvious since it's only the sensory nerve that is involved. The sensation loss can last from a week up to several months. In severe cases it may be permanent. It will be mentioned to you pre-operatively if there is any nerve involvement.
5. Sinus exposure in the upper jaw. Nose blowing should be avoided for at least 2 weeks. Again, any sinus involvement would be mentioned prior to surgery.

### **POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Apply ice packs under pressure in area of swelling for 2 days and after that heat packs for another 2 days.
2. Do not apply tension on the wound. Apicectomies are done in areas where sepsis might be present and the wound can fall open. It will however heal on its own again without the need for re-closure.
3. Use your medication as prescribed. Brush your teeth regularly and use the mouthwash 4 hourly.
4. Sutures are usually self-dissolvable unless otherwise stated.
5. Not all apicectomies are successful. If sepsis recurs it may be necessary to repeat the procedure or alternatively the tooth may be removed and a bridge or implants can later be placed.
6. Take your x-rays back to your dentist.
7. Submit your account after receiving it within 7 days to your medical aid (if on the scale of benefit/contracted in). Otherwise settle your account within 30 days strictly. Although you belong to a medical aid, you are still responsible to settle account outstanding.
8. If you have any problems, contact the consulting rooms.