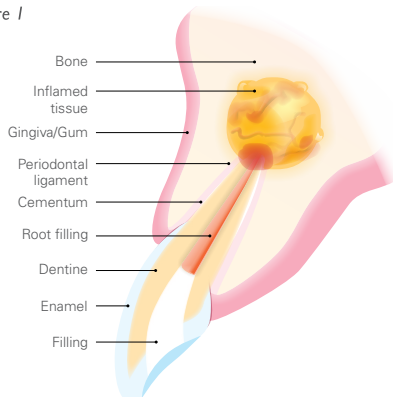


Endodontic Microsurgery

figure 1



Endodontic micro-surgery is a minor surgical procedure on the end of the tooth root (apex) and the surrounding tissues. The aim is to remove infected or inflamed tissue so that your tooth can be saved.

Endodontic micro-surgery may be used when root canal treatment alone is not enough to save your tooth. (figure 1)

Endodontic micro-surgery may be required to:

- Treat infection that cannot be treated by root canal treatment alone.
- Treat disease of bone surrounding a tooth.
- Take a biopsy to help diagnose disease around a tooth root.

Endodontic micro-surgery may be called apicoectomy, apicectomy with or without retrograde (root-end) root filling. The words may seem complicated but in general terms the treatment is as follows:

1. A local anaesthetic is used to numb the tooth and surrounding gum tissue.
2. An incision is made in the gum allowing the tissues to be retracted to give the Endodontist good access to the bone and inflamed and infected tissues near the end of the root.

3. The infected and inflamed tissue and root tip are carefully removed. (figure 2)

4. The area is cleaned and root end is checked for any cracks or other canals. As we use a dental operating microscope to check your tooth under high magnification this procedure is called apical microsurgery.

5. If needed, the end of the root canal is cleaned and a special root end filling material is placed (retrograde filling).

6. A few stitches (sutures) are placed to close the wound and aid in the healing process. Stitches are removed a few days after surgery. (figure 3)

The outcome of Endodontic micro-surgery is most often positive, resulting in good bone healing around the root end. Your tooth should then function as a normal tooth would. It is important for you to be seen for periodic review so the progress of bone healing can be assessed.

figure 2

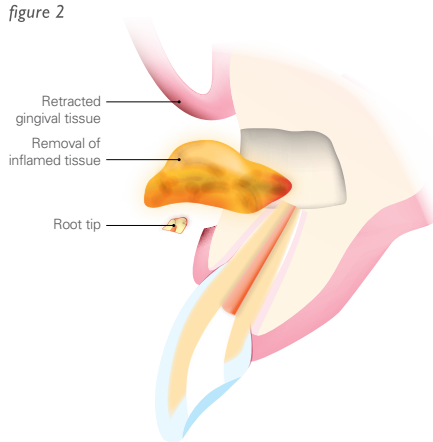
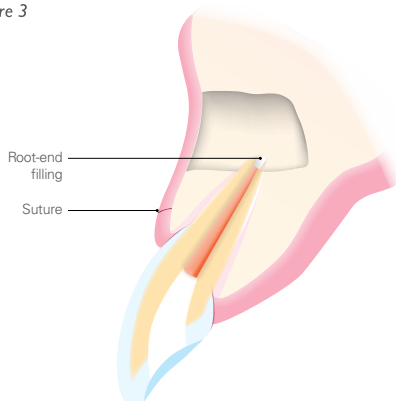


figure 3




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